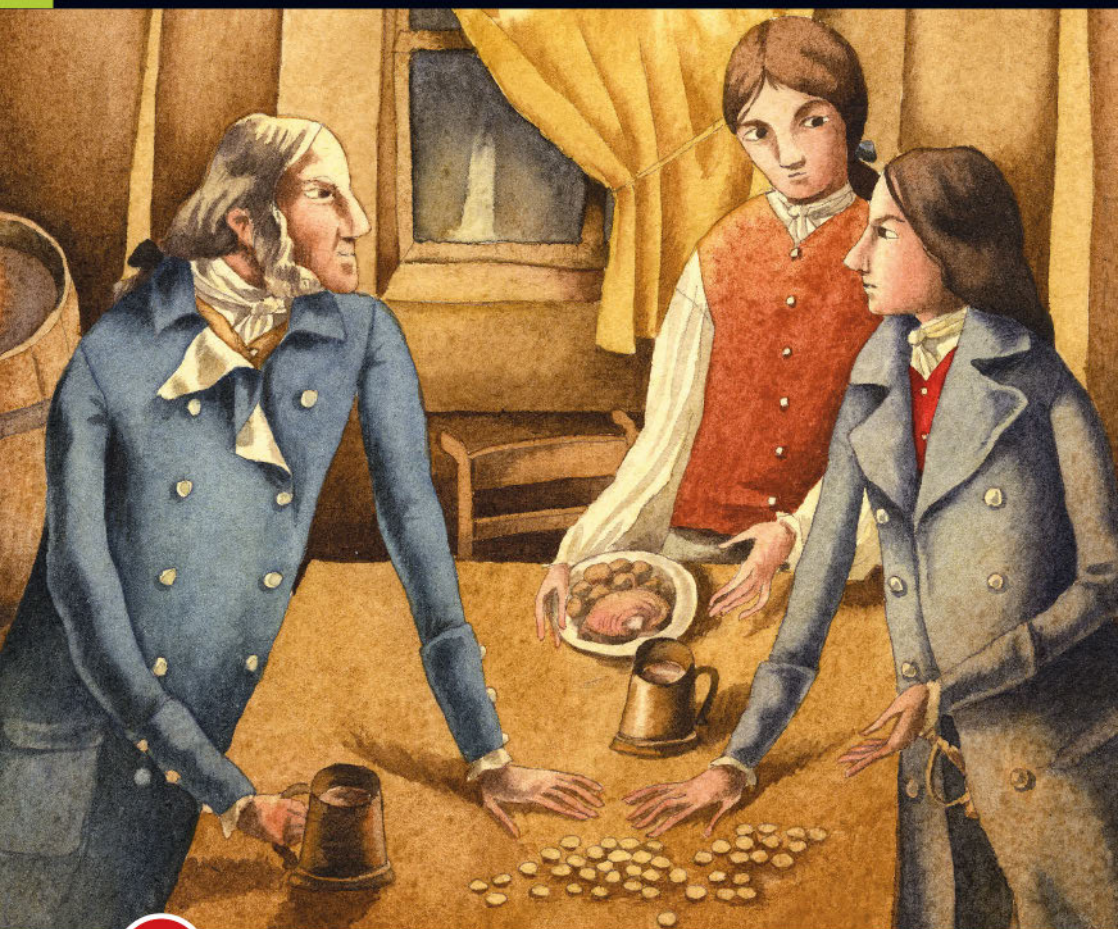


Robert Louis Stevenson

Kidnapped



free Audiobook



Robert Louis Stevenson

Kidnapped

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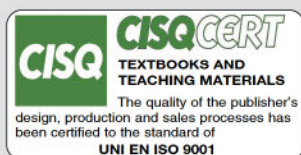
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PET Cambridge Preliminary English Test-style exercises

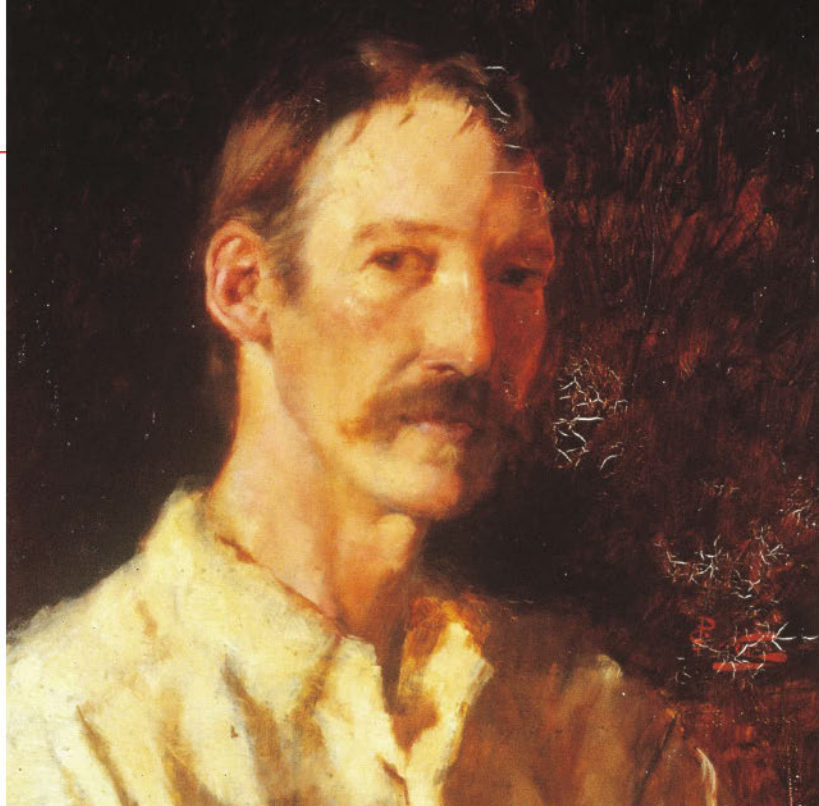
T: GRADE 4/5 Trinity-style exercises (Grade 4/5)

This story is recorded in full.

n. track
end



These symbols indicate the beginning and end of the extracts linked to the listening activities.



Robert Louis Stevenson (1892) by Girolamo Pieri Nerli.

About the Author

Robert Louis Stevenson was born on 13 November 1850 in Edinburgh, Scotland. His full name was Robert Lewis (he later changed this to 'Louis') Balfour Stevenson. The name Balfour, the same as our hero David in *Kidnapped*, comes from his mother's side of the family. His mother, Margaret Isabella Balfour, came from a family of lawyers and church ministers. His father, Thomas Stevenson, came from a family of engineers; they built lighthouses around the coast of Scotland.

Stevenson had an interesting life. At the age of seventeen, he started studying engineering at Edinburgh University. He later chose to

study law instead. But Stevenson never worked as a lawyer because he decided that he wanted to be a writer.

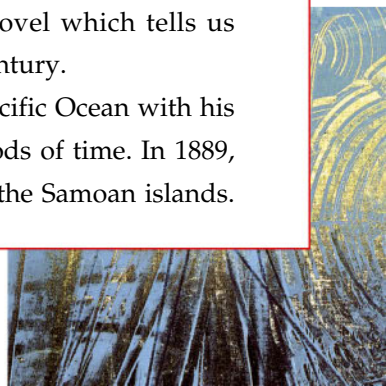
After university, Stevenson went to France to be with other young artists of the time, both writers and painters. His first books were travel books. He met his future wife, Fanny, in France. He was 25 and she was 36. Fanny was an independent, 'modern' American woman: she was separated from her husband and had two children. Two years after meeting Stevenson, Fanny got a divorce and in 1880 she and Stevenson got married. They spent their honeymoon at an abandoned silver mine in California. Stevenson wrote about it in *The Silverado Squatters*, published in 1883.

After his travel writings, Stevenson began writing short stories. Some people think that his collections of short stories are the first real short story. He published a collection of four short stories entitled *New Arabian Nights* in 1882.

Stevenson's novel *Treasure Island* was published in 1883 and brought him great success. This famous adventure story was followed by the equally successful *The Strange Case of Doctor Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, published in 1886. It tells the story of a man with two personalities, one good, the other bad. Stevenson said that he got the idea for this story from a dream.

He then went on to write other successful books, including the collection of poetry *A Child's Garden of Verses* (1885) and the novels *Kidnapped* (1886) and *The Black Arrow* (1888). *Kidnapped* is important not just as an adventure story, but also as a novel which tells us about the history of Scotland in the eighteenth century.

In 1888, Stevenson decided to sail around the Pacific Ocean with his family, living on different islands for short periods of time. In 1889, he and his family arrived at the port of Apia in the Samoan islands.





The Villa Vailima built by Stevenson in Apia, Western Samoa.

They decided to build a house and stay there.

Stevenson died in 1894 and was buried at the top of Mount Vaea above his home on Samoa. His own short poem, 'Requiem', was written on his tomb: 'Under the wide and starry sky, dig the grave and let me lie...'.

1 Comprehension check

Answer the following questions.

- 1 When and where was Robert Louis Stevenson born?
- 2 What was his father's job?
- 3 Where did Stevenson go after university?
- 4 What was Fanny like?
- 5 Where did Fanny and Robert spend their honeymoon?
- 6 Which of Stevenson's books first brought him success?
- 7 What is *The Strange Case of Doctor Jekyll and Mr Hyde* about?
- 8 Where did Stevenson get the idea for this book?
- 9 Where did Robert and his family go in 1888?
- 10 Where and when did he die?

2 Scotland quiz

Stevenson's book *Kidnapped* is set in Scotland. Can you answer the following questions about this country?

1 Which country is Scotland?



2 Which is Scotland's national flag?



3 Which is Scotland's national flower?



4 Which is a traditional Scottish musical instrument?

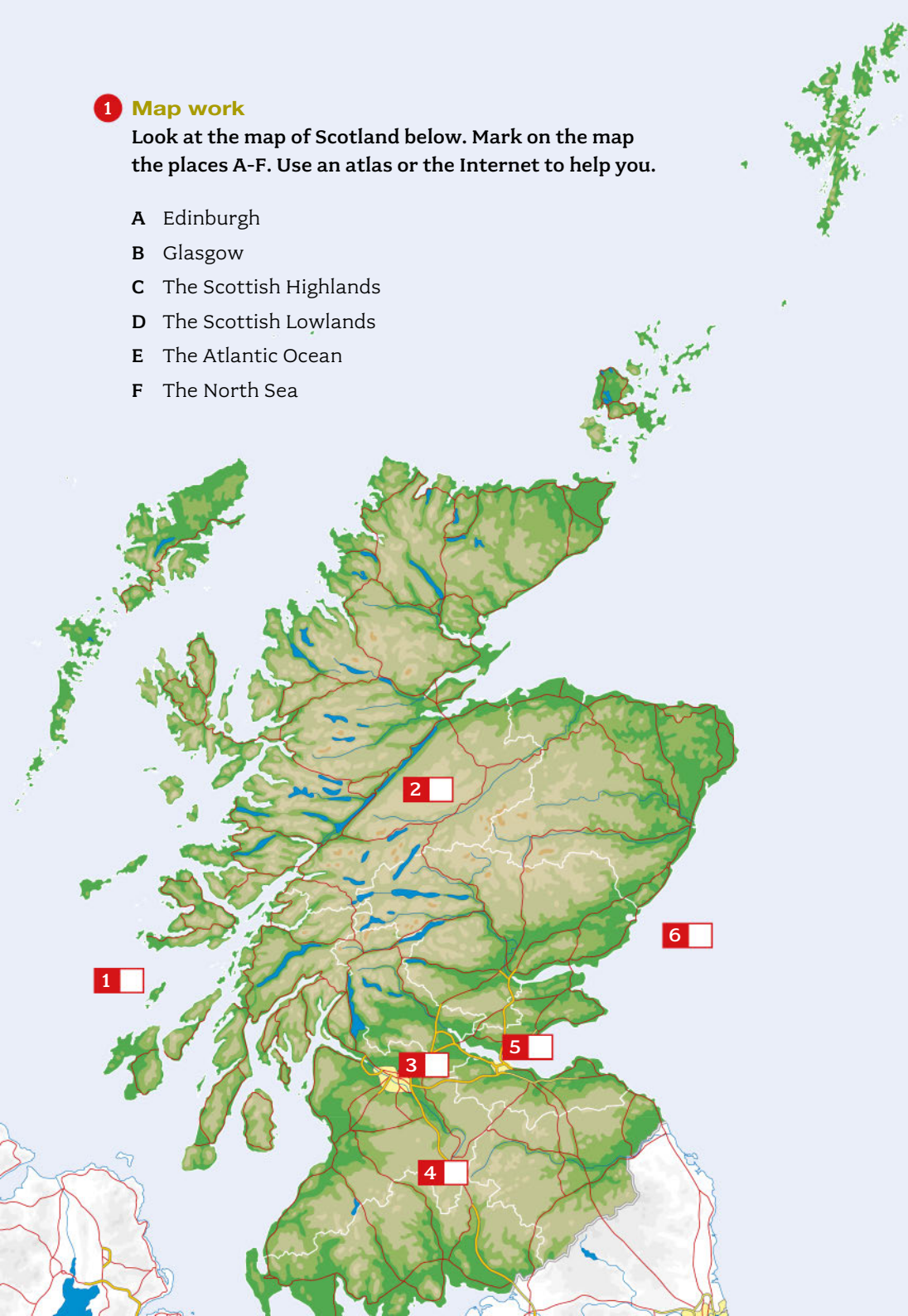


You can check your answers on page 95.

1 Map work

Look at the map of Scotland below. Mark on the map the places A-F. Use an atlas or the Internet to help you.

- A Edinburgh
- B Glasgow
- C The Scottish Highlands
- D The Scottish Lowlands
- E The Atlantic Ocean
- F The North Sea



The Characters

Mr Riach

Mr Shuan

Mr Campbell

Ransome

Mr
Rankeillor

David Balfour

Alan Breck

Captain
Hoseason

Ebenezer
Balfour



1 Setting

Answer the following questions:

- 1 What can you see in the picture? Label the picture with the words A-I, and then make a list of any other vocabulary that you know.
A smoke B path C chimney D river E gate
F trees G castle H hill I soldiers
- 2 What adjectives do you think describe this scene? Choose from the words listed below or add some of your own.

green quiet busy dirty calm beautiful
ugly clean peaceful





9

CHAPTER ONE



The House of Shaws



My name is David Balfour and my story begins one morning in June 1751. This was the day I left my father's house in Essendean for the last time. My friend Mr Campbell was waiting for me.



track 02

'I'll go with you to the river,' said Mr Campbell. We walked together down the road without speaking.

After a while, Mr Campbell asked, 'Are you sorry to leave Essendean?'

'I don't know, sir,' I replied, 'because I don't know where I'm going or what will happen to me. I've been very happy in Essendean, but I've never been anywhere else. My mother and father are dead now, and I'm going to find my future.'

Mr Campbell told me that my father had given him a letter before he died. He said that it was my inheritance.¹

1. **inheritance** : something (e.g. money, a house) received when someone else dies.



‘Here’s the letter,’ said Mr Campbell, giving it to me. ‘Your father told me to give you the letter and send you to the House of Shaws, near Edinburgh. It’s where your father came from and he wants you to return there.’

The letter was addressed to ‘Mr Ebenezer Balfour, House of Shaws’. Under the address was written, ‘This letter will be brought by my son David Balfour.’

I was surprised because I knew nothing about the House of Shaws. I was only seventeen years old and I felt scared about the new part of my life that was about to begin.

Mr Campbell said goodbye. I looked at Essendean for the last time, then I turned and walked towards Edinburgh and my future.

On the morning of the second day, I came to the top of a hill. Below me, I saw the city of Edinburgh and the sea. There were ships on the sea. I saw a group of English soldiers — the ‘Redcoats’¹ — marching along the road.

When I was closer to Edinburgh, I asked people for directions to the House of Shaws. Everyone seemed surprised when I asked about this house. At first I thought it was because I looked very poor. But after a while I thought that there was something strange about the House of Shaws. I began to worry. Before, I imagined a big house with rich relatives. Now it seemed that this was not true.

‘What is waiting for me at the House of Shaws?’ I thought. There was only one way to find out.

I walked on. Soon, I saw a large house standing alone in the bottom of the next valley. It was the House of Shaws. It was not

1. **Redcoats** : English soldiers were called Redcoats because they wore red coats as part of their uniform.



Kidnapped

how I imagined. The house was very old and in bad condition. There was no gate at the entrance, no path to the front door and no smoke came from the chimneys. It looked empty.

It was dark when I arrived at the house and there were no lights on. I knocked ¹ once on the big wooden door. I waited but nothing happened. I knocked again. Nothing happened but I heard someone inside, so I became angry. I started kicking the door and shouting for Mr Balfour.

I heard a sound above me. I looked up and there was a man with a big gun looking out of the upstairs window.

‘It’s loaded,’ ² he said.

‘I have a letter,’ I said, ‘for Mr Ebenezer Balfour.’

‘Who are you?’ the man asked, still holding the gun.

‘I’m David Balfour,’ I replied.

After a long pause, the man spoke again, but more quietly.

‘Is your father dead?’ he asked. ‘He must be dead. That’s why you’re here. I’ll let you in.’

The door opened and I went into the house.

‘Let me see the letter,’ the man said. I told him the letter was for Mr Balfour, not for him.

‘I am Mr Balfour,’ he said. ‘I’m your father’s brother, your uncle’.

I looked at him in surprise — I did not know that my father had a brother.

He showed me to a room to sleep in. Then he pushed me inside and locked the door behind me. I wanted to cry. I was tired from my long walk. I lay down and soon fell asleep.

1. **knocked** [nɒkt] : hit the door with his hand to make a noise.

2. **loaded** : the gun was ready to be fired.



Go back to the text

1 Comprehension check

Fill in the spaces (1-8) with the missing information to make complete sentences.

David Balfour's Story

The beginning

It all began one morning in (1) 1751.

This was the day he left his (2) in Essendean.

David's (3) were dead.

Directions for the future

Mr Campbell gave David a (4) from his father.

Mr Campbell told David to (5) to the House of Shaws.

Arrival

On the second day David came to a (6) above Edinburgh.

Below him he saw the city, ships and a group of (7)

When David asked directions for the House of Shaws everybody seemed (8)

PET 2 Comprehension check

Look at the sentences below about Chapter One.

Decide if each sentence is correct or incorrect. If it is correct, tick box

A. If it is not correct, tick box B.

1 David was very happy in Essendean.

2 David's father came from Essendean.

3 Mr Campbell went with David to Edinburgh.

4 The letter was David's inheritance.

5 David knew all about the House of Shaws.

A	B
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐

- 6 Ebenezer Balfour lived in a beautiful, big house.
- 7 Ebenezer Balfour was David's uncle.
- 8 David tried to escape when Ebenezer locked him in the room.

'He must be dead'

We can use 'must' and 'can't' to make positive and negative deductions.

Positive deductions

You see people outside putting up their umbrellas.

You deduce: *It **must** be raining.*

Negative deductions

You telephone your friend at home but there is no answer.

You deduce: *He **can't** be in.*

3 Making deductions

Look at the elements of the sentences below and use 'must' or 'can't' to write either a positive or negative deduction for each one. Give a reason for your deduction based on the information in the text.

For example: David / wear / a heavy coat when he leaves Essendean
*David **can't be wearing** a heavy coat when he leaves Essendean **because it is June.***

- 1 Mr Campbell / be / a good friend of David and his family

- 2 Essendean / be / very near to / Edinburgh

- 3 Ebenezer Balfour / be / a suspicious / man

- 4 Ebenezer / want / David to stay at the House of the Shaws

- 5 David / know much / about his father's past

Before you read

1 Vocabulary

The following objects appear in Chapter Two. Match the pictures 1-4 to the correct word in the box.

rope coins dagger sailor



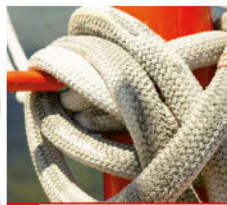
1



2



3



4



track 03

PET

2 Listening

Listen to the beginning of Chapter Two. You will hear what happens to David the next morning. For each question, put a tick (✓) in the correct box.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 What did Ebenezer and David do the next morning? | A ☐ They ate breakfast. |
| | B ☐ They fought. |
| | C ☐ They talked a lot. |
| 2 What did Ebenezer give David? | A ☐ a book |
| | B ☐ a letter |
| | C ☐ some gold coins |
| 3 What did Ebenezer want from the tower? | A ☐ a key |
| | B ☐ some papers |
| | C ☐ some pictures |
| 4 When David was in the tower he saw that | A ☐ a light was on. |
| | B ☐ the stairs were old. |
| | C ☐ his uncle was behind him. |
| 5 When David put his hands on Ebenezer's shoulders, Ebenezer | A ☐ shouted. |
| | B ☐ hit David. |
| | C ☐ fell down. |