



# Treasure Island

Robert Louis Stevenson



free Audiobook





Green Apple

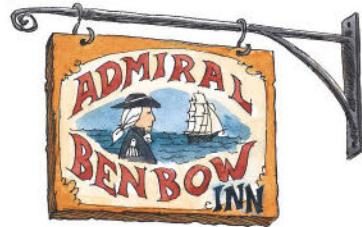
Robert Louis Stevenson

# Treasure Island



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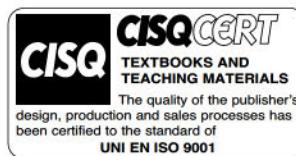
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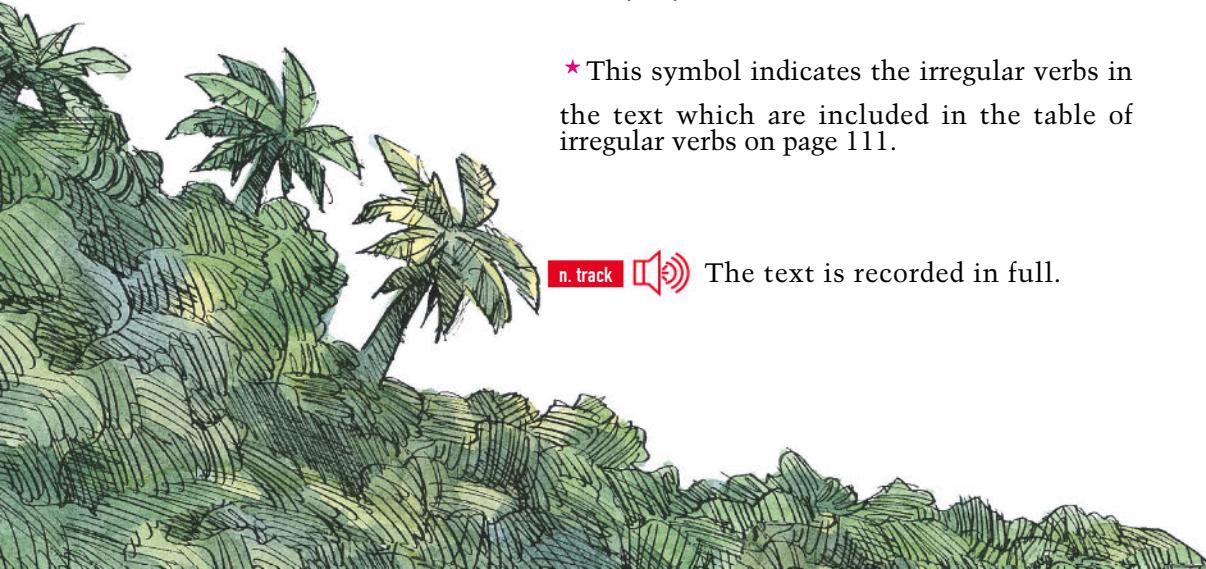
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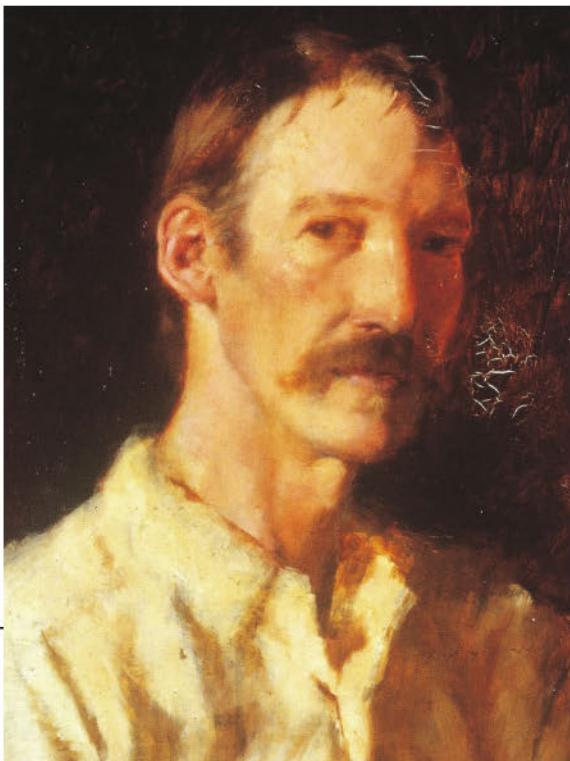
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T: GRADE 5 Trinity-style exercises

\* This symbol indicates the irregular verbs in the text which are included in the table of irregular verbs on page 111.

 n. track The text is recorded in full.





*Robert Louis Stevenson, (1892) by Girolamo Pieri Nerli.*

## THE LIFE AND WORK OF ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

Robert Louis Stevenson wrote\* two of the most famous books in English: *Treasure Island* and *The Strange Case of Doctor Jekyll and Mr Hyde*. He also wrote many other popular stories, such as *Kidnapped* and *The Black Arrow*. His poetry for children is also famous.

He was born in Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland, in November 1850. When he was a child, his nurse<sup>1</sup> told\* him many stories. He also played with a small toy theatre. Perhaps he learnt\* from this how to be a great story-teller. From the beginning, he

1. **nurse** : (here) a woman who looks after small children.

suffered<sup>1</sup> from bad health but that did not stop him from living a life full of love, adventure and travel.

He studied at Edinburgh University but he did not study very much. Instead, he spent\* a lot of time with the poor people of the city. His father wanted him to be an engineer or a lawyer, but Robert Louis wanted to be a writer. He travelled in Europe and wrote about his experiences, for example in *Travels with a Donkey*.

In 1876, his life changed. He met\* an American woman in France, Fanny Osbourne and fell\* deeply<sup>2</sup> in love with her. She loved Stevenson but she was married and so she returned to America. Stevenson followed her in 1879, but he became\* ill in San Francisco and almost died. Finally, Fanny divorced her husband and married Stevenson. They were very poor at first and lived in a shack<sup>3</sup> at Silverado, in the mountains. All this time, he continued writing and at last they returned to Scotland. His father and mother liked Fanny very much and they all tried to help Stevenson to fight his illness.

One day, Stevenson drew\* a map to amuse<sup>4</sup> Fanny's young son, Lloyd Osbourne. Then he imagined a story about pirates. This was the beginning of *Treasure Island*. A magazine published it in parts from 1881 to 1882. It quickly became a very popular book, not only for boys but also for girls and adult readers. Even the Prime Minister, Mr Gladstone, said that he stayed awake for a whole night to finish reading the story. Robert Louis Stevenson became a famous writer.

However, in 1888, he decided to go to the South Seas with his mother, Fanny and Lloyd. Scotland is a cold, wet country. He was ill and he needed warm weather. They travelled by ship

1. suffered : experienced problems.

2. deeply : strongly.

3. shack : a very small, badly built, wooden house.

4. amuse : entertain.

and visited many islands in the Pacific, including Tahiti, Hawaii and Samoa. In 1890, Stevenson returned to Samoa to live. He studied the society of the local people and wrote books which defended them against the Europeans who wanted to destroy their way of life. Stevenson always tried to defend the poor and the weak.

He died on 3rd December 1894 in his home in Samoa. He was only 44 years old. The islanders took\* his body, cut a path<sup>1</sup> to the top of Mount Vaea and buried<sup>2</sup> him on the mountain. He did not finish his last book, *The Weir of Hermiston*, but it was published after his death. Today, children, teenagers and adults still read *Treasure Island* and are excited by the story of Jim Hawkins, Long John Silver and Captain Flint's treasure.



Robert Louis Stevenson sitting with friends, Samoa, 1891.

1. **path** : a road for walking on through the countryside.
2. **buried** : placed a dead body in the ground.

1 Read the questions below about Robert Louis Stevenson. For each question, choose the correct answer – A, B, C or D.

- When he was a child, Stevenson
  - A heard\* many stories.
  - B told many stories.
  - C wrote many stories.
  - D did not like stories.
- Robert Louis Stevenson
  - A was an engineer, a lawyer and a writer.
  - B wrote about animals.
  - C was a good university student.
  - D did not follow his father's advice.
- Stevenson and Fanny did not marry immediately because
  - A she was American.
  - B she had a husband.
  - C he was deeply in love with her.
  - D they were very poor.
- The first idea for *Treasure Island* came from
  - A a story about pirates.
  - B Fanny's son, Lloyd.
  - C a map which Stevenson drew.
  - D Stevenson's experiences in America.
- Stevenson left\* Scotland forever because
  - A the climate was bad for his illness.
  - B he wanted to defend the people of Samoa.
  - C Fanny and Lloyd missed America.
  - D his family hated Scotland.
- Which of the following statements is not true?
  - A *Treasure Island* is still popular.
  - B His grave<sup>1</sup> is on a mountain.
  - C Nobody read his last book.
  - D The people of Samoa buried him.

1. **grave** : the place where a dead body lies.

7. Which is the best description of Robert Louis Stevenson?

- A** A writer for children who died before he could finish his last book.
- B** A Scottish writer who married an American and wrote about his travels.
- C** A great storyteller who is mainly famous for writing *Treasure Island*.
- D** A successful writer who had bad health but who had a very adventurous, romantic life.

**2** What do you think will happen in *Treasure Island*? Discuss your ideas with another student.

**3** Before you read the story, can you guess the answers to these questions?

1. Where is Treasure Island?
  - A** in the Caribbean
  - B** near England
  - C** near Africa
2. Who put the treasure on the island?
  - A** soldiers
  - B** pirates
  - C** Spanish explorers
3. How do people know about the treasure?
  - A** from a map
  - B** from a legend
  - C** from a secret letter
4. Jim Hawkins is the hero of the story. Will he
  - A** marry a pirate princess?
  - B** find the treasure?
  - C** live on the island?

Now read the story and see if your guesses were correct!

# About Treasure Island

## The story takes place:

at the Admiral Benbow Inn in Bristol  
on the *Hispaniola*, a sailing ship  
on Treasure Island, an island in the Caribbean

## The main characters

### The treasure hunters:



Jim Hawkins,  
a young teenage boy



Doctor Livesey

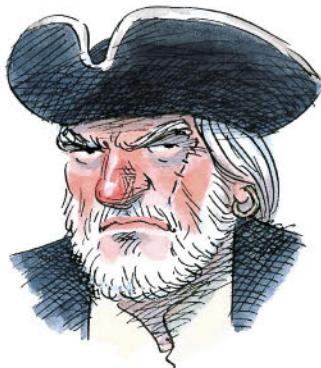


Squire Trelawney



Captain Smollett,  
the ship's captain

## The Pirates:



Billy Bones,  
a mysterious,  
scary pirate



Long John Silver,  
the ship's cook



Captain Flint,  
his parrot



Blind Pew,  
a blind treasure hunter

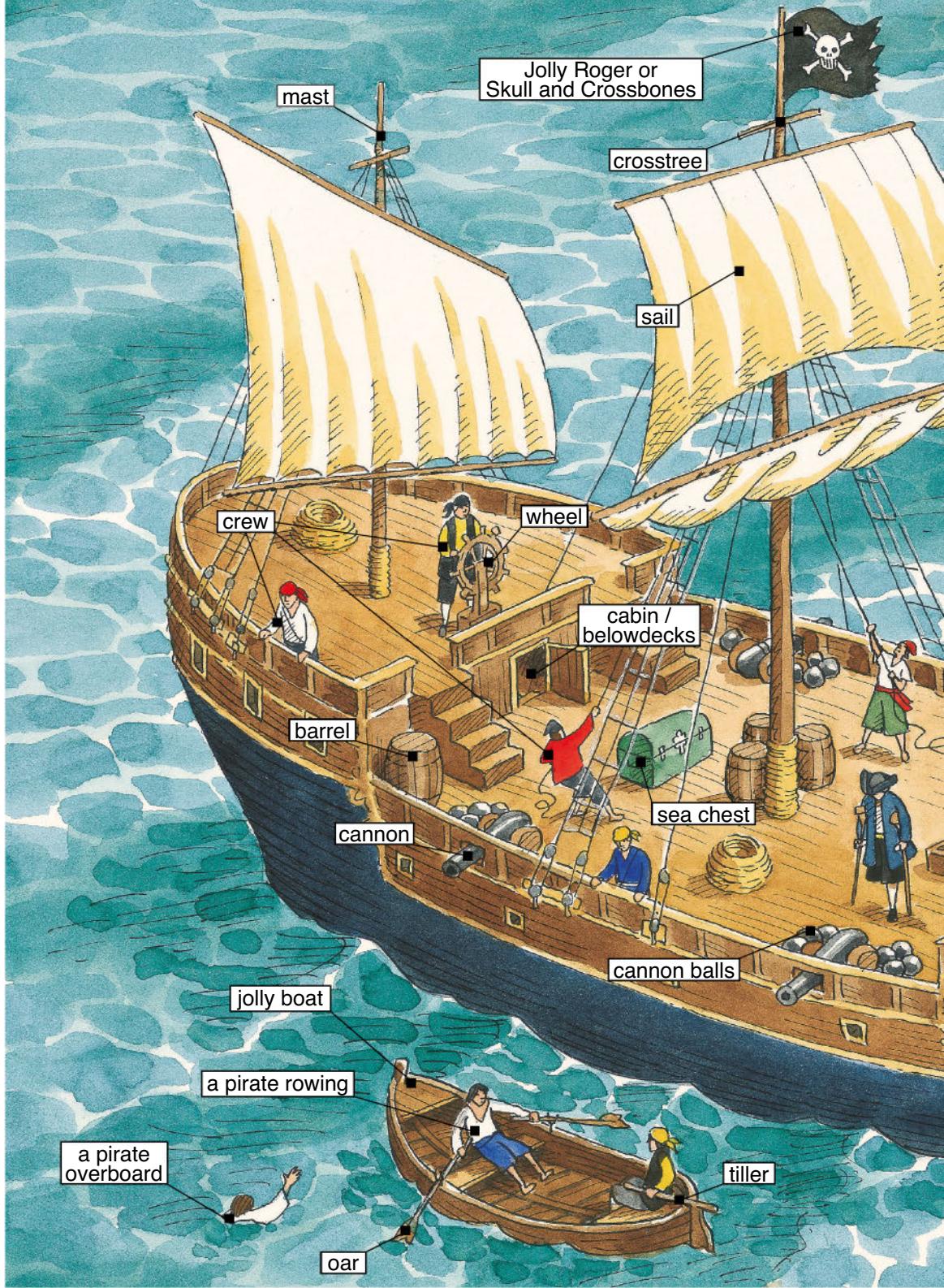


Israel Hands,  
a violent, dangerous pirate

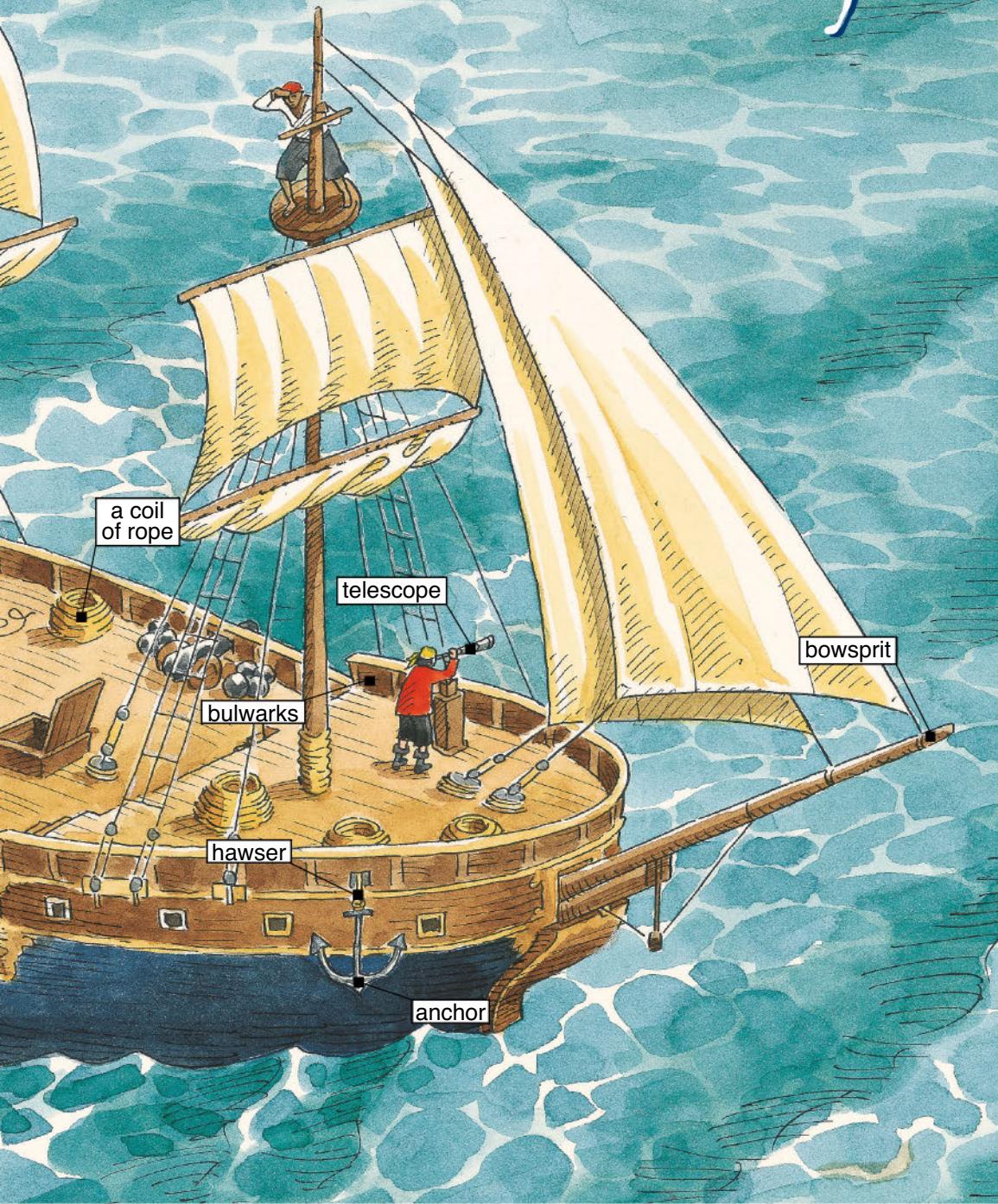


## On the Island, they meet:

Ben Gunn,  
a sailor who lives alone  
on the island



# A Pirate Ship



## PART ONE



# The Admiral Benbow

**M**y name is Jim Hawkins. My friends, Doctor Livesey and Squire<sup>1</sup> Trelawney, asked me to write the story of our adventures on Treasure Island. So, I will pick up my pen and begin.



1. **Squire** : in the eighteenth century, a squire was the most important man in a village or region. He was rich and powerful, like a lord.



# The Admiral Benbow.

When I was a boy, I lived with my father and mother at The Admiral Benbow Inn.<sup>1</sup> It was a lonely place, near the cliffs<sup>2</sup> and the sea.

One day, a tall, strong sailor came to our door. He had a large sea chest with him. His coat was old and dirty, his skin was brown from the sun, and he had a scar<sup>3</sup> on one cheek. He sang\* part of an old sea song:

*'Fifteen men on the dead man's chest –  
Yo-ho-ho and a bottle of rum!'*

Then he asked my father for a glass of rum.

'Do many people stay here?' he asked.

1. **Inn** : an inn was like a pub, people came to drink there and some also stayed there.

2. **cliffs** : a steep hill down to the sea.

3. **scar** : a mark on the skin left from a sword or gun.



# Treasure Island



'No,' said my father, 'business is bad.'

'Then this is the place for me! I'll stay here for a time. You can call me captain. All I want is bacon and eggs and rum. Here's some money.'

He threw\* some gold coins on the table.

He was a silent man. He often watched the sea through a telescope. In the evenings, he sat\* alone with a glass of rum. Every day, he walked on the cliffs and when he returned, he asked, 'Did any sailors come here today?'

He gave\* me a little money every month. 'You must promise to look for a sailor with one leg, boy,' he said. 'Tell me immediately if you see him.' The captain was afraid when he said this. Sometimes I had terrible dreams about the man with one leg.

The captain often got drunk.<sup>1</sup> He sang sea songs loudly and made the other customers at the inn sing with him. 'Yo-ho-ho and a bottle of rum!' everybody sang. The house shook\* with the noise. He told terrible stories about pirates. They robbed and punished and murdered innocent people. My father was worried<sup>2</sup> and became ill. 'Nobody will come to drink at the inn while he is here,' he said.

The Captain stayed for weeks but he never paid\* any more money. My parents were afraid to ask him.

But one person from the village was not afraid of the captain. That was Doctor Livesey. He came to see my father and then waited for his horse downstairs. The captain was in the same room. Suddenly, he began\* to sing.

*'Fifteen men on the dead man's chest –  
Yo-ho-ho and a bottle of rum!'*

1. **got drunk** : drank too much.

2. **worried** : preoccupied.

# The Admiral Benbow.

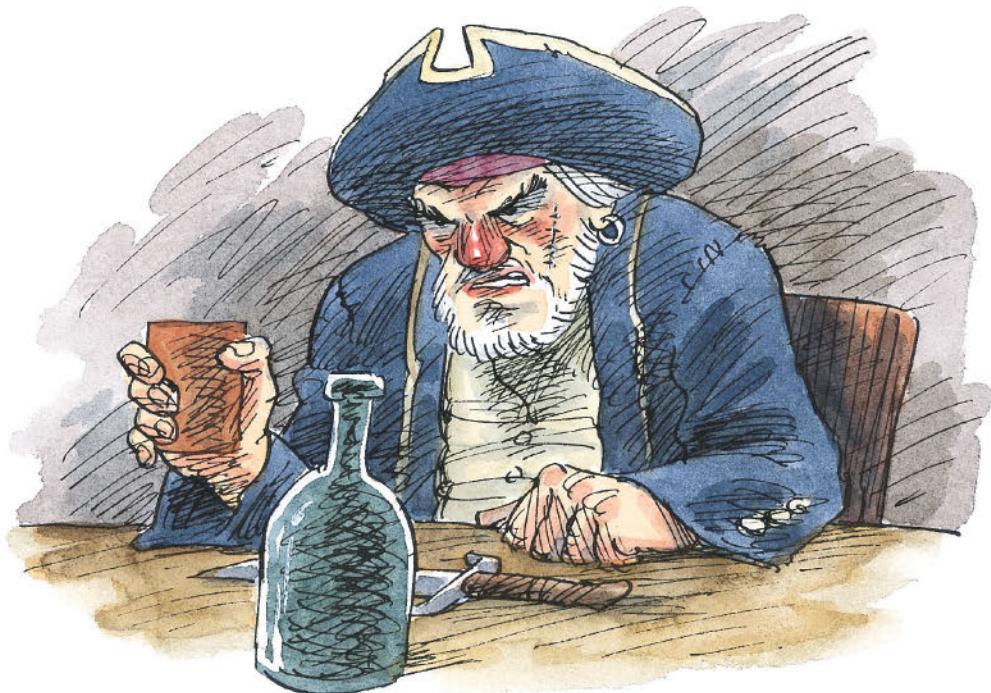
*Drink and the devil had done for<sup>1</sup> the rest –  
Yo-ho-ho and a bottle of rum!*’

Doctor Livesey continued talking to a friend while the captain sang. The old sailor banged<sup>2</sup> his hand angrily on the table.

Everyone was quiet except the doctor. He continued to talk calmly.

‘Silence! I’m singing!’ shouted<sup>3</sup> the captain.

‘Are you speaking to me?’ asked Doctor Livesey. ‘I am a doctor



1. **had done for** : killed (slang).

2. **banged** : made a loud noise by hitting.

3. **shouted** : said loudly.

# Treasure Island



and I have only one thing to say to you. If you drink rum all the time, you will soon die!'

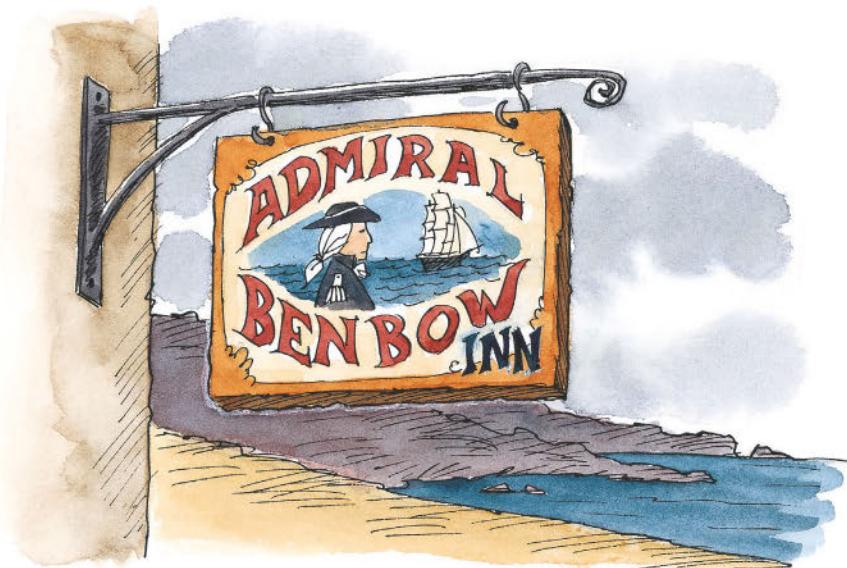
The captain was very angry. He took out a knife and threatened<sup>1</sup> the doctor.

'Put the knife back in your pocket, you dirty scoundrel,'<sup>2</sup> said the doctor. 'If you don't, you will hang next week.'

The two men looked at each other. Then the sailor put down the knife and sat at the table.

'I am not only a doctor. I am also a magistrate,' said Doctor Livesey. 'You will go to prison if you behave like this again.'

Then he left the inn, got on his horse and rode\* back to the village.



1. **threatened** : (here) wanted to hurt the doctor with the knife.

2. **scoundrel** : a very bad man.

## GO BACK TO THE TEXT

### PET 1

Read the statements below about Part One. Decide if each statement is correct or incorrect. If it is correct, write A. If it is not correct, write B.

1. Jim's father was a successful inn-keeper until the captain arrived. ....
2. The captain wanted to stay in a place with lots of other people. ....
3. The captain liked drinking rum. ....
4. The captain paid Jim to give him information. ....
5. A sailor with one leg came to the Admiral Benbow Inn. ....
6. The other customers sang with the captain. ....
7. Jim's father let the captain stay because he paid his rent. ....
8. Doctor Livesey wasn't afraid of the captain. ....
9. The captain threatened the doctor with his knife. ....
10. Doctor Livesey reported the captain to a magistrate. ....

### PET 2

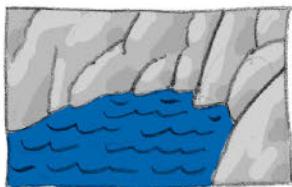
#### LISTENING



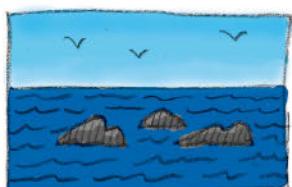
track 03

The Admiral Benbow Inn is in the South West of England. This is an area famous for smugglers, people who take goods into a country illegally, for example tobacco and alcohol. Two people are talking about smugglers, wreckers and pirates in the South West of England. There are seven questions in this part. For each question there are three pictures and a short conversation. Choose the correct picture and put a tick (✓) in the box below it.

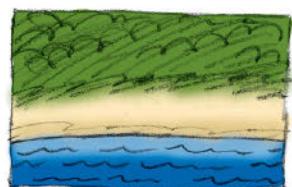
**Example:** What is a cove?



A



B



C

1. In which century did the greatest amount of smuggling take place?

**17<sup>th</sup>**

**A**

**18<sup>th</sup>**

**B**

**19<sup>th</sup>**

**C**

2. Why did people take part in smuggling?



**A**



**B**

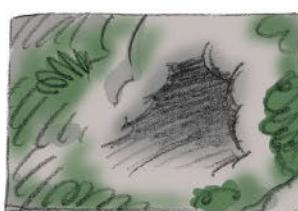


**C**

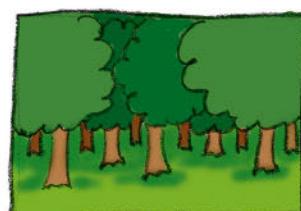
3. Which of these places was not a smugglers' hiding place?



**A**



**B**



**C**

4. What goods do the speakers mention?



**A**



**B**



**C**

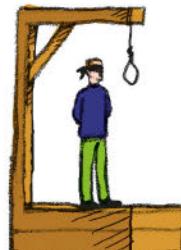
5. What happened to many smugglers?



A



B



C

6. Where did wreckers find things to steal?



A



B



C

7. Who or what was 'Lady Killigrew'?



A



B



C

### 3 GRAMMAR

Jim says: *The doctor and the squire **asked me to write** the story.*

ask + person + to infinitive

Other verbs which use this structure include:

allow encourage order permit persuade tell want

Now make sentences using the elements below and the verb in brackets.

0. Captain 'Bring me some rum!' Jim's mother  
*The Captain ordered Jim's mother to bring him some rum.* (order)

1. Captain 'Open the door.' Jim  
..... (tell)

2. Captain 'You must sing.' Doctor  
..... (want)

3. Captain 'Stop talking.' Doctor  
..... (not allow)

4. Doctor 'Put away the knife.' Captain  
..... (persuade)

5. Jim's father 'Please pay me the money.' Captain  
..... (ask)

### PET 4 WRITING

This is part of a letter you receive from an English penfriend.

Can you help me write a story about pirates and treasure?  
I need to think of a character like Jim who can be the hero, a boy or a girl. Have you got any ideas?

Now you are writing a letter to this penfriend. Write your letter in about 100 words. Here are some questions to help you:

- What is the name of your hero?
- How old is he/she?
- What is he/she like? short/tall/medium height? dark/fair hair? intelligent? brave? shy? confident?
- Where does he/she live? with his/her parents? in a city or a village? near the sea? in England or another country?
- Does he/she have any special friends or pets?