



What Jim Hawkins Heard

Adapted from *Treasure Island* by Robert Lewis Stevenson

- 1 Pirate gold and a long-lost treasure map to lead you to it—what fantasy could be more exciting, what adventure more dangerous and thrilling? Picture a great heap of gleaming gold—shining gold coins from a hundred different countries, some old and worn, others with beautiful designs engraved on them—spilling from a huge antique wooden chest. Think of what you could do with that gold if you found it and survived dangerous enemies and a dangerous sea to bring it safely home! If you can imagine all that, and if it makes your eyes shine and your breath come faster, then you are already a friend of Jim Hawkins, even if you meet him for the first time in this story.
- 2 Jim is the courageous hero of Robert Louis Stevenson's novel *Treasure Island*. The story begins in England two hundred years ago, a time when vicious and bloodthirsty pirates still preyed on sailing ships.
- 3 A mysterious old seaman who has been living in the inn owned by Jim's mother confesses that he used to be a pirate, and tells Jim that his former shipmates are trying to steal his sea chest. When he dies suddenly, Jim searches the chest, finds a treasure map, and gives it to his friends, Doctor Livesey and Squire Trelawny, who decide to undertake a search for the treasure. The Squire outfits a ship, the *Hispaniola*, to journey to the island pictured on the map. Jim will go along as cabin boy.
- 4 They hire a one-legged cook, Long John Silver, who helps them to engage a crew of ex-

perienced sailors. Jim likes and admires Silver until one day when they are nearing the end of their voyage. Having climbed into a nearly empty barrel on the deck to get an apple, Jim is hidden from sight and overhears a terrifying conversation.

Here is Jim's account of it:

- 5 Sitting down there in the dark, what with the rocking motion of the *Hispaniola*, I had either fallen asleep, or was on the point of doing so, when a heavy man sat down noisily nearby. The barrel rattled as he leaned against it and I was about to jump up when I heard a voice—Silver's voice.
- 6 "I served on many a ship with gentlemen of fortune, but never a crew like Flint's! They was the roughest crew afloat, was Flint's—the devil himself would have feared to go to sea with that lot."
- 7 "He was the greatest of the bunch, was Flint," cried another voice, that of the youngest sailor on board, a lad named Dick.
- 8 "It's a dangerous life, mate, not one for the fainthearted, for you can end up hanged like a dog and sun-dried if they catches you. Them that comes home, their pockets weighted with gold, most usually are back at sea in their shirts in a month's time, for most gentlemen of fortune spend their money like princes and end up beggars. Look at the lot I rounded up for this cruise—starving, most of 'em, and glad for a berth and a square meal. Not me, not John Silver, no sir, for I puts my money in the bank, some here, some there, and none too much anywheres. I'm fifty, and when I gets back from this cruise, I plan to live like a gentleman for the remainder of my days, eating dainty, sleeping soft, and never denying myself nothing my heart desires!"
- 9 "Well, I tell you, I didn't half like the idea of this undertaking until I had this talk with you, John," responded the lad, "but I'm in with you now, and there's my hand on it."
- 10 By this time I had begun to understand the meaning of their conversation. By a "gentleman of fortune" Silver obviously meant neither more nor less than a common pirate, and in the little scene that I just had overheard, Silver was successfully corrupting one of the honest hands—perhaps the last one left aboard.
- 11 I recognized another voice, that of the seaman Israel Hands: "Here's what I'm after knowing—when do we make our move against them, Silver?"
- 12 "The absolute last moment I can manage, that's when. Here's this squire and doctor with the map—I haven't any idea where it is, nor do you. Here's the captain, a first-rate seaman who can navigate the ship for us, so I'd wait until we were nearly home before I struck, I would!"
- 13 "Why, any one of us could sail the ship," objected Dick.
- 14 "We can steer a course, but who's to set it?" snapped Silver. "If I had my way, I'd have Cap'n Smollet work us back into the trade winds leastwise, then no one would miscalculate and get us off course and down to a spoonful of water a day, but I know the sort you are, so I'll finish with them on the island, as soon as the gold's aboard."
- 15 "But," said Dick, "when we are ready to move, what are we going to do with them?"
- 16 "Leave 'em marooned on the island," said Silver, "or cut 'em down. I cast my vote for death, for when I'm dressed up all fancy and riding around in my coach, I don't want none of them a-coming home, unlooked-for."
- 17 "John," cried Hands, "you're a clever one!"
- 18 "Only one thing I claim and that's Squire Trelawney," growled Silver. "I'll wring his head off his body with these hands. Dick, you just jump up, like a goodly lad, and get me an apple, to wet my throat like."
- 19 You may imagine the terror I was in! I should have leaped out and run for it, if I had possessed the strength, but my limbs and heart alike were inadequate to the task.
- 20 Was Jim discovered and taken prisoner by Silver? Or did he escape to warn his companions and encounter further dangers and adventures while seeking the treasure? You can probably guess that he escaped, but unless you read *Treasure Island* you'll never know how or learn about the many surprising and scary things that were still to happen. Just think—if you found a treasure map. . . .

How Well Did You Read?

Write the letter of the best answer for each question.

- 1 When does this story take place?
 - a Fifty years ago, in the days of pirates
 - b A thousand years ago, in the days of treasure hunts
 - c Two hundred years ago, in the days of sailing ships
- 2 What is the significance of the name *Hispaniola* in the story?
 - a It is Jim's mother's maiden name.
 - b It is the name of the ship.
 - c It is the name of the island.
- 3 John Silver thought he was more sensible and clever than most pirates. Why?
 - a He had saved his money and banked it.
 - b He was not afraid to kill people who might make trouble.
 - c He could steer a ship's course.
- 4 What did Silver plan to do when the treasure voyage was over?
 - a Find another pirate venture to go on
 - b Live like a gentleman back in England
 - c Locate his enemies and take revenge
- 5 What did the term "gentleman of fortune" mean, as John Silver used it?
 - a A man with enough money to live well
 - b A common pirate
 - c A lover of adventure
- 6 Why did Silver plan to wait till the last moment before making his move against the squire, the doctor, and the captain?
 - a He couldn't navigate the ship without the captain, nor find the treasure until the others produced their map.
 - b He wanted more time in which to decide whether he would abandon the others on the island or kill them.
 - c He was waiting to find out whether Jim's friends planned to share the treasure with him and his band.
- 7 Why did Jim remain hidden in the barrel?
 - a He was afraid of what the pirates would do to him if they found out he had overheard their plans.
 - b He was afraid of what the pirates would do to him if they found out he was eating their apples.
 - c He was a lazy, easygoing lad who would rather nap in the barrel than work.
- 8 Why was Jim "in terror" at the end of this selection?
 - a One of the pirates had found him in the barrel.
 - b It looked as if the pirates were about to find him.
 - c He knew now that the pirates would take the gold and leave him penniless.
- 9 Why does the writer of this article think you should read *Treasure Island*?
 - a Because it's a book that every educated person should know
 - b Because it's a book filled with information about pirates
 - c Because it's a book filled with excitement and surprises

Learn about Words

Vocabulary

- A You can often tell the meaning of a word by reading the words around it.

Look at each number in parentheses. Find the paragraph in the story with the same number. Then find the word that fits the given meaning. Write the word.

- 1 imaginary happening; daydream (1)
- 2 willing and eager to shed blood (2)
- 3 timid; fearful (8)
- 4 piece of business; activity; project (9)
- 5 weakening the morals of; leading into evil ways (10)
- 6 make a mistake; figure or plan incorrectly (14)
- 7 not great enough or strong enough (19)
- 8 come up against; be faced with (20)

B A word may have more than one meaning.

Look at each number in parentheses. Find the paragraph in the story with the same number. See how the word in **heavy type** below is used in the paragraph. Decide whether it has meaning **a**, **b**, or **c**. Write **a**, **b**, or **c**.

9 engage (4)

- a cause to interlock
- b hire; employ the services of
- c hold the attention of

10 common (10)

- a widespread or frequent
- b belonging equally to everyone
- c ordinary

Word Study

- C** poison + **ous** = poisonous (full of poison)
fear + **less** = fearless (without fear)
logic + **al** = logical (related to logic)

Many adjectives end in *ous*, *less*, and *al*. Often *ous* means "full of" or "possessing the qualities of," *less* means "without," and *al* means "related to." Read the definitions below and then choose *ous*, *less*, or *al* to complete the word in **heavy type**. Write the completed word.

- 11 without a bottom: **bottom**___
- 12 related to politics: **politic**___
- 13 full of joy: **joy**___
- 14 related to parents: **parent**___
- 15 without clouds: **cloud**___
- 16 possessing the qualities of courage: **courage**___
- 17 related to herbs: **herb**___
- 18 without taste: **taste**___

- D** Many English words come from the Latin language and contain Latin roots. For example:

dict = to speak, tell (as in *dictate*)
habit = to live (as in *habitat*)

Knowledge of Latin roots will sometimes help you unlock the meanings of new words. Read the sentences below. The word in **heavy type** is a clue. It will help you find

the right Latin root to complete the partial word. Complete the word and write it in full.

- 19 He didn't **speak** well because his ___ion was poor.
- 20 The yak's natural ___at is central Asia, where it lives in a wild state.
- 21 When I **spoke** to the old woman, she pre___ed that I would meet you.
- 22 The in___ants of this city are those who can live with constant noise.
- 23 Will the animals that in___ this barn enjoy living in crowded stables?
- 24 A ___ator tells people what to do.
- 25 The old man's **living** quarters were a simple ___ation built of mud and straw.
- 26 You can learn how to say words by looking in the ___ionary.

- E** As you use the dictionary, you will find that many words have more than one meaning—also that a word can serve as more than one part of speech. Used one way, *pair* is a noun. Used another way, *pair* is a verb. A dictionary will generally use *n* to identify a noun and *v* to identify a verb. Here are some words defined both as nouns and as verbs:

- deal** (n) a bargain or agreement
- deal** (v) give or deliver
- fare** (n) the cost of a ride on a bus or a taxi
- fare** (v) get along; do
- grace** (n) a smooth, beautiful action
- grace** (v) lend beauty or charm to

Notice how those words are used below. Decide whether each one is acting as a noun or as a verb. Write *n* or *v*.

- 27 Will you **fare** well without me?
- 28 The dancer moved with **grace**.
- 29 Linus paid my bus **fare**.
- 30 Please **grace** the table with your presence.
- 31 Larry made a **deal** with me.
- 32 **Deal** me another card.
- 33 How much was the cab **fare**?