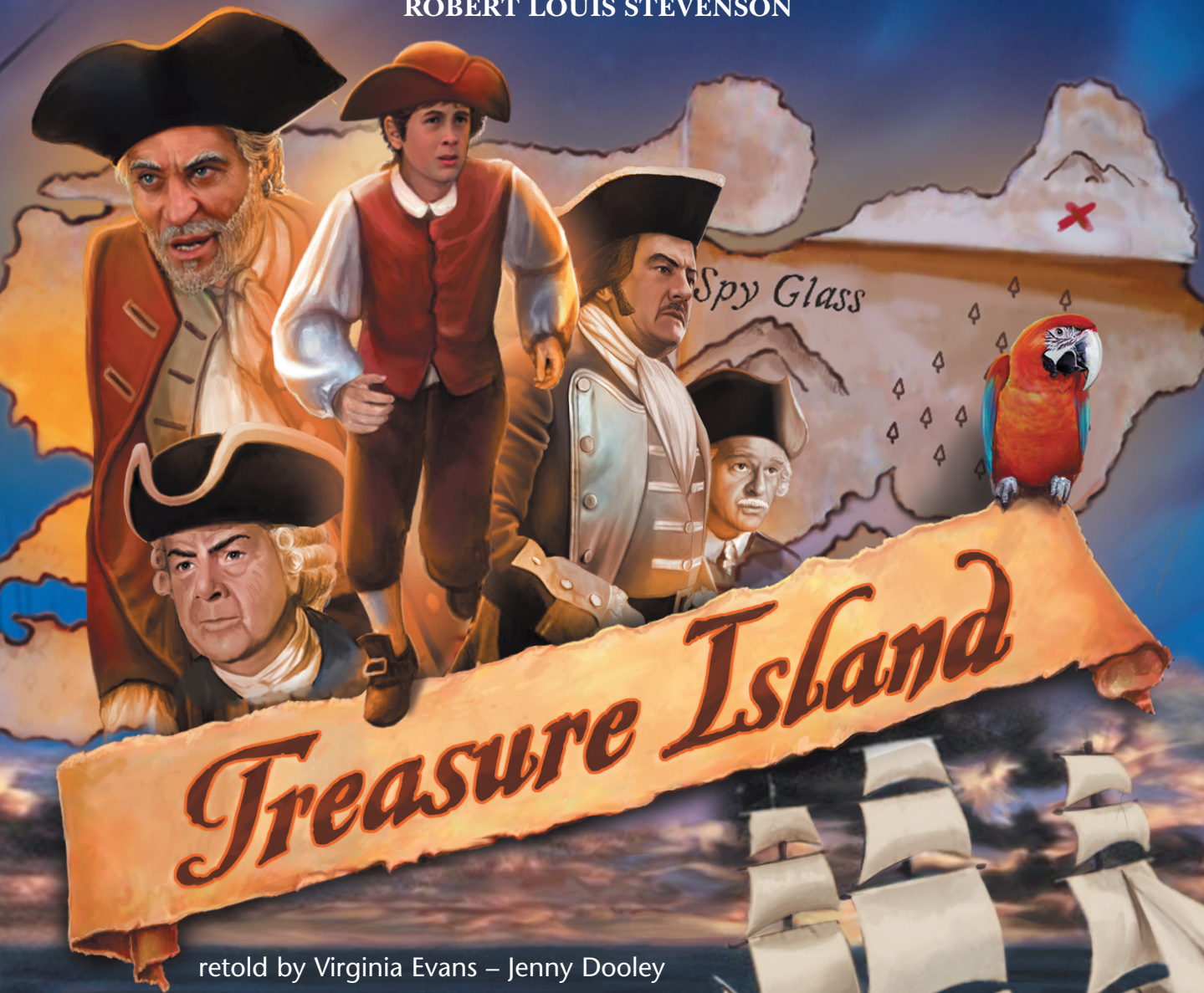


illustrated  
READERS

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON



retold by Virginia Evans – Jenny Dooley



Express Publishing



## Robert Louis Stevenson

Robert Louis Stevenson was born in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1850. From a very early age he suffered from health problems. At the age of seventeen, he started to study engineering at Edinburgh University, but then switched to studying law. When he graduated in 1875, he did not become a lawyer since he now knew he wanted to be a writer. In his life he wrote many short stories, novels, poems and essays.

When travelling in France in 1876, he met the American Fanny Osbourne, and they married four

years later. In the years following his marriage, Stevenson wrote many of his most famous books. *Treasure Island* was first published in 1881-82, and both *Kidnapped* and *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* came out in 1886.

In 1889, Stevenson and his family went to live in Samoa in the South Pacific. The weather there was good for his health, but he died suddenly in December 1894. He is remembered as one of the most famous adventure story writers of all time.

Read Robert Louis Stevenson's biography and choose the correct answer to the questions below.

- 1 Stevenson graduated from university with a degree in
  - a Engineering.
  - b Law.
  - c Writing.
- 2 Fanny Osbourne was
  - a American.
  - b French.
  - c Samoan.
- 3 In which year did Stevenson get married?
  - a 1880
  - b 1876
  - c 1886
- 4 Many of Stevenson's most famous books were written
  - a in Samoa.
  - b in the 1870s.
  - c in the years just after he married.
- 5 Stevenson died in
  - a Scotland.
  - b France.
  - c Samoa.



# Treasure Island



*Treasure Island* was Robert Louis Stevenson's first novel. The idea for it came to him when he was on holiday with his family in the Scottish Highlands in the summer of 1881. Rainy weather forced them to amuse themselves indoors, and Stevenson and his twelve-year-old stepson, Lloyd, drew a map of an imaginary place, "Treasure Island". Excited by this map, Stevenson began to write a story based on it to entertain his family. At this time, two types of sea novel were popular: the pirate adventure at sea and the desert island story. *Treasure Island* is a brilliant combination of the two.

When it was first published in the magazine *Young Folks* from October 1881 to January 1882, *Treasure Island* attracted little attention and failed to boost the magazine's sales. But when published as a book in 1883, it soon became very popular and was widely praised by critics.

Read the text and answer the questions.

- 1 How many novels had Stevenson written before *Treasure Island*?  
.....
- 2 Where was Stevenson when he drew a map with Lloyd?  
.....
- 3 Who was Lloyd?  
.....
- 4 What did Stevenson and Lloyd draw a map of?  
.....
- 5 Was *Treasure Island* popular when it was published in the magazine *Young Folks*?  
.....
- 6 Was it popular when it was published as a book?  
.....



# 1. THE INN

Jim Hawkins and his mother run the Admiral Benbow Inn on the south coast of England.

One day, an old sea captain arrives at the inn.



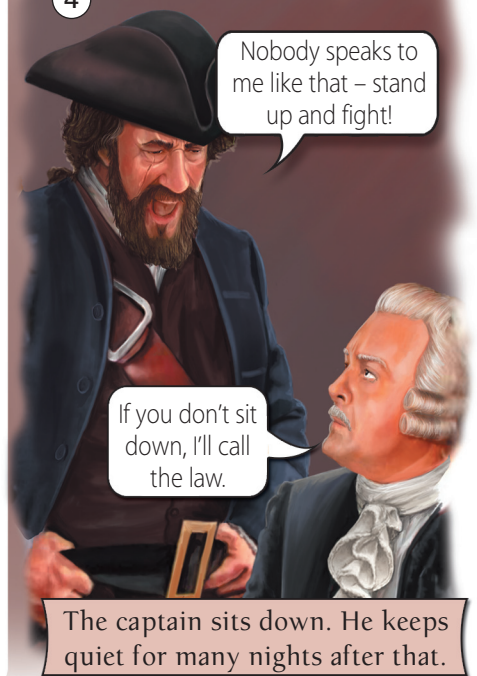
The next morning, the captain calls Jim over.



Every night the captain tells frightening stories of his adventures at sea. He expects everyone to listen, and usually they do. But one evening, Dr Livesey is in the inn.



4



Early one morning, a stranger comes to the inn.

5



Good morning, sir.

Well, well. Is this table for Captain Bill? Where is my old shipmate?

He's out walking, sir.

The stranger sits and waits for the captain to return.

6



Hello, Bill! You remember me, don't you?

Black Dog! So you've found me. What do you want?

Jim listens in to the conversation. The two men start to fight.

7



Tell me, Bill. Where is it?

No! You won't have it! That's the end of it!

The Captain falls down ...

8



Captain! Are you hurt?

Please, Jim ... a glass of water.

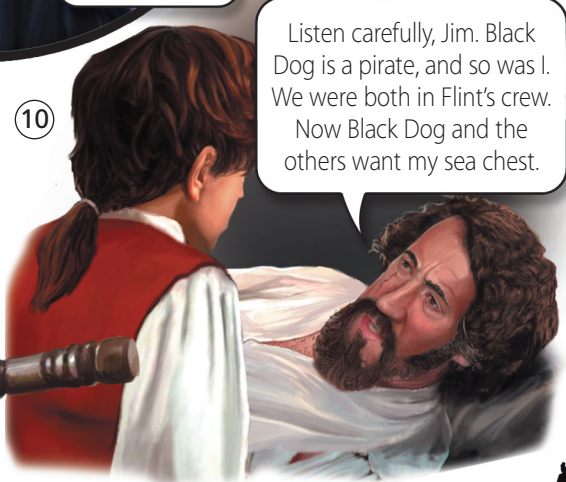


... and Black Dog runs off.

9

The captain is very ill and calls Jim to his room.

10



Listen carefully, Jim. Black Dog is a pirate, and so was I. We were both in Flint's crew. Now Black Dog and the others want my sea chest.



# 7.

## ABANDONING SHIP

### activities



#### Before Reading

- 1 Look at the title of the episode. What does it mean? What do you think the squire and his men are going to do?
- 2 Look at picture 7. What do you see? Who do you think built it?



#### While Reading

- 3 Read or listen to the episode and correct the following sentences.
  - 1 There is a lot of water on the *Hispaniola*.  
.....
  - 2 There are no people left on the *Hispaniola*.  
.....
  - 3 When Jim gets to the house, the pirates are already there.  
.....
  - 4 The squire's men break up the boat.  
.....
- 4 Find words from the episode that mean:
  - 1 at the time when sth else is happening .....
  - 2 go away and leave something behind .....
  - 3 an area of sand beside the sea .....
  - 4 to separate into many pieces .....



#### After Reading

- 5 Read and listen again, then take roles and act out the episode.
- 6 Explain why the squire and his men have abandoned ship. Do you think it was a sensible thing to do? What problems do you think it will lead to?
- 7 What do you think will happen next?





**Before Reading**

- 1 Look at picture 1. Why do you think Long John has gone to the house? What do you think the white flag means?
- 2 Look at picture 8. What is happening? Why do you think it is happening?



**While Reading**

- 3 Read or listen to the episode. Choose the correct word(s).
  - 1 Long John comes up the hill **slowly/quickly**.
  - 2 The captain tells the men to go **into/out of** the house.
  - 3 Long John is very **angry/sad**.
  - 4 It's a **hot/cold** day.
  - 5 The pirates **win/lose** the battle.
- 4 Find SIX words from the episode in the puzzle.

N	V	A	B	B	M	C	H	A	S
V	I	E	L	T	T	K	O	T	B
L	M	S	U	T	R	A	E	R	R
A	T	T	A	C	K	F	A	I	A
P	H	C	K	O	I	E	L	C	V
L	O	E	N	E	P	J	B	K	E
A	Y	B	A	T	T	L	E	M	L
T	R	E	A	S	U	R	E	L	Y
P	S	V	O	M	F	P	L	T	O
R	L	C	M	S	F	L	A	G	Y
O	T	N	P	G	L	E	E	H	S



**After Reading**

- 5 Look at the second page of this episode. Divide yourselves into two groups: pirates and the squire's men. Act out the battle, but add a dialogue of your own.
- 6 In activity 5, did you choose to be one of the squire's men or one of the pirates? Why?
- 7 At the end of the episode, Jim goes to find Ben Gunn's boat. What do you think he wants to use it for?



# Treasure Island

Jim Hawkins, a boy with a large appetite for adventure, runs an inn with his mother on the south coast of England. One day, an old sea captain, once part of the famous Captain Flint's crew, comes to the inn. When the sea captain suddenly dies, Jim finds himself with the captain's map of Treasure Island. He and his friends find a ship and set sail to find the buried treasure. But soon they find out that their crew is full of pirates. Will they get the treasure or be left at the pirates' mercy?

#### Components:

- Reader
- Audio CD



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