

Robert Louis Stevenson

# Treasure Island



free Audiobook





**Robert Louis Stevenson**

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# Treasure Island

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Member of CISQ Federation



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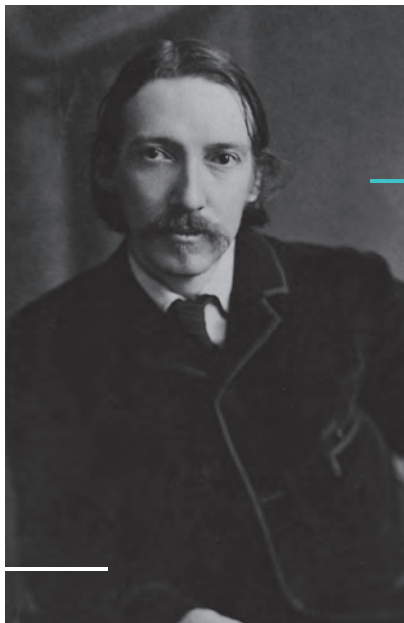
**Activities**

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THE STORY IS FULLY RECORDED

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# *Robert Louis Stevenson*

Robert Louis Stevenson was born in the city of Edinburgh, in Scotland in 1850. At a young age, Stevenson became ill with an illness called tuberculosis.<sup>1</sup>

Perhaps it was because of the many months that he passed indoors that he developed such a good imagination, reading and telling stories to entertain himself and others. He suffered from lung problems all his life but despite this he was a great traveller and adventurer.

When he was seventeen, Stevenson wanted to study engineering. Stevenson's father and grandfather were well-known lighthouse<sup>2</sup> engineers so he had thought he would also enter the family business. However, he decided to study law instead at Edinburgh University. During his time at university he travelled to France where he met artists and writers and he began writing. In fact, he was so interested in writing that although he studied law, he never became a lawyer. He felt that writing would one day become his profession.

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1. **tuberculosis** : a serious illness that attacks the body and the lungs\* (\*part of the body used to breathe with; there are two lungs).

2. **lighthouse** :





## CHAPTER 1

# *At The Admiral Benbow*

**T**he story I am going to tell you happened many years ago, yet<sup>1</sup> even now I can remember every detail. My story is about an island – Treasure Island. I cannot tell you where it is because I do not believe we found all the treasure that is hidden there. I can only tell you how I know about this island and why I still see it in my dreams, and my worst nightmares.<sup>2</sup>



track 02

My name is Jim Hawkins. My tale<sup>3</sup> begins in the year 1761, when I was eleven years old. My father and mother had an inn called The Admiral Benbow by the sea near Bristol.<sup>4</sup> One day an old sea captain came into our inn. His skin was dark brown from the sun,

1. **yet** : but still; up until this time.

2. **nightmares** : bad dreams.

3. **tale** : story.

4. **Bristol** : a port town in the South-West of England. (A lot of ships sailed from here in the 18<sup>th</sup> century).

and there was a scar on his face. His long hair was tied back in a pigtail. He wore a dirty blue coat, and under it he carried a sword.

‘I’ll have some rum!’ he said.

My father poured him a glass of rum and watched as he drank it slowly.

‘This is a nice little place,’ said the captain. ‘Do you get much business?’

‘Unfortunately, no,’ my father replied. ‘It’s very quiet on this part of the coast.’

‘Good,’ said the captain. ‘A quiet place is what I was looking for. I’ll stay here a while. I’m a simple man. I eat eggs and bacon, and I drink rum.’ He put some gold coins on the bar. ‘Tell me when I’ve spent all that, and I’ll give you some more,’ he said.

The captain was a very private man. In the day he walked along the cliffs by the sea, listening to the waves crashing on the rocks below and looking out for ships through his telescope. In the evening he used to sit in the bar beside the fire and drink his rum. People tried to talk to him, but he usually didn’t reply. We learnt to leave him peace. But at other times, he banged on the floor with a stick and shouted loudly at my father to bring him more rum. He told stories of his life at sea. They were terrible stories about death, fighting with pirates and bad storms where ships were lost. Then he sang an old sailor’s song that he used to sing to himself so often. It started like this:

*Fifteen men on the Dead Man’s Chest,  
Yo-ho-ho, and a bottle of rum!*

I couldn’t understand the words of the song. Did ‘chest’ mean a sea chest like the captain’s – a big box for carrying his clothes and other things – or did it mean the top part of the dead man’s body, around his heart?

Every evening, when he came back from his walk, the captain asked if any sailors had come to the inn during the day. At first

we thought he wanted company of people like himself, but then we realised that he didn't want to see other sailors. Whenever one came into the bar, he was even more silent than usual.

One day he gave me a silver coin. 'I want you to watch out for a sailor with one leg,' he said. 'I'll give you another silver coin on the first day of every month. But you must watch out, do you understand? You tell me immediately if you see a man like that!'

I took the coin and agreed, but I was scared by the thought of the sailor with one leg. Some nights, when the wind was blowing hard outside, I used to imagine that this terrifying sailor was running after me and I couldn't get back to sleep.

When winter came, my poor father fell ill. After the captain had given him the first few gold coins, he paid him nothing more, but my father was too afraid of the captain to ask him for money. My mother and I were very busy doing all the work of the inn and taking care of my father, so we didn't have time to pay much attention to the captain either. We hoped that soon he would decide to leave.



One cold morning, the captain was out as usual on the cliffs when a sailor came into The Admiral Benbow. He was a strange pale<sup>5</sup> man with two fingers missing from one hand. 'Is my friend Billy Bones here?' he asked.

'I don't know anyone called Billy Bones,' I replied.

'He's an old sea captain with a scar on his face.'

'Yes, he is staying here,' I said. 'He's out now, but he'll be back soon.'

'I'll wait for him, then,' said the man.

When the captain came in, he seemed shocked and angry to see his visitor. 'Black Dog!' he cried.

'Yes, it's me, your old friend Black Dog.'

'Well?' cried the captain. 'You've found me. Now – what do you want?'

'I want to drink a glass of rum with you, Bill, and talk.'

The captain sent me to get the rum then told me to leave them in peace. I went into the next room and listened, but at first they spoke quietly, so I couldn't hear what they were saying.

After a while, though, they started to shout at each other. The captain cried 'No! Never!' Then I heard the sounds of chairs and tables falling to the floor. I ran into the bar and saw that the captain and Black Dog had hold of their swords. Then they started fighting each other in the inn. Black Dog let out a sudden cry of pain. The captain had cut him on the shoulder. Black Dog ran through the door and down the road.

'Get me some more rum, Jim,' said the captain holding on to the side of the bar. His face was very pale. When I came back with the rum, I found him lying on the floor. Not long after, a young doctor called Dr Livesey arrived. He had come to see my father, who had become too ill to get out of bed. The doctor helped me to carry the captain to his room.

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**5. pale** : not much colour in his face.



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# Activities

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## **Exit test • Let's revise the story**

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## **Values & Feelings**

**1 Comprehension Check** • Read the sentences. Decide if they are true (T) or false (F). Correct the false ones.

- |  | T                        | F                        |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. The story Jim is going to tell happened many years ago.                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. The captain is looking for a place where there are other sailors.         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. The captain gives Jim a silver coin because Jim was kind to him.          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Jim and his mother have to look after the inn because his father was ill. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. The captain is waiting for Black Dog when he arrives.                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Dr Livesey thinks that Jim's father drinks too much rum.                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. The captain is afraid of the black spot.                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. The captain's death brings sad memories of the death of Jim's father.     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**2 Comprehension Check** • Match the pictures a-f to a sentence 1-6. Number the sentences in the order they happen to make a summary of Chapter One.



- Jim's father becomes very ill and Jim and his mother have to look after the inn.
- Billy Bones has a fight with Black Dog.
- The day of the funeral, Billy Bones also dies after seeing the black spot.
- An old sea captain called Billy Bones arrives at the inn.
- The captain gives Jim a coin to look out for a man with a wooden leg.
- Billy Bones says the men who are looking for him want to steal his treasure map.

## Used to

'In the evening **he used to** sit in the bar beside the fire and drink his rum.'

Used to + verb (in the infinitive/base form) can describe:

- a. **A habit (or a state) in the past:** *He used to smoke a pipe.*
- b. **Actions that happened more than once:** *He used to give me money.*
- c. **Actions that are now finished or complete:** *He used to sail on a big ship.*
- d. **A past state compared with the present:** *He used to be a happy man, but now he is always so sad.*

**3 Grammar** • Read the sentences below and re-write them adding the correct form of the verbs in brackets as in the example.

*I ..... a car but now I ..... everywhere. (have/walk)*  
*I used to have a car, but now I walk everywhere.*

1. I ..... in Bristol but now I ..... a house in London. (*live/have*)
2. He still ..... to exercise. When I met him ..... to work every day. (*love/walk*)
3. We ..... here last year. My parents used to ..... a shop by the sea. (*move/have*)
4. Do you ..... when we ..... here on holiday? (*remember/come*)
5. I ..... that old box under my bed. I can't ..... where it is now! (*keep/imagine*)

**4 Writing** • Read the page from Billy Bones' diary and complete the text with the missing words.

Last night we fought hard (1)..... take the ship. Pew is unhappy because he thought that (2)..... was more gold on the ship. I (3)..... where the gold is. It's (4)..... Captain Flint's cabin with (5)..... map he keeps of the place where he (6)..... buried the rest of his treasure. Flint is not (7)..... clever as he thinks. He won't live long. There's only one man that can stop me from getting the treasure and (8)..... name is not Captain Flint!