

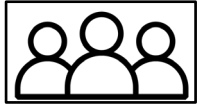
Year 7: Treasure Island Key Information Sheet

Context

- Written by Robert Louis Stevenson in the 1880s.
- Britain was known for seafaring.
- The 17th, 18th and 19th centuries were times of exploration, especially the East and America (discovered in the late 15th century).
- The golden age of pirates was 1650-1680.
- Piracy often occurred in the Caribbean and the Pacific Ocean.

Key Events

- Billy Bones, a pirate with a hidden treasure map in his chest, arrives at The Admiral Benbow Inn where Jim Hawkins lives with his parents. Jim's father is ill and dies.
- Billy Bones is given the 'Black Spot' by Blind Pew and drops down dead. Jim and his mother escape from the Inn with the treasure map just before Blind Pew and a band of pirates arrive back looking for it. Blind Pew is killed.
- Jim gives the map to Squire Trelawney and Dr Livesey and they decide to get a ship and sail to the island in search of the treasure.
- Squire Trelawney acquires a ship, the Hispaniola, in Bristol and hires Long John Silver as the ship's cook. Long John helps the Squire recruit the rest of the crew. Unknown to the Squire these men are all part of Long John's band of pirates.
- Whilst sailing to the island Jim overhears Long John talking to the other pirates about their plan to mutiny. He tells the Squire, the doctor and Captain Smollett.
- When they reach the island, the pirates go ashore and the others escape with supplies to the Stockade which is on the island.
- Jim meets Ben Gunn, a pirate who has been marooned on the island.
- There are fights between the pirates and the others and eventually the doctor gives the map to the pirates. Dr Livesey knows that the treasure has already been moved to a cave by Ben Gunn.
- Meanwhile Jim takes control of the Hispaniola after he fights with, and kills, Israel Hands.
- When the pirates discover the treasure is gone, there is a fight and the pirates flee the scene.
- Jim and the others move the treasure to the ship and set off to sail home. During the journey, Long John sneaks off with some of the treasure and is never heard of again.
- Others in the ship happily settle with their portion of the treasure. Jim swears off treasure-hunting forever and suffers from nightmares about the sea and gold coins.



Main Characters

Jim Hawkins

The first-person narrator of almost the entire novel. Jim is the son of an innkeeper and is probably in his early teens. He is eager and enthusiastic to go to sea and hunt for treasure.

Long John Silver

The cook on the voyage to Treasure Island. Silver is the secret ringleader of the pirate band. Silver is deceitful and disloyal.

Dr Livesey

The local doctor, Dr. Livesey is wise and practical. He is confident and stands up to the pirates, (including Billy Bones at the beginning of the novel).

Billy Bones

Billy Bones is a pirate who comes to stay at the Admiral Benbow Inn to hide from Long John Silver and the other pirates. He has the treasure map hidden in his chest. He drinks a lot of rum and often gets loud and obnoxious (unpleasant and offensive) when he is drunk.

Ben Gunn

A pirate who has been marooned on the island by Captain Flint. He dreams of eating cheese. He has moved the treasure to his cave.



Paired Quotations:

1. 'A tall, strong, heavy, nut brown man' + 'I heard a loud fall in the parlour, and, running in, beheld the captain [...] on the floor'.
2. 'It was the first death I had known, and the sorrow of the first was still fresh in my heart' + 'both my pistols went off [...] the coxswain loosened his grip [...] plunged headfirst into the water'.
3. 'With a face as big as a ham - [...] intelligent and smiling' + 'abominable old rogue'.
4. 'There were only seven out of the twenty-six on whom we could rely [...] one was a boy' + 'the lives of all the honest men aboard depended upon me alone'.
5. "I'll take this to square the count," said I, picking up the oilskin packet' + 'The doctor opened the seals with great care, and there fell out the map of an island'.