

Treasure Island

Part I - The Old Buccaneer

Chapter I - The Old Sea Dog at the "Admiral Benbow"

VOCABULARY

abominable – horrible, cursed

*assizes – civil or criminal court cases

barrow – wheelbarrow

bearings – locations

berth – a bed on a ship

clasp-knife – a pocketknife

coltish – lively, frisky

*connoisseur – an expert, usually with regard to food or drink

dear – costly

diabolical – devilish, wicked, evil

hamlet – a village, town

*handspike – a stick or bar used as a lever

*incivility – rudeness, disrespect

livid – pale, ashen

*magistrate – a judge

*mought – [dialect] might

*rheumatics – discomfort felt in the muscles or joints; rheumatism

ruffian – a thug, hoodlum

sabre – a heavy sword

*sittyated – [dialect] situated

tarry – black; the color of tar

trundled – moved, transported

tyrannized – dictated, bullied

*weather eye – the ability to know what the weather will be

grog - alcoholic drink
reluff - blunt rejection

** = unfamiliar word before now*

1. Why does Jim Hawkins decide to keep the location of Treasure Island a secret from the reader? What does this decision tell the reader about the outcome of the story?

↳ "... there is still treasure not yet lifted..."

Jim Hawkins will survive the adventure, and the treasure (or at least some of it) will not be claimed.

2. Briefly describe the captain. How do the patrons of the inn feel about the captain's presence at the Benbow?

"... he came plodding to the inn door, his sea chest following behind him in a hand barrow; a tall, strong, heavy, nutbrown man; his tarry pigtail falling over the shoulders of his soiled blue coat; his hands ragged and scarred, with black broken nails, and the sabre cut across one cheek, a dirty, livid white." (p. 13)

"... we soon learned to let him be." (p. 14) "trembling company"...
 ... "joining him for dear life..." (p. 15)

3. Why does Jim dream about a one-legged man?

The captain "... had taken me aside and promised me a silver fourpenny on the first of every month if I would only keep my weather eye open for a seafaring man with one leg, and let him know if he should be approached."

The captain obviously dreads the man enough to keep paying Jim even though he doesn't like being asked for the wage. (p. 15)
 Because a man as dreadful as the captain dreads the one-legged man, that man must be terrible... and Jim dreams about him.

4. How does Dr. Livesey send the captain to his seat "like a beaten dog"?

"If you do not put that knife this instant in your pocket, I promise, upon my honor, you shall hang at the next assizes."
 (He says this loudly enough for the room to hear, which means that word might get around of this old sea captain who is staying at the Admiral Benbow Inn. We know the captain is trying to lay low, so he doesn't want to draw anymore attention to himself.)

Chapter II - Black Dog Appears and Disappears

VOCABULARY

- *chine – the backbone, spine
- cutlass – a sword with a curved blade
- fancy – imagine, think
- *fawning – flattering
- *gabbling – mumbling
- gallows – a platform used for hanging people
- hilt – the handle
- *hoar-frost – dew that has frozen to form a white coating; white frost
- lancet – a scalpel
- leer – a grin, smirk
- mutilated – ruined, deformed
- prophetic – foretelling, predictive
- sheath – a case, cover
- sinewy – strong, muscular
- spy-glass – a telescope; an instrument used to see objects at a distance
- talons – [slang] fingers; resembling the claws of a bird
- *trebly – tripled
- *wanting – lacking

buccaneer - pirate

1. Find an example of foreshadowing in the first paragraph of this chapter.

"... the first of the mysterious events that rid us at last of the captain, though not, as you will see, of his affairs."

We know from this hint that the captain will not be in the story much longer, but his "affairs" or business (whatever it is) will become part of the plot of the story.

2. Briefly describe Black Dog. Why do you think Stevenson gives both the captain and Black Dog obvious physical flaws?

"... a pale, fallow creature, wanting two fingers of the left hand; and though he wore a cutlass, he did not ~~the~~ look much like a fighter."

"He was not sailorly, and yet he had a smack of the sea about him too."

The physical deformities identify them both as pirates.

3. Some critics believe Stevenson is a master at creating characters who are obviously immoral, but do have some redeeming qualities. In what ways does Black Dog's behavior toward Jim support or refute this idea?

"... patted me on the shoulder, told me I was a good boy, and he had taken quite a fancy to me. 'I have a son of my own,' said he, 'as like you as two black, and he's all the pride of my 'art...' - This shows he knows how to act and speak to boys in a civilized way, but then "... He cleared the hilt of his cutlass and loosened the blade in the sheath ... " as they went to "surprise" the captain (Bill).

4. Why does the doctor think Bill's tattoo is prophetic?

Because he is obviously a pirate, Billy Bones is likely to be hanged, thus the tattoo of the galleys prophesizes his doom.