

## Chapter III - The Black Spot

## VOCABULARY

apoplexy – a sudden loss of consciousness and muscle control  
 clambered – climbed clumsily  
 cowed – frightened  
 daddle – to trick  
 fidges – fidgets, squirms  
 guinea – a gold coin  
 horrors – shivers, tremors  
 lubbers – *landlubbers*, people who live on land; also, clumsy, inexperienced, sailors  
 nimbleness – skill, agility  
 noggin – a small cup or mug  
 pitch – tar  
 summons – a call to appear  
 twitch – a combination of a twist and a pinch

1. Why does Jim agree to bring a glass of rum to Bill, knowing that the doctor believes rum will kill the captain?

"He was growing more and more excited, and this alarmed me, for my father, who was very low that day, needed quiet; besides, I was reassured by the doctor's words, now quoted to me, and rather offended by the offer of a bribe."

"Your doctor himself said me glass wouldn't hurt me."

(page 26)

2. What instructions does Bill give Jim if the boy sees Black Dog or the one-legged man near the Benbow inn? What will be Jim's reward for following the captain's instructions?

"Well, then you get on a horse, and go to... that eternal doctor doctor swab, and tell him to pipe all hands - magistrates and sith - and he'll lay 'em aboard at the 'Admiral Benbow' - all old Flint's crew, man and boy, all on 'em that's left."

"But you keep your weather-eye open, Jim, and I'll share with you equals, upon my honor."

(pages 26-27)

3. Why is Jim afraid of the blind beggar? The captain tells Jim the black spot is a <sup>- delivered by</sup> the blind summons. What can be inferred about its meaning by this passage from the story? man

"...and he drew in his hand and looked sharply into the palm.  
'Ten o'clock!' he cried. 'Six hours. We'll do them yet!' and he sprang to his feet."

"...with a hood that made him appear positively deformed. I never saw in my life a more dreadful looking creature."

"I held out my hand, and the horrible, soft-spoken, eyeless creature gripped it in a moment like a vise. I was so much startled that I struggled to withdraw..."

→ Flint's crew is coming to get the map from Bill at ten o'clock, which leaves time for Jim to get Dr. Livesey and a "posse" to arrest them all for piracy. (p. 27)

4. Why does Jim cry after Bill dies?

"It is a curious thing to understand, for I had certainly never liked the man, though of late I had begun to pity him, but as soon as I saw that he was dead I burst into a flood of tears. It was the second death I had known, and the sorrow of the first was still fresh in my heart."

his father (p. 29)

## Chapter IV - The Sea-Chest

### VOCABULARY

booty – [slang] treasure, goods  
 canikin – a small cup or can  
 dell – a valley  
 detestable – horrible  
 doubloons – gold Spanish coins  
 emboldener – encourager; something that makes a person stronger  
 farthing – a small amount of money  
 foolhardiness – recklessness, carelessness, foolishness  
 gully – a type of knife  
 hearken – to listen  
 miscellany – an accumulation of various items  
 obstinately – stubbornly  
 quadrant – an instrument used in navigation  
 repugnance – a strong feeling of dislike  
 whence – from where  
 whither – where

1. Why do the men in the neighboring hamlet refuse to return to the inn with Jim and his mother? In what ways do they agree to help them?

*They give Jim a pistol + agree to have horses ready.*

*"The more we told of our troubles, the more - man, woman, and child - they cling to their houses. The name of Captain Flint, though it was strange to me, was well enough known to some there, and carried a great weight of terror."*

*(P. 32)*

*"Anyone who was a comrade of the captain's was enough to frighten them to death."*

2. Why don't Jim and his mother just grab the money the captain owes them and run from the inn?

*"I'll show these rogues I'm an honest woman... I'll have my dues and not a farthing over..." It was a long, difficult business, for the coins were of all countries and sizes... all shaken together at random. The guineas, too, were about the scarcest, and it was with these only that my mother knew how to make her count."* (p. 34)

*"But my mother, frightened as she was, would not consent to take a fraction more than was due to her."* (p. 34)

3. How do Jim and his mother know the pirates are coming? Why does Jim decide to take the oilskin package before they escape from the inn?

"... a sound that brought my heart into my mouth - the tap-tapping of the blind man's stick upon the road... it struck sharp on the inn door and then we could hear the handle being turned and the bolt rattling..."

"... a little low whistle sounded a good way off..."

"I'll take what I have," she said, jumping to her feet.

"And I'll take this to square the count..."

4. What does Jim mean when he says he blames his mother for her "...past foolhardiness and present weakness!"?

"... how I blamed my poor mother for her honesty and her greed..."

Her "past foolhardiness" refers to her insistence that she carefully count out the exact amount she owed, which was too time consuming.

Her present weakness refers to her literal physical incapability of remaining upright long enough to safely escape.