

Treasure Island: Term Paper Options

Write a fully developed and well-reasoned argumentative essay (with in-text source citations) in response to one (1) of the following prompts:

- **Support *or* refute this statement: “Long John Silver is not a typical pirate.”**
Consider Silver’s behavior and how Jim’s opinion of it changes. Review these passages: Chapter 8 (pp. 55-56); Chapter 10 (p. 69); Chapter 11 (p. 74); Chapter 29 (pp. 176-177); Chapter 30: Silver protects Jim from the other pirates; Silver is moved by Jim’s courage and commitment...it seems; Jim refuses to break his word to Silver (that he would not run off); Silver strikes a bargain with the doctor; Chapter 31: Silver thanks Jim for not breaking his word, but then appears to side with the pirates again; also, Chapters 30-34 are full of scenes you could use to illustrate your argument, whichever side you choose.

- **Compare Captain Smollett’s leadership abilities to those of Long John Silver. The two men lead their crews in very different ways. What do their individual styles reveal about the two characters?**
 - Consider the short essay you wrote earlier about Captain Smollett.
 - Consider how the two characters act during the battle of the stockade.
 - Why is Captain Smollett the one more likely to berate his crew when Silver usually tries to maintain a smiling demeanor?

- **With the exception of Jim's mother, who doesn't even get a name, there are no women at all in this novel. Why not? How might *Treasure Island* be different if Jim Hawkins were Jane Hawkins?**
 - If you choose this prompt, you may need to include textual information from sources other than just the novel because you will likely be making statements about how girls and boys differ. (Example: “A girl would never _____.” How do you know?)

- **How does Long John Silver compare to latter-day popular pirates like Captain Jack Sparrow or squid-faced Davy Jones? How might *Treasure Island* have influenced *Pirates of the Caribbean* and its ideas of pirate life and character?**
 - If you have not seen a recent pirate movie, you won’t be able to do this prompt. You will need to include “textual evidence” from the movie as well as the novel.

Since this is not a timed, on-demand essay, you should be diligent in your selection of ample and appropriate textual evidence, and you can take the time to carefully show your reasoning. Counterclaims should be addressed and rebutted completely. In other words, you won’t get credit just for doing *something*; you are expected to write an honors-caliber essay, which means it should be a quality argument. Your understanding of the novel should be clear, but you should not just retell the story. It is strongly suggested that you follow a standard academic essay format. *Be sure to cite your sources within the text of the essay!*