



TREASURE ISLAND

Fort Wayne Youtheatre

ELEMENTS OF A PRODUCTION

SET— the scenery pieces that form the area in which the performers act out the play. Sometimes scenery is very realistic and complete, making the audience think they are inside a real house, for example. Other times the scenery is quite fanciful or limited. What different sets can you name in *Treasure Island*? What did the actors do to change settings? What time and place does it look like?

LIGHTS— the lighting instruments that help to create the right atmosphere on the stage. Lights direct the attention of the audience to specific areas of the stage or to a specific performer. The lights may be different colors to add special effects such as nighttime or a storm. How do the lights in *Treasure Island* show the difference between being on the ship or in a jungle?

PROPS (PROPERTIES)- the objects performers carry to help them act out the story. Look for important props like magic wands, books and gold coins. What kind of props does Long John Silver use?

MAKE-UP— the cosmetic bases, blushes, lipsticks, mascara and eye liners which help the performer physically become the character he/she is playing. Make-up is also used so that the performer's facial features can be seen clearly under the bright stage lights and from a distance.

COSTUMES— the clothing the performers wear. Depending on the story being acted out, this clothing may be what a character of the time would have actually worn. It may also be very exaggerated or old fashioned in the case of a fairy tale like *Treasure Island*. Costumes help the audience know what a character is like or where and when he/she lived. Are the costumes in *Treasure Island* drab or colorful? How do the costumes tell you about the characters and their story?



Above are pictures from Youtheatre productions of *Willy Wonka* and *Lord of the Flies*.

SETTING THE STAGE: SYNOPSIS

PART I—"THE OLD BUCCANEER"

An old sailor, calling himself "the captain"—real name Billy Bones—comes to lodge at the Admiral Benbow Inn on the west English Coast during the mid-18th-century, paying the innkeeper's son, Jim Hawkins, a few pennies to keep a lookout for "a one legged seafaring man." A seaman with intact legs, but lacking two fingers, shows up to confront Billy about sharing his treasure map. After running the stranger off in a violent fight, Billy has a stroke and tells Jim that his former shipmates covet the contents of his sea chest. After a visit from an evil blind man named Pew who gives him "the black spot" as a summons to share the treasure, Billy has another stroke and dies; Jim and his mother (his father has also died just a few days before) unlock the sea chest, finding some money, a journal, and a map. The local physician, Dr. Livesey and the Squire Trelawney, deduce that the map is of the island where a deceased pirate, Captain Flint buried his treasure. Squire Trelawney proposes buying a ship and going after the treasure, taking Livesey as ship's doctor and Jim as cabin boy.



PART II—"THE SEA COOK"

Several weeks later, the Squire introduces Jim and Dr. Livesey to "Long John" Silver, a one-legged tavern-keeper whom he has hired as ship's cook. They also meet Captain Smollett, who tells them that he dislikes most of the crew on the voyage, which it seems everyone in Bristol knows is a search for treasure. After taking a few precautions, however, they set sail on the *Hispaniola*, for the distant island. During the voyage, the first mate, a drunkard, disappears overboard. And just before the island is sighted, Jim—concealed in an apple barrel—overhears Silver talking with two other crewmen. Most of them are former "gentlemen o'fortune" (as Long John Silver refers to pirates) from Flint's crew and have planned a mutiny. Jim alerts the captain, doctor, and squire, and they calculate that they will be seven to 19 against the mutineers and must pretend not to suspect anything until the treasure is found when they can surprise their adversaries.

PART III—"MY SHORE ADVENTURE"

But after the ship is anchored, Silver and some of the others go ashore, and two men who refuse to join the mutiny are killed—one with so loud a scream that everyone realizes that there can be no more pretence. Jim has impulsively joined the shore party and covertly witnessed Silver committing one of the murders; now, in fleeing, he encounters a half-crazed Englishman, Ben Gunn, who tells him he was

marooned there and that he can help against the mutineers in return for passage home and part of the treasure.

PART IV—"THE STOCKADE"

Meanwhile, Smollett, Trelawney, and Livesey, along with Trelawney's three servants and one of the other hands, Abraham Gray, abandon the ship and come ashore to occupy an old abandoned stockade. The men still on the ship, led by the coxswain Israel Hands, run up the pirate flag. One of Trelawney's servants and one of the pirates are killed in the fight to reach the stockade, and the ship's gun keeps up a barrage upon them, to no effect, until dark when Jim finds the stockade and joins them. The next morning, Silver appears under a flag of truce, offering terms that the captain refuses, and revealing that another pirate has been killed in the night (by Gunn, Jim realizes, although Silver does not). At Smollett's refusal to surrender the map, Silver threatens an attack, and, within a short while, the attack on the stockade is launched.

PART V—"MY SEA ADVENTURE"

After a battle, the surviving mutineers retreat, having lost five men, but two more of the captain's group have been killed and Smollett himself is badly wounded. When Livesey leaves in search of Gunn, Jim runs away without permission and finds Gunn's homemade boat. After dark, he goes out and cuts the ship adrift. Jim finds O'Brien dead and Hands badly wounded. He and Hands agree that they will beach the ship at an inlet on the northern coast of the island. As the ship is about to beach, Hands attempts to kill Jim but is himself killed in the attempt. Then, after securing the ship as well as he can, Jim goes back ashore and heads for the stockade. Once there, in utter darkness, he enters the blockhouse—to be greeted by Silver and the remaining five mutineers, who have somehow taken over the stockade in his absence.

PART VI—"CAPTAIN SILVER"

Silver and the others argue about whether to kill Jim, and Silver talks them down. He tells Jim that, when everyone found the ship was gone, the captain's party agreed to a treaty whereby they gave up the stockade and the map. In the morning, the doctor arrives to treat the wounded and sick pirates and tells Silver to look out for trouble when they find the site of the treasure. After he leaves, Silver and the others set out with the map, taking Jim along as hostage. They encounter a skeleton, arms apparently oriented toward the treasure, which seriously unnerves the party.

Eventually, they find the treasure cache—empty. The pirates are about to charge at Silver and Jim, but shots are fired by Livesey, Gray, and Gunn, from ambush. The pirates run away, and Livesey explains that Gunn had already found the treasure and taken it to his cave. In the next few days, they load much of the treasure onto the ship, abandon the three remaining mutineers (with supplies and ammunition) and sail away. At their first port Silver steals a bag of money and escapes. The rest sail back to Bristol and divide up the treasure. Jim says there is more left on the island, but he for one will not undertake another voyage to recover it.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Robert Louis Balfour Stevenson (13 November 1850 – 3 December 1894) was a Scottish novelist, poet, essayist, musician and travel writer. His most famous works are *Treasure Island*, *Kidnapped*, *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, and *A Child's Garden of Verses*. Stevenson was a literary celebrity during his lifetime, and now ranks as the 26th most translated author in the world. His works have been admired by many other writers, including Arthur Conan Doyle, Ernest Hemingway, Rudyard Kipling, Jack London, J. M. Barrie.

“Men are born with various manias: from my earliest childhood, it was mine to make a plaything of imaginary series of events; and as soon as I was able to write, I became a good friend to the paper maker”

(RLS, “My First Book: *Treasure Island*”, *The Idler* 6 [August 1894])

RECOMMENDED READING

Here are some recommendations for further reading.

THE ODYSSEY. BY HOMER.

GULLIVER'S TRAVELS. BY JONATHAN SWIFT.

TREASURE ISLAND. BY ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON.

LORD OF THE RINGS. BY J.R.R. TOLKIEN.

THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN. BY MARK TWAIN.

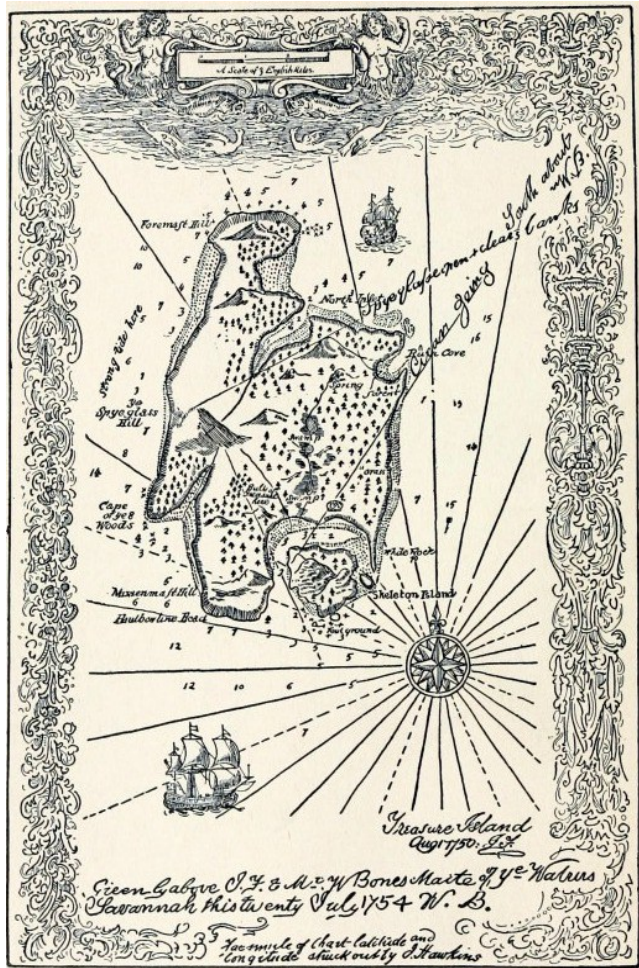
HEART OF DARKNESS. BY JOSEPH CONRAD.

THE CALL OF THE WILD. BY JACK LONDON.

THE THREE MUSKETEERS. BY ALEXANDRE DUMAS.

MAPS

This map has shown up in every edition of Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island* since it appeared in book form in 1883. Study the map. What does it tell you?



ON ANOTHER SHEET OF PAPER, YOU WILL CREATE YOUR VERY OWN TREASURE MAP!

1 FIRST, CHOOSE A LOCATION FOR YOUR TREASURE (WILL IT BE ON AN ISLAND, IN THE MOUNTAINS, IN A CITY, OR ELSEWHERE?).

2 WHAT FEATURES WILL YOU INCLUDE IN YOUR MAP? INCLUDE AT LEAST FOUR. FOR EXAMPLE: MOUNTAINS, LAKES, RIVERS, CITIES, FARMS, OR DESERTS. CREATE A LEGEND, OR KEY, TO HELP OTHERS UNDERSTAND THE SYMBOL USED FOR EACH FEATURE.

3. BE SURE YOUR MAP HAS A CREATIVE TITLE, AND A COMPASS SHOWING NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, AND WEST.

4. COLOR YOUR MAP!

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1881, Stevenson began drawing a map to amuse his stepson, but soon found himself carried away: 'As I poured upon my map of "Treasure Island", the future characters of the book began to appear there visibly among imaginary woods: and their brown faces and bright weapons peeped out upon me from unexpected quarters ... the next thing I knew, I had some papers before me and was writing out a list of chapters.'*Source: National Library of Scotland.

IT'S ALL ABOUT CHARACTER

CHARACTERS IN TREASURE ISLAND

Jim Hawkins: The narrator of the story, Jim Hawkins is a young boy who gets a hold of a treasure map and finds himself on an adventurous search for pirate treasure.

Mrs. Hawkins: Jim's mother, Mrs. Hawkins runs the Admiral Benbow Inn.

“Captain” Billy Bones: A boarder at the Admiral Benbow Inn, Billy Bones is hiding from other pirates. He was the first mate of Captain Flint and has his secret treasure map.

Doctor Livesey: The town doctor and magistrate, Doctor Livesey joins Squire Trelawney and Jim in search of pirate treasure.

Black Dog: A pirate, Black Dog who attack Dr. Livsey and the Squire

Pew: A blind pirate

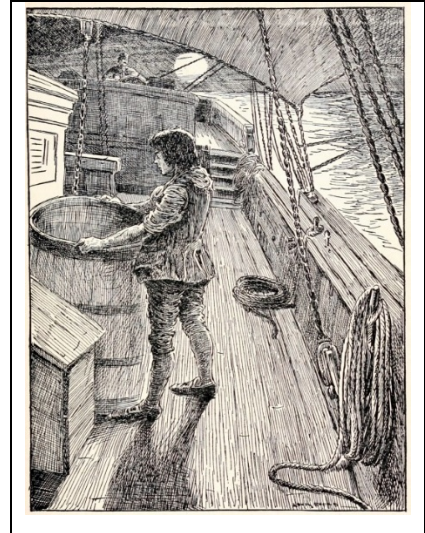
Squire: A local wealthy hothead, Squire Trelawney finances a crew and a ship, the Hispaniola, to search for Capt. Flint's treasure.

Long John Silver: Flint's old sea cook, Long John Silver signs on with Hispaniola crew as the cook, but he is really the leader of the mutineers. He has a parrot and wooden peg leg.

“Captain Flint”: Long John Silver's parrot

Ben Gunn: A marooned sailor, Ben Gunn has been alone on Treasure Island for three years before Jim finds him.

Captain Smollett: Hired captain of the Hispaniola



Who is your favorite character in *Treasure Island*? Why? Chances are they are your favorite because of their character traits.

Character traits are made up of **physical traits** and **personality traits**. Think about the character of Long John Silver from the play *Treasure Island*. Use this graphic organizer to record both physical (outside) and personality (inside) traits for the character. List at least five physical traits outside the pirate, and at least five personality traits inside the pirate.

CHARACTER TRAITS

Agonized, alluring, amicable, anxious, apologetic, arrogant, avid, awestruck, bashful, benevolent, blissful, bold, bored, brave, candid, calm, carefree, cautious, confident, concerned, considerate, courageous, cruel, cunning, curious, curt, defeated, demure, depressed, determined, devious, disappointed, disapproving, disbelieving, disdainful, disgusted, distracted, eager, ecstatic, enraged, envious, exhausted, flustered, focused, frank

Frightened, frustrated, gallant, gentle, gleeful, glum, grieving, guilty, happy, harmless, haughty, hilarious, honest, honorable, humble, hurt, hysterical, idiotic, impish, indifferent, innocent, inquisitive, interested, jaded, jealous, joyful, jubilant, kind, livid, lonely, meditative, melancholy, mischievous, miserable, miserly, modest, negative, nervous, nosey, obnoxious, obstinate, odd, opinionated, optimistic

Pained, paranoid, perplexed, pessimistic, petty, playful, prudish, puzzled, radical, regretful, relieved, sad, satisfied, selfish, selfless, serious, sheepish, shocked, shy, skeptical, sly, smug, spiteful, surly, surprised, suspicious, sympathetic, terrified, thoughtful, timid, trustworthy, undecided, unpleasant, unwilling, wary, willing, withdrawn, wretched, zealous

THINK ABOUT IT: A pirate's possessions might say a lot about him - what props did the actor who played Long John Silver use to tell about his character?

ESSAY QUESTION: What do your possessions say about you? If someone looked through your backpack, what would they find? What would they think about your personality or hobbies based upon your possessions?

SEQUENCING A STORY

1. Sequence the events from the story by numbering them.
2. Fold a piece of white paper like an accordion, so that it has six sections.
3. Number each section as a “page” in your book (1 - 6).
4. Illustrate the events that you put in sequence in your book.
5. Create a cover for your book.

COMPARING THE BOOK AND THE PLAY.

Read *Treasure Island*. Compare the book and the play. In what way are the characters, setting and plot alike? In what way are they different?

___ *Long John Silver plans a mutiny.*

___ *They sail back from Hispaniola with the treasure.*

___ *A man pays Jim to keep a lookout for a “one-legged sea-farin’ man.”*

___ *The Captain tells Jim to join Long John Silver on the island*

___ *Long John Silver gets hired as the ship’s cook.*

___ *Blind Pew gives Billy Bones the Black Spot.*

THINKING ABOUT THEME

In the play, *Treasure Island*, Jim knows he must be honorable and do the right thing. Can you think of a time when it was difficult to do the right thing? Explain.

A TREASURE TROVE OF QUOTES

These quotes are from Robert Louis Stevenson's book, *Treasure Island*. Read each one. Beside each, write what you think the quote means. Discuss as a group.

DEAD MEN DON'T BITE.

JIM SIR, YOU'RE ALL IN A
CLOVE HITCH, AIN'T YOU?

WHEN DO WE LAY 'EM
ATHWART?

YOU'VE MADE A HASH
OF THIS VOYAGE

THINK ABOUT IT

Treasure Island was written over 200 years ago. Different words and sayings were popular at that time. What is something we say today that would have not made sense in the time *Treasure Island* was written?