

Treasure Island

The Play

Characters

Narrator, Jim Hawkins, Mother, Billy Bones, Black Dog, Blind Pew, Long John Silver, Squire Trelawney, Doctor Livesey, Captain Smollett, Ben Gunn, Pirates

Scene 1 (At the inn)

Narrator:

This story begins in Bristol, England. The year is 1880. Jim Hawkins, age 17, worked for his parents, who owned the Admiral Benbow Inn. Being the eldest child, Jim and his mother worked very hard. Jim's father was gravely ill.

Mother:

Hurry up with those dishes Jim. The guests will soon be arriving for lunch.

Jim:

Yes Mother.

Narrator:

One day an old sailor called Billy Bones arrived at the inn carrying an old sea chest.

Billy Bones

Hello there young lad. What's your name?

Jim:

It's Jim sir.

Billy Bones:

I need a place to stay for a while. How much is the rent?

Jim:

Ten shillings a week sir.

Billy Bones:

That I can afford. Now there's a little favour I would like to ask of you. I want you to keep your eyes open for a sailor with one leg. Here's a coin for your trouble.

Jim:

Yes sir. Thank you sir.

Narrator:

Over the next few weeks Billy Bones had two visitors. The first was a pirate called Black Dog and the second was a blind pirate called Pew.

Black Dog:

I've come for the map. Hand it over or else!

Billy Bones:

Not on your life.

(Black Dog takes his cutlas (a type of sword) and chases Billy out of the inn. Billy comes back in and has to lie down. Billy Bones groans. Then the blind pirate Pew comes in and presses a piece of paper with a burnt black spot onto Billy's hand. He then runs out.)

Billy Bones:

Oh no. Not the black spot! I'm a dead man.

(Billy dies and is carried off stage. Jim and his mother get Billy Bones' sea chest. Jim opens it and pulls out a map.)

Jim:

This looks like a treasure map. It might be valuable. We'd better hide it.

(Jim and his mother hide the chest. Then there is a knock at the door.)

Mother:

Oh no. It's the pirates. They're after the map. Jim, get it from the treasure chest quickly.

(Jim gets the map and runs with his mother off stage. The pirates enter and look for the map but are angry because they can't find it. The police enter the inn and chase the pirates off stage).

Scene 2 (At Squire Trelawney's house)

(Mother and Jim look at the map.)

Jim:

This map looks valuable mother. Let's take it to our friends Squire Trelawney and Dr Livesey. They might be able to tell us what the map is for.

(Enter Squire Trelawney and Dr Livesey. They carefully examine the map.)

Squire Trelawney:

This appears to be the key to the lost treasure hoard of Captain Flint, an infamous pirate. We must charter a ship and sail to the Caribbean to find the treasure. Jim, you can come along as cabin boy. I will pay someone to help your mother at the inn.

Scene 3 (At the docks, ready to sail)

Narrator:

Three weeks later the ship, called the Hispaniola, was ready to sail. Jim arrived at the port with instructions to find a Mr Silver who would show him to the Squire's ship. He found Mr Silver - Long John Silver - at the docks. Silver had just one leg. Silver rowed Jim out to the Hispaniola, where the Squire was already waiting on board.

Squire Trelawney:

Jim, you've met our cook, John Silver, and please meet the rest of our crew. This is our captain – Captain Smollett.

(Jim shakes hands with some of the crew members. John Silver has a parrot on his shoulder.)

Narrator:

The Hispaniola set sail for Treasure Island in the Caribbean. The voyage was calm and largely uneventful. Jim became firm friends with Long John Silver and his parrot called Captain Flint.

Neither Jim, Squire Trelawney, Dr Livesey or Captain Smollett had any idea about the terrible true identity of Long John Silver and his crew.

As the Hispaniola was drawing close to Treasure Island, shown on the treasure map, Jim reached into an apple barrel on deck and fell inside. Jim stayed in the apple barrel, unseen, listening with horror to the conversation of Silver and the crew.

Silver: (to other pirates)

This is our plan. Tonight we will murder Squire Trelawney and the Doctor, and take control of the ship.

Scene 4 (on Treasure Island)

Jim: *(with Squire Trelawney)*

Jim whispers in Trelawney's ear about the plot.

Narrator:

Not wanting to be a part of the consequences of the mutiny, that evening Jim decided to go exploring far away from the ship. He swam to the shore and found a place to sleep. He woke early, while still dark and was surprised to meet a stranger with long hair and shabby clothes.

Ben Gunn:

Hello, my name is Benn Gunn. Are there others here on the island?

Jim:

Yes. I came on a ship to look for treasure, but there is trouble amongst the crew. Some of the crew members want to murder those in charge, including the captain. They want to take control and get the treasure for themselves.

Benn Gunn:

Oh I see. Listen to my story.

Once I sailed with Captain Flint and Long John Silver to this island to bury a treasure hoard. I sailed back with another crew some years later promising to find the treasure - but I couldn't find it. The crew members were angry that I could not find it, so they sailed away, leaving me marooned on the island, where I have lived alone ever since.

(Noise of guns firing.)

Jim: *(looking out to sea)*

Oh no, I can see Squire Trelawney, the Doctor and the Captain sailing away from the ship in a small boat. The mutineers are shooting at them!

Scene 5 (The Stockade)

Narrator:

The small group in the rowing boat rowed around to the other side of the island and went ashore. Now away from the mutineers, who were actually pirates, Trelawney and his men went exploring. They found a stockade - a sturdy cabin surrounded by a high fence. They decided to use the stockade to defend themselves against the pirates. The pirates soon found them. Trelawney's group had gone back to the ship to get weapons and supplies, so they were now prepared. There was a fierce battle between the Squire's side and the pirates. The pirates lost the battle, but one of Trelawney's men, Redruth died of injury.

(Battle scene then all is quiet.)

Long John Silver arrives at the stockade, holding a white flag of truce.

Captain Smollett:

I see that you are holding the flag of surrender. You may come in if your word is honourable.

(Silver enters the stockade.)

Silver:

These are our terms. We want the treasure map. If you don't hand it over we will kill all of you.

Captain Smollett:

No deal. We will never hand over the map.

Silver:

Then you will all die. The battle is ours!

(Battle scene no. 2)

Narrator:

By the end of the second battle, crew members on both sides had been killed and Captain Smollett had been badly wounded.

That night, Jim slipped away, making his way towards the shore. He found an old boat that Ben Gunn had told him about and rowed out to the Hispaniola. Positioning his small boat close to the ship, he could hear that two pirates were still on board - O'Brien and Hands – and they were having an argument. Jim tied up the small boat alongside the ship, and then cut the ship's anchor rope, to set it adrift.

Early next morning, Jim quietly climbed from his row boat into the Hispaniola, thinking that the two pirates would be asleep. To his surprise he found that Hands had killed O'Brien during their argument the previous night and that Hands was badly wounded.

Hands:

(Lunges at Jim with a knife. Jim runs and Hands chases him. Jim pulls a gun from his belt and shot Hands dead.)

Narrator:

Now Jim was onboard the Hispaniola alone. It drifted to the other side of the island where Jim moored it safely. Jim made his way back to the stockade, only to find that the stockade had been taken by the pirates.

Silver: *(to Jim)*

We made a deal. The pirates took the stockade and in return the Squire, Dr Livesey and Captain Smollett's freedom. If you join us, you will also have your freedom.

Jim:

I will never surrender.

Pirates:

We want Jim Hawkins dead!

Silver:

No. Let's just take him hostage instead.

(They tie up Jim.)

Pirate 1:

We are not happy with you either John Silver. You are responsible for us losing so many of our men. For this we are giving you the black spot. You will no longer be our captain.

(A pirate puts the black spot on to Silver.)

Pirate 2:

Hey this is not working.

Pirate 1:

That's probably because I found it on top of the pages of an open Bible.

(Silver runs off.)

Scene 6 (Looking for the treasure)

Pirate 1:

OK Silver. You know where this treasure is. Lead us to it.

(The pirates follow Silver, who is looking at the treasure map.)

Silver:

It's meant to be here. But there's only a hole in the ground!

(There are gun shots. Pirates run away. Dr Livesey and Ben Gunn come out of the undergrowth, holding pistols. Jim and Silver escape with them, led by Ben Gunn who takes them to a cave.)

Ben Gunn:

This is where I stored Flint's treasure hoard earlier. I found the treasure myself some years earlier when I was alone on the island, and I moved it to the cave for safe keeping.

(The group – Ben, Jim, the Squire, the Doctor, Captain Smollett and Silver get armfuls of treasure from the cave and take it away to the ship.)

Narrator:

The Hispaniola set sail for England with the treasure. After several weeks the ship docked at a port in South America for supplies. The Squire, Dr Livesey and Captain Smollett went ashore - leaving Jim on board with Silver. Silver was a captive on the ship and his return to England would mean almost certain hanging.

As Jim lay on deck, his eyes half closed, Silver crept by, a bag of treasure over his shoulder. Jim woke and Silver hesitated. The two reflected on their lengthy adventure...and in the end Jim was happy to let Silver make his escape. In truth no-one was sad to see the back of Silver. Jim returned to England now a wealthy young man. He heard nothing more of Long John Silver...but sometimes in his sleep he continued to have nightmares of Silver...and his squawking parrot.