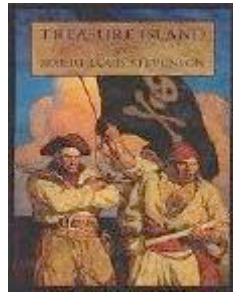


# TREASURE ISLAND



**Author - Robert Louis Stevenson**

Adapted for The Ten Minute Tutor by: Debra Treloar

## BOOK TWO – THE SEA-COOK

### CHAPTER 12.

#### COUNCIL OF WAR

Everyone ran across the deck. I could hear people running from the cabins below and I quickly hopped out of my barrel. I dived in behind a sail and made my way towards the front of the ship, just in time to join Hunter and Dr. Livesey.

Everyone was already there. The fog had lifted slightly and we could now see, two low hills and one large hill at the back still hidden in the fog.

It looked like a dream. I was still getting over what I had just heard in the apple barrel.

Captain Smollett was yelling out orders.

The HISPANIOLA was set to sail a course that would just clear the edge of the island on the east side.

Once all the large sails were down, the Captain said "Now, men, has anyone ever seen that piece of land before?"

"I have, sir," said Silver. "I stopped there once when I was a cook on another ship."

"I suppose the place to put down our anchor is on the south side of the island, is it?" asked the Captain.

"Yes, sir. They call this Skeleton Island. It used to be a stop for pirates at one time. I know, because we had a man on board, who knew the names of all the places on the island. That hill to the north was called Fore-Mast Hill.

There are three hills in a row that run south.

One is called Fore, the other Main and Mizzen, sir.

But the big one in the middle with the fog on it still, is called the Spy-Glass. They called it the Spy-Glass, because that is where they kept a look out for pirates, when they put their anchor down for ship cleaning, sir."



"I have a chart here," said Captain Smollett. "Tell me if that is the place."

Long John's eyes opened up, like big melons, as he took the chart. But the paper looked new and not like the old map we found in

Billy Bones's chest. It was a copy of all the names and heights of hills, as well as coves and inlets, but it did not have the red crosses or the written notes on it.



Silver was very quick to hide the fact, that he knew it was only a copy.

"Yes, sir," he coughed, "this is the spot, this is a good map too! I wonder who would have drawn it? Not pirates! They can't draw or write very well. Aye, here it is. 'Captain Kidd's Anchorage'. That's what the man I sailed with, called it. The water is a bit rough on the west coast. You were right to pull down your sails now. If, this is the island you wanted to get in close to."

"Thank you, my man," said Captain Smollett. "I'll ask you to give us some help again later. You may go now."

I just watched as John Silver told the Captain what he knew about the island. I did not feel good when I saw him walking closer to me. I don't think he knew, I had heard him talking to the other men, when I was in the apple barrel. But now that I knew his plan, I shook, when he put his hand on my arm.

"Ah," he said, "this island is a nice spot for a young lad to go ashore. You can swim, climb trees and hunt for goats. You will even be able to climb the hills, like a goat! Why, it makes me wish I was young again. I could almost forget I have a wooden leg and feel like I have ten toes again. Oh well, when you want to go and do a bit of exploring, you just ask old John. I will make a snack for you to take."

He slapped me on the back gently and went below deck on his crutch. I really wanted to tell Captain Smollett, the Squire, and Dr. Livesey my story, but I did not want to interrupt while they were talking.

I was still thinking about it when, Dr. Livesey called me over. He had left his pipe below deck and asked if I would go and get it.

As soon as I was near enough to speak but not to be overheard, I said, "Doctor, I have terrible news and I must speak to you, the Squire and the Captain, down in the cabin. You must all go there and then call for me."

The Doctor stood up tall and then said quite loudly "Thank you, Jim, that was all I wanted to know," as if he, had asked me, a question.

He then turned and went to the other two men. They spoke for a little while and then I heard the Captain give an order to Bob Anderson. Everyone on deck was quiet.

"Crew," said Captain Smollett in a loud voice. "Listen up. The land we can see is the place we have been sailing to. I have told Squire Trelawney that every man on board this ship has done his job well and I have never seen it done better.

The Doctor, Squire and I are going below to the cabin to drink to YOUR health and luck.

You will be served drinks so that you can drink to OUR health and luck. So, let's give a big sea-cheer for the gentlemen who got us here."

"Hoorah... Hoorah..."

The cheer was so full and loud, I could hardly believe they were the same men, plotting for our blood.

"One more cheer for Captain Smollett," cried Long John.

"Hoorah..."

After the drinks were served, the three gentlemen went below deck. A little bit later, I was told I was wanted in the cabin.

All three of them were sitting around the table with a bottle of wine and some raisins. The Doctor was smoking his pipe and his wig was on his lap. I knew this meant he was a bit nervous.

"Now, Hawkins," said the Squire, "you wanted to say something? Speak up."

I told them all that I had over-heard from Silver and the men, when I was in the apple barrel. Nobody stopped me until I finished.

"Thank you, Jim" said Dr. Livesey. "Have a seat now."

He filled my hands with raisins, and all three of them drank to my good health, luck, courage and service to them.

"Well, Captain," said the Squire, "you were right, and I was wrong. I have been an ass, and now I wait for your orders."

"No more of an ass than I, sir," said the Captain.

"I have never heard of a crew that plans a mutiny\* before they even set sail! We need to take steps against this," he added. (\*mutiny is an organised rebellion or uprising against the captain)

"Captain," said the Doctor, "I think that Silver is an amazing man."

"I think he would look amazing, from a hanging noose, sir!" said the Captain. "But I know this does not help. I can see three points I should tell you though."

"First," began Captain Smollett. "We must go on, because we can't turn back. If I gave the word to turn around, they would mutiny at once.

Second point, we have a bit of time up our sleeves, to think, before we find the treasure.

Third point, there are still some men on board we can trust.

Now, sir, I know there will be a fight sooner or later, but I think we need to plan for it and when they do not expect it.

Can we trust your own home servants, Squire Trelawney?"

"As much as you can trust me," declared the Squire.

The Captain started counting, "Three, plus us four, makes

seven. Now, what about others on the ship?"

"Most likely, the men Trelawney chose himself before he met Silver" said the Doctor.

"No," replied the Squire. "Mr. Hands was one I picked."

"Well then, gentlemen," said the Captain, "the best we can do is keep a good look out until we know who is on our side."

The Doctor said, "Jim can help us more than anyone. The men will talk to him and Jim can let us know what is going on."

"Agreed," added the Squire.

I began to feel pretty helpless and yet, because of me, we might still have a chance to be safe. In the end though, there were only seven out of the twenty-six on board that we knew, we could trust. I was one of the seven and I was just a boy!

