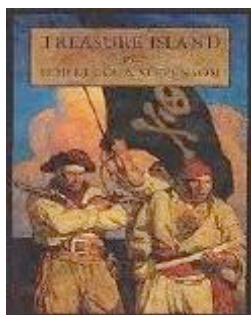


TREASURE ISLAND



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Adapted for The Ten Minute Tutor by: Debra Treloar

BOOK TWO – THE SEA-COOK

CHAPTER 9.

POWDER AND ARMS

The Hispaniola was well out from the dock and we rowed under the figureheads and around the stern of many other ships. At last, we got along side her and were met with a salute as we came aboard by the mate, Mr. Arrow. He was a brown old sailor with earrings in his ears and a squint in his eyes. He and the Squire were very friendly, but I soon saw that things were not the same between Mr. Trelawney and the Captain.



The Captain seemed like he was angry with everything on board and then he told us why. The Captain entered the Squires cabin and shut the door behind him.

"Well, Captain Smollett, what do you have to say? I hope all is well, ship-shape and sea worthy?"

"Well, sir," said the Captain, "I will speak plainly to you. I don't like this cruise, I don't like the men and I don't like my officer. That is the short and sweet of it."

"Perhaps, sir, you don't like the ship?" asked the Squire, very angrily.

"I can't say to that, sir, not having sailed her as yet," said the Captain. "She looks like a good boat but I don't know for sure."

"Maybe, sir, you do not like your boss, either?" said the Squire.

But on that, Dr. Livesey cut in.

"Steady on, steady on," he said. "There is no use asking such questions that may upset people. The Captain has said too much or he has said too little, and I would like to know why he said these words. You don't like this crew. Now tell me, why?"

"I was hired, sir, on what we call 'sealed orders', that is to sail this ship to where ever that gentleman wants me to," said the Captain.

"So far, so good. But now I find that every man on this ship knows more than I do. I don't call that fair, do you?"

"No," said Dr. Livesey, "I don't."

"Next," said the Captain, "I find out we are going after treasure. Now, treasure is a funny word. I don't like treasure hunts at all. And I don't like them, when they are a secret and when (beg your pardon, Mr. Trelawney) the secret has been told to a parrot."

"Silver's parrot?" asked the Squire.

"It's a way of speaking," said the Captain. "Blabbed, I mean. It is my belief neither of you gentlemen know, what you are in for. But I'll tell you what I think... life or death... and a close run."

"That sounds clear and true enough," replied Dr. Livesey. "We know the risk, but we're not as dumb as you think we are. Next, you say you don't like the crew. Don't you think they are good sea men?"

"I don't like them, sir," replied Captain Smollett. "And I think I should have chosen them myself."

"Perhaps you should have," replied the Doctor. "Maybe my friend should have taken you along with him. And you don't like Mr. Arrow?"

"I don't, sir. I think he is a good seaman, but he is too friendly with the crew to be a good officer. A mate should keep to himself and not drink with the crew!"

"Do you mean he drinks?" cried the Squire.

"No, sir," replied the Captain, "only that he is too freindly."

"Alright, Captain" asked the Doctor, "Tell us what do you want?"

"Well, gentlemen, if you are certain you are to go on this cruise, then hear this. First point, they are putting the gun powder and the guns in the fore hold. But, you have a good place under the cabin so why don't they put them there?"

Second point, you have four of your own people with you, and they tell me some of them are sleeping at the front of the ship. Why not sleep them here beside the cabin?"

"Any more?" asked Mr. Trelawney.

"One more point," said the Captain. "There's been too much gossip already."

"Far too much," agreed the Doctor.

"I'll tell you what I've heard myself," went on Captain Smollett.

"You have a map of an island, that there's crosses on the map to show where treasure is, and that island lies..." (And then he said the exact latitude and longitude.)

"I never told that to a soul!" cried the Squire."

"Everyone knows it, sir," replied the Captain.

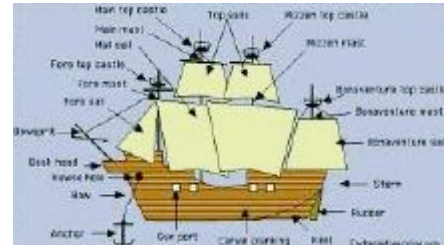
"Livesey, that must have been you or Hawkins!" cried the Squire.

"It does not really matter, who it was," said the Doctor.

I could see neither of them took any notice of Mr. Trelawney's words, as we all knew it was likely he would have let it slip out. But in this case, I think he was really right and that nobody had told where the island was.

"Well, gentlemen," said Captain Smollett, "I don't know who has the map but it must be kept secret, even from me and Mr. Arrow. Or else you will have to let me go now."

"I see," said the Doctor. "You want us to keep this map as a secret and to make a guarded area in the stern part of the ship, protected with my friend's own people, and holding all the guns and gun powder on board. In other words... you fear a mutiny."



"Sir," said Captain Smollett, "with no offence, you can't put words into my mouth. No captain, sir, would go to sea at all if he really thought that. As for Mr. Arrow, I think he is honest and some of the other men may be also, for all I know. But I am in charge of the ship's safety and the life of every man on board her. If I see things are not quite right, I may ask you to take special care or let me go, that's all."

"Captain Smollett," began the Doctor with a smile, "when you came in here, I was sure you meant more than this."

"Doctor," said the Captain, "you are a smart man. When I came in here I wanted you to let me go. I thought that Mr. Trelawney would not listen to one word I said."

"I wouldn't have either," cried the Squire. "If Livesey had not been here, I would have let you go. But seeing as I have heard you, I will do what you want. But... I will be watching you."

"As you wish, sir," said the Captain. "You will find I do my duty."


And with that, he left the cabin.

"Trelawney," said the Doctor, "I think you have been able to get two honest men on board with you... that man and John Silver."

"I agree about Silver," cried the Squire; "but I am not sure that hum bug is worth any thing."

"Well," said the Doctor, "we will see."

When we went back on deck, the men had already started to take out the guns and the gun powder.

They were  yo-ho-ho-ing at their work, while the Captain and Mr. Arrow looked on.

I liked the new sleeping plan. The ship had six berths which had now been given to Redruth, Hunter, Joyce, the Doctor, the Squire and I.

Mr. Arrow and the Captain were to sleep on deck in a part that had been made bigger on each side until it looked like a round-house.

It was very low, but there was room to swing two hammocks, and even the mate seemed happy with it.

Even the mate did not seem sure of the crew, but that was only my guess.

We were all hard at work, changing the gun powder and the berths (sleeping cabins), when the last men and Long John arrived in a small boat.

The cook came up the side like a clever monkey and as soon as he saw what was going on, he said, "So ho, mates! What's this?"

"We're moving the gun powder, John," said one of them.

"Why, are you doing that?" cried Long John, "If we do that, we'll miss the morning tide!"

"My orders!" said Captain Smollett. "You can go below, my good man. All hands on deck will want supper."



"Aye, aye, sir," answered the cook, and touching his forehead, he went below at once toward his galley kitchen.

"He is a good man, Captain," said the Doctor.

"Maybe he is, sir," replied Captain Smollett.

"Easy with that, men... easy!" he ran to the men who were moving the gun powder and then seeing me, he called out "Here you, cabin boy, off with you to help the cook with work."

As I was running off I heard him say, quite loudly, to the Doctor, "I'll have no favourites on my ship!"

I was thinking like the Squire and hated the Captain already.