

Treasure Island

This extract is based on Chapter 12 of Robert Louis Stevenson's book 'Treasure Island'.

After finding a map that leads to the treasure of the infamous pirate Captain Flint, Jim Hawkins sets sail for a distant island. While on the voyage, Jim overhears one of the crew members, Long John Silver, talking about how he plans to take Flint's treasure for himself. Jim is about to warn the captain when someone shouts, "Land ho!"



The entire crew had gathered on the deck. "Now, men," said the captain, pointing at the island in the distance. "Have any of you ever seen that land before?"

Long John Silver walked forward, "I have, sir," he said in a rough voice. "I was a cook on a ship that landed here a while back."

"Can you remember anything about it? The south side looks like the best place to try and take our ship," replied the captain. He turned away from Silver to peer back at the island which was growing closer with each passing minute.

"Yes, sir. Skeleton Island they call it. It was the main place for pirates once." Pointing at the largest hill on the island, Silver continued, "You see that hill there? They called that Spy-Glass because it's where they kept a lookout for any unwanted visitors." The crew followed Silver's gaze – surrounded by clouds, the hill was an ominous sight.

With this new information, Captain Smollett pulled a chart from his pocket and unfurled it on the deck. Silver's eyes glittered with excitement at the sight of the map. However, disappointment set in when he saw that it lacked the big, red cross that would show him where to find the treasure. 'No matter', he thought



to himself. 'Captain Flint's treasure map is sure to be onboard somewhere – I'll find it in good time.' Shaking himself back to reality, Silver leant forward for a closer look.

"This is a very meticulous map, sir," he drawled. "It's far too nice to have been created by pirates." Silver paused for a moment before pointing at an inlet on the neatly drawn map, "Aye, there it is. Captain Kidd's Anchorage – that's where you want to head for."

"Right you are," said Captain Smollett. "Feel free to go now. I'll call you if I have any further need." With that, Silver moved away – his wooden crutch tapping against the deck.



As Silver drew closer to Jim, the young boy shuddered. Surely, the pirate didn't know that he had overheard the plans. As if sensing Jim's uncertainty, Silver stopped and put a hand on his shoulder. "It's a sweet spot, this island – perfect for a lad to stay ashore on. You'll sunbathe, climb trees and even explore those hills. In fact, I'm sure the cook would happily make you a snack to take with you." He squeezed Jim's shoulder and a wicked grin washed across his face. As the pirate walked away, Jim wiped the beads of sweat from his forehead: maybe Silver knew something after all.

Questions

1. **Jim is about to warn the captain when someone shouts, "Land ho!"**

Choose the definition that is closest in meaning to the expression **land ho!** Tick one.

- ☐ I want to go home!
- ☐ We've landed!
- ☐ Where is the land?
- ☐ I can see land!

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- ☐ Jim overhears Silver's plans to take the treasure.
- ☐ Jim and the crew set sail for a distant island.
- ☐ The crew look over at Spy-Glass
- ☐ Silver tells Captain Smollett where to head for.

3. **...surrounded by clouds, the hill was an ominous sight.**

What does the word **ominous** mean?

4. Fill in the missing words.

Silver paused for a moment before pointing at an _____ on
the neatly drawn _____.

5. Why was Silver disappointed?

6. Compare how Jim is feeling at the start of the text to how Jim is feeling at the end of the text.

7. Do you think that Silver knows about Jim overhearing his plans to take the treasure for himself? Tick one.

☐ yes ☐ no

Explain your choice.

8. Look at the paragraph beginning **After finding a map that leads...**
Explain why you think that the author chose to include this paragraph.
