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## Treasure Island

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## Reading Notes

<b>Jim Hawkins</b>	the narrator of the story; young boy
<b>Dr. Livesey</b>	the doctor who tends to Jim's father; confronts the captain
<b>Admirable Benbow</b>	the name of the inn that Jim's father runs
<b>the captain/Billy Bones</b>	the old seaman with a scar on his cheek who lodges at the inn
<b>Black Dog</b>	a seaman missing two fingers; looking for Bill at the inn

## Vocabulary

Write the meaning of each bold word or phrase.

1. the **sabre** cut across one cheek, a dirty, **livid white** n. sword ... adj. discolored
2. he drank slowly, like a **connoisseur** n. expert
3. seemed like a **mate** or **skipper** n. ordinary sailor ... n. a sea captain
4. a thousand **diabolical** expressions adj. devilish, evil
5. wringing his hands after such a **rebuff** n. a blunt or abrupt rejection
6. the **ruffian** had told him n. a tough, lawless person
7. if it's only for a piece of **incivility** like tonight's n. rudeness, misbehavior
8. a pale, **tallowy** creature adj. waxy
9. half **fawning**, half **sneering** v. showing extreme affection ... v. smirking
10. exposed his great **sinewy** arm adj. muscular

## Comprehension Questions

Answer the following in complete sentences.

1. What does the captain ask Jim to do for him? How much does he pay Jim for this? The captain asks Jim to keep his "weather-eye open for a seafaring man with one leg" and let him know as soon as he appears. The captain gives Jim a silver fourpenny once a month for this duty.
2. What haunts Jim's dreams? Describe these dreams. \*The seafaring man with one leg haunts Jim's dreams. He sees him in a thousand different forms with a thousand different expressions. In each dream the leg is cut off at different places, and sometimes Jim is even chased by this man.

3. Contrast Dr. Livesey and the captain. Why is Dr. Livesey able to humiliate the captain who had terrorized everyone else? Where is Dr. Livesey mentioned before this encounter? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dr. Livesey is “neat” and “bright” with snow white skin and “bright, black eyes and pleasant manners,” while the captain is a “filthy, heavy, bleared scarecrow of a pirate,” drunk on rum, with poor manners. The doctor remains calm and steady when he addresses the captain, and is not threatened by him. Dr. Livesey is mentioned at the beginning of the novel as being one of the people to ask the narrator to record everything that had happened to him.
4. Why does Black Dog come to the inn, and what is the captain’s reaction to him? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*Black Dog comes to the inn in search of the captain to be paid a debt. The captain is surprised to see Black Dog, and looks old and sick at the sight of him.
5. What happens between Black Dog and the captain when Jim leaves the room? \_\_\_\_\_  
 When Jim leaves the room, Black Dog and the captain begin talking, then yelling, and then the captain attacks Black Dog with his cutlass, and they both come running out.

\*Teachers: Comprehension Question answers with an asterisk indicate important plot points that will appear in the quizzes.

## Quotations

Identify the speaker of the following.

- “I’m a plain man; rum and bacon and eggs is what I want.” \_\_\_\_\_ the captain
- “Silence, there, between decks!” \_\_\_\_\_ the captain
- “Ah, Bill, Bill, we have seen a sight of times, us two ...” \_\_\_\_\_ Black Dog (to the captain)
- “If it comes to swinging, swing all, say I.” \_\_\_\_\_ the captain (to Black Dog)
- “I clear my conscience—the name of rum for you is death.” \_\_\_\_\_ Dr. Livesey (to the captain)

## Discussion Questions

1. Describe the old seaman. Does he fit the description of a pirate? Why or why not?
2. Why do you think this particular dream keeps haunting Jim? Have you ever been haunted by something in a dream?
3. Would you call Black Dog and the captain friends? Why or why not?
4. What was Dr. Livesey’s advice to the captain? Do you agree with this advice?

## Reading Notes

**the blind beggar**

the man who delivers the black spot to the captain; walks with a stick

### Vocabulary

Write the meaning of each bold word or phrase.

1. That's a **summons**, mate. n. a demand to surrender; an authoritative command
2. He **clambered** up and down stairs v. climbed with effort or difficulty
3. his temper was more **flighty** adj. unpredictably excitable, unstable
4. gripped it in a moment like a **vice** n. a clamp used to hold something in position
5. It **cowed** me more than the pain. v. intimidated; frightened with a show of force
6. The captain had been struck dead by thundering **apoplexy**. n. a stroke

### Comprehension Questions

Answer the following in complete sentences.

1. How does the captain get Jim to bring him some rum? What does he ask Jim to do for him if he can't "get away nohow"? The captain tries to bribe Jim, but reminding him that the doctor said one glass wouldn't hurt him is what persuades Jim to get the rum. The captain asks Jim to tell the doctor to signal or summon the magistrates ("pipe all hands") to the Admiral Benbow Inn.
2. What keeps Jim busy and distracts him from worrying about the captain? The death of Jim's father, funeral preparations, neighborly visits, and the work at the inn keep Jim busy and distracted from worrying about the captain's health and his orders.
3. Describe the captain's behavior as he grows sicker. As he grows sicker, the captain becomes weaker, "clamber[ing] up and down the stairs," holding onto the walls for support as he walks, and breathes hard and fast. His temper is more flighty and violent. When he is drunk he will draw his cutlass and lay it on the table. He bothers people less and is more quiet.

4. Who comes to visit the captain? Describe him. A blind beggar comes to visit the captain. He walks with a stick, wears a green shade over his face, hunches over, and wears a tattered cloak with a hood. He is a very “dreadful-looking” figure.
5. How does the captain react to this visitor? What happens between them? The captain is shocked into sobriety upon seeing the blind beggar. “The expression of his face was not so much of terror as of mortal sickness.” The blind beggar passes something from his hand to the captain’s. As soon as he passes the note off, the blind beggar is gone in a hurry.
6. What is Jim’s reaction to the captain’s collapse? Jim runs to the captain at once, calling his mother. When he realizes the captain is dead, he bursts into tears. “It was the second death I had known, and the sorrow of the first was still fresh in my heart.”  
(\*You’ll need to know the ultimate reason for the captain’s death is the shock caused by the black spot.)

## Quotations

Identify the speaker of the following.

*“Doctors is all swabs.”* the captain (swab = worthless person)

*“Now, if I can’t get away nohow, and they tip me the black spot ...”* the captain

*“Take me in straight, or I’ll break your arm.”* the blind beggar (to Jim)

*“If I can’t see, I can hear a finger stirring.”* the blind beggar

## Discussion Questions

1. What is “the black spot”?
2. What does the captain mean when he says rum has been “meat and drink, and man and wife” to him?