

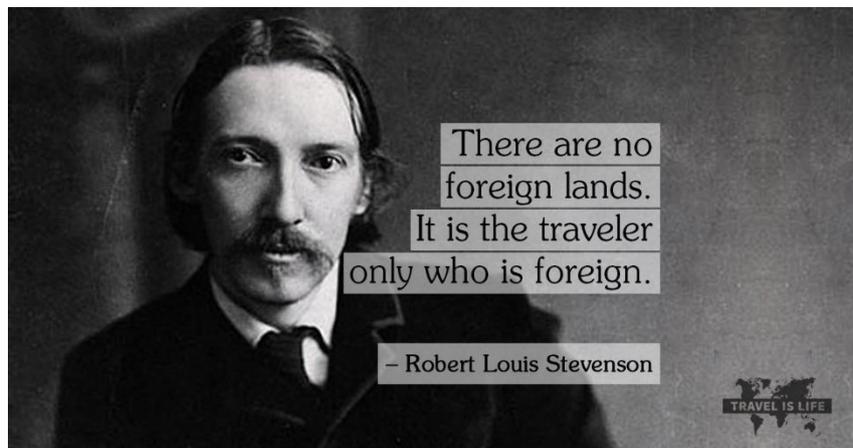
# 2018 YEAR 8 BOOK CUP

## Short Story Set 1

**Robert Louis Stevenson Biography (1a)**

**Treasure Island Fiction story (1b)**

**The Real Treasure Island Non fiction reading (1c)**



## SHORT STORY SET 1A

# Author(1850–1894): Robert Louis Stevenson Biography

<https://www.biography.com/people/robert-louis-stevenson-9494571>

Robert Louis Stevenson was a 19th century Scottish writer notable for such novels as *Treasure Island*, *Kidnapped*, and *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*.

### **Synopsis**

Born on November 13, 1850, in Edinburgh, Scotland, Robert Louis Stevenson traveled often, and his global wanderings lent themselves well to his brand of fiction. Stevenson developed a desire to write early in life, having no interest in the family business of lighthouse engineering. He was often abroad, usually for health reasons, and his journeys led to some of his early literary works. Publishing his first volume at the age of 28, Stevenson became a literary celebrity during his life when works such as *Treasure Island*, *Kidnapped*, and *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* were released to eager audiences. He died in Samoa in 1894.

### **Early Life**

Robert Louis Balfour Stevenson was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, on November 13, 1850, to Thomas and Margaret Stevenson. Lighthouse design was his father's and his family's profession, and so at the age 17, he enrolled at Edinburgh University to study engineering, with the goal of following his father in the family business. Lighthouse design never appealed to Stevenson, though, and he began studying law instead. His spirit of adventure truly began to appear at this stage, and during his summer vacations he traveled to France to be around young artists, both writers and painters. He emerged from law school in 1875, but did not practice, as, by this point, he felt that his calling was to be a writer.

## The Writer Emerges

In 1878, Robert Louis Stevenson saw the publication of his first volume of work, *An Inland Voyage*; the book provides an account of his trip from Antwerp to northern France, which he made in a canoe via the river Oise. A companion work, *Travels with a Donkey in the Cevennes* (1879), continues in the introspective vein of *Inland Voyage* and also focuses on the voice and character of the narrator, beyond simply telling a tale.

Also from this period are the humorous essays of *Virginibus Puerisque and Other Papers* (1881), which were originally published from 1876 to '79 in various magazines, and Stevenson's first book of short fiction, *New Arabian Nights* (1882). The stories marked the United Kingdom's emergence into the realm of the short story, which had previously been dominated by Russians, Americans and the French. These stories also marked the beginning of Stevenson's adventure fiction, which would come to be his calling card.

A turning point in Stevenson's personal life came during this period, when he met the woman who would become his wife, Fanny Osbourne, in September 1876. She was a 36-year-old American who was married (although separated) and had two children. Stevenson and Osbourne began to see each other romantically while she remained in France. In 1878, she divorced her husband, and Stevenson set out to meet her in California (the account of his voyage would later be captured in *The Amateur Emigrant*). The two married in 1880, and remained together until Stevenson's death in 1894.

After they were married, the Stevensons took a three-week honeymoon at an abandoned silver mine in Napa Valley, California, and it was from this trip that *The Silverado Squatters* (1883) emerged. Also appearing in the early 1880s were Stevenson's short stories "Thrawn Janet" (1881), "The Treasure of Franchard" (1883) and "Markheim" (1885), the latter two having certain affinities with *Treasure Island* and *Dr. Jekyll and Mr Hyde* (both of which would be published by 1886), respectively.

## 'Treasure Island'

The 1880s were notable for both Stevenson's declining health (which had never been good) and his prodigious literary output. He suffered from hemorrhaging lungs (likely caused by undiagnosed tuberculosis), and writing was one of the few activities he could do while confined to bed. While in this bedridden state, he wrote some of his most popular fiction, most notably *Treasure Island* (1883), *Kidnapped* (1886), *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (1886), and *The Black Arrow* (1888).

The idea for *Treasure Island* was ignited by a map that Stevenson had drawn for his 12-year-old stepson; Stevenson had conjured a pirate adventure story to accompany the drawing, and it was serialized in the boys' magazine *Young Folks* from October 1881 to January 1882. When *Treasure Island* was published in book form in 1883, Stevenson got his first real taste of widespread popularity, and his career as a profitable writer had finally begun. The book was Stevenson's first volume-length fictional work, as well as the first of his writings that would be dubbed "for children." By the end of the 1880s, it was one of the period's most popular and widely read books.

### **'Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde'**

The year 1886 saw the publication of what would be another enduring work, *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, which was an immediate success and helped cement Stevenson's reputation. The work is decidedly of the "adult" classification, as it presents a jarring and horrific exploration of various conflicting traits lurking within a single person. The book went on to international acclaim, inspiring countless stage productions and more than 100 motion pictures.

### **Final Years**

In June 1888, Stevenson and his family set sail from San Francisco, California, to travel the islands of the Pacific Ocean, stopping for stays at the Hawaiian Islands, where he became good friends with King Kalākaua. In 1889, they arrived in the Samoan islands, where they decided to build a house and settle. The island setting stimulated Stevenson's imagination, and, subsequently, influenced his writing during this time: Several of his later works are about the Pacific isles, including *The Wrecker* (1892), *Island Nights' Entertainments* (1893), *The Ebb-Tide* (1894) and *In the South Seas* (1896).

Toward the end of his life, Stevenson's South Seas writing included more of the everyday world, and both his nonfiction and fiction became more powerful than his earlier works. These more mature works not only brought Stevenson lasting fame, they helped to enhance his status with the literary establishment when his work was re-evaluated in the late 20th century, and his abilities were embraced by critics as much as his storytelling had always been by readers.

Robert Louis Stevenson died of a stroke on December 3, 1894, at his home in Vailima, Samoa. He was buried at the top of Mount Vaea, overlooking the sea.

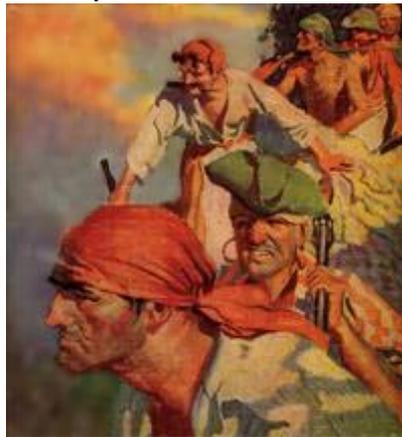
# Treasure Island

## By Robert Louis Stevenson

Jim Hawkins loved adventure. When a blind man by the name of Black Dog came to live with him and his mother in their Inn, Jim had no idea he was to get into one great big dangerous adventure.

Black Dog was an unfriendly old man. One morning, Black Dog was found dead in his room. Jim and his mother opened his trunk and found an old map. It looked like a treasure map. Jim was excited and told his mother that he would go and look for the treasure. But before that he went to meet the village Squire.

"Sir, this is what I have found in the blindman's trunk who died yesterday. It looks to me like a map of some hidden treasure," said Jim to the Squire pulling out the map. "Indeed it does," agreed the Squire. "We should set sail immediately to look for this treasure."



So, the next day, Jim and the Squire boarded a ship, to set sail to an unknown island, looking for treasure. It was a long journey. In the ship Jim met an one-legged sailor who was the ship's cook. His name was Long John Silver. He

always had his pet parrot perched on his shoulder. Silver was very friendly and had Jim rolling with laughter with his stories.

One stormy night Jim feeling hungry, walked up to one of the barrels that contained apples. Suddenly, he heard voices, Jim felt suspicious and jumped inside the barrel. Once inside he froze. Long John Silver was talking. He was saying, "Tomorrow we will reach Treasure Island. As soon as I give the signal we will take all passengers on board as prisoners. Then we can take the map and dig up the treasure. Let us go back to our places before anyone sees."

When Jim was sure everyone had gone, he climbed out of the barrel. He immediately warned the Squire of Long John Silver's plan. The next morning, the island was visible in the distance, Jim jumped off the ship and swam to shore.

There he met a ragged old man, who said, "I am Ben Gunn, I have been shipwrecked in this island for twenty years. I suppose you have come to look for the treasure." Jim nodded and said, "I jumped off the ship, there are dangerous men on that ship. Please help me, my friend the Squire is on that ship too."

Ben Gunn knew the island very well. He laid out traps for Long John Silver and his men. When they came shouting and waving their guns, they fell into a hole in the ground dug by Ben Gunn. They were trapped. Jim and Ben Gunn unearthed the treasure and swam to the ship. Jim, Ben and the Squire sailed back home leaving Long John Silver and his men in the island forever.

[http://www.kidsgen.com/stories/classic\\_stories/treasure\\_island.htm#dwSp65ftbc6D6gyY.99](http://www.kidsgen.com/stories/classic_stories/treasure_island.htm#dwSp65ftbc6D6gyY.99)