***Treasure Island***

***Chapter 10:***

# *The Voyage*

***Brief Summary:***

* Everyone aboard the ship is working hard to get things stowed away before the departure in the morning.
* One of the men addresses Long John Silver as "Barbecue" (because he's the cook). They ask him to sing a song.
* Long John Silver starts in on the old song Jim's captain used to sing: "Fifteen men on the dead man's chest [...] Yo-ho-ho, and a bottle of rum!" (10.5-7).
* And so the voyage starts.
* Two things become clear: first, Mr. Arrow, the first mate, is a drunk whom nobody obeys.
* No one can figure out where he gets his alcohol, but he is definitely drunk all the time.
* So when Mr. Arrow goes overboard, no one thinks much of it – even though the ship is now without a first mate.
* Squire Trelawney sometimes takes watch to fill in for the absent Mr. Arrow.
* Two other guys also help out: the boatswain (a kind of deck supervisor on board a ship), Job Anderson, and the coxswain (who usually takes charge of a boat's steering and navigation), Israel Hands.
* Israel Hands is really tight with Long John Silver.
* Long John Silver is doing well aboard the ship: he's incredibly nimble and familiar with the layout of the boat. All the men respect him and do as he says.
* Long John Silver also seems to take a special shine to Jim. He often takes Jim aside to tell him stories of the seafaring life.
* Long John Silver also has a parrot, "Cap'n Flint," who frequently shouts out, "Pieces of eight!" (Spanish gold dollars).
* Jim and Long John Silver may be getting tight, but two men who *aren't* growing any closer are Squire Trelawney and Captain Smollett. Squire Trelawney clearly despises the captain, and the captain never talks to the squire if he can help it.
* Captain Smollett keeps warning that something is wrong about the whole trip, and Squire Trelawney continues to lose his temper at Captain Smollett's pessimism.
* The captain complains to Doctor Livesey that the men are getting spoiled: they are often given double rations or grog to celebrate birthdays or whatever Squire Trelawney pleases.
* Among Squire Trelawney's treats for the sailors is an apple barrel that's always open so the men can have fresh fruit.
* The night before they estimate that they're going to reach their destination, Treasure Island, Jim decides to go grab some fruit from the barrel.
* Everything is still and silent on board.
* Jim finds that there are no apples in easy reach and climbs into the barrel to get to the bottom.
* Once inside the apple barrel, the darkness and rocking motion of the ship lull him into a doze.
* He only wakes up when he hears Long John Silver's voice. He keeps himself hidden so that he can listen.

***Synopsis:***

In Chapter 10 ("The Voyage"), everyone works all night in order to lift anchor by dawn, and the song the men sing as they do so reminds Jim of his home and the old "captain." He says he will not tell in detail of the voyage, but only of a few incidents. Arrow, the mate, turns out to be a drunkard, although no one knows where he gets the liquor, and eventually, during mildly rough weather, he disappears — overboard, says Smollett without much regret. Others take on his duties, including the boatswain Job Anderson and the coxswain Israel Hands, a close companion to Silver. Silver makes a friend of Jim, telling him stories of the days when his parrot, Cap'n Flint, sailed with notorious pirates and learned to swear most terribly. Meanwhile, although Captain Smollett begins to think better of the crew and very well of the ship, he and Trelawney are still not on good terms. The squire is, in Smollett's eyes, too generous and easy with the crew. As they approach the island that is their destination, Jim goes to get an apple from the barrel always kept on deck. He has to get inside the barrel to find one, and while he is there, hidden, he hears Silver speaking nearby and realizes that he must stay hidden.

The voyage begins on an ominous note, as the first mate, Mr. Arrow, turns out to be a hopeless drunk who is useless on board. He disappears mysteriously one night, leading the others to presume that he fell overboard in his drunkenness. The boatswain, Job Anderson, replaces Arrow. Jim continues to be entranced by Silver, impressed by his swift one-legged maneuverings around the deck. Jim is also fascinated by Silver’s two-hundred-year-old parrot, which is named Cap’n Flint, after the famed buccaneer. Relations between Trelawney and Smollett are still somewhat strained, but the voyage proceeds normally. One evening, Jim gets hungry for an apple and climbs into an apple barrel on board, where, unsuspected, he overhears an important conversation.

***Notes:***

The crew spends the whole night preparing to leave on the morning tide. Jim works twice as hard as he has ever worked in his life, but he does not go to sleep when the ship sets sail. Instead he stays on deck and watches the sailors, enjoying the feeling of adventure. As the ship moves away from shore, Long John Silver begins to sing: Fifteen men on a dead man’s chest— Yo-ho-ho and a bottle of rum. The rest of the crew joins in, and for a moment Jim has the creepy feeling that he can hear Billy singing along. The voyage goes well. The Hispaniola turns out to be a wonderful ship, and the crew is made up of excellent sailors. Only Mr. Arrow, the first mate, is a problem. He repeatedly gets so drunk that he is unable to fulfill his responsibilities. Over and over, Captain Smollett has to send him to his bunk and take over his work. Nobody can figure out where the mate is getting his liquor, no matter how closely they watch him. Then one night, he simply disappears. Everyone figures that he has fallen overboard and drowned. In some ways, Long John Silver is the most impressive man on the ship. Silver is hardly slowed by the fact that he has only one leg. He hops gracefully across the rocking decks, only occasionally using his crutch or grabbing a line he has tied up for steadying himself. Everywhere he goes, he carries his green parrot, named Captain Flint “after the famous buccaneer,” on his shoulder. The parrot loves to talk and often squawks, “Pieces of eight! pieces of eight!” 12 Although Mr. Trelawney and Captain Smollett clearly dislike each other, the rest of the men on the ship are happy. The sailors are treated unusually well, as is Jim. There is always enough to eat, and there are often small treats that would not be available on most ships. For example, a barrel of apples is always kept open, and anyone is allowed to grab one whenever he wants. One night when Jim finishes all of his tasks, he decides to go get a snack. The barrel happens to be almost empty, and he climbs inside to look for an apple. Lulled by the rocking of the boat, Jim falls asleep inside the apple barrel, but soon Long John Silver’s voice wakes him up. Jim is about to get up and say hello when he realizes that Silver is saying something terribly disturbing. Jim freezes and listens.

***Critical Study:***

In this chapter, Jim is introduced to the handwork that accompanies sea work. All night, he slaves to help the crew get the boat ready to sail in the morning. As the boat gets ready to sail, Long John Silver begins a rambunctious version of Billy Bones' song "Fifteen men on the dead man's chest."

This chapter is a count of the majority of the voyage to the island, and the narrator explains for brevity sakes, he only recounted the highlights of the voyage. Apparently, the first significant thing that happened on the trip was that the first mate, Mr. Arrow, was useless because he was always drunk. One night, he disappeared, most probably, having fallen over the side of the ship when he was drunk. As a consequence of his absence, many people have taken over his job, including the boatswain, Job Anderson, Mr. Trelawney, who took a watch (but only in good weather), and the coxswain, [Israel Hands](https://www.gradesaver.com/treasure-island/study-guide/character-list#israel-hands), an experienced seaman and a close friend of Long John Silver.

Although he only has one leg, Long John Silver (whose nickname is Barbeque) moves around the ship thanks to ropes and contraptions that are set up. At times, he uses rope around his neck to carry his crutch with him as he travels to and fro on the contraptions. Jim notices that Long John Silver has befriended all on the ship, doing favors for them in order to make them indebted to him. He is extremely well liked, and as the coxswain tells Jim, he is courageous and well educated. Throughout this time, the captain and the squire get along no better than they did in the previous chapter. The captain, however, concedes that so far, the journey has been better than he has expected and that the men have been behaved. He is still upset, however, that the squire treats the crew too nicely and that they will eventually not be able to do their jobs.

As the ship approaches the island, Jim is not allowed to reveal the exact location of the island but everyone anticipates landing and finding the treasure. Jim, wanting an apple, goes searching in the apple barrel. Although the apples are gone, he falls asleep in the apple barrel. When he awakes, he was in for a surprise: he heard Silver's voice. All that the narrator tells us at the conclusion of the chapter is that he realized the safety of all the "honest men" aboard depended upon his escaping safely.

The symbolic nature of the pirates' nickname for Long John Silver, "Barbeque," deserves attention in this chapter. This name is indicative of a familiarly and personal attachment which some of the pirates, as well learn later in the book, have experienced. Not only does Silver's power reign on the sea (despite his handicaps), he also successful tends to the customers and the kettle over the fire in his enterprise on the sea. During this chapter, Israel Hands admits an uncanny reverence for the man, something that was quite surprising. Jim's own relationship with Silver also points to the duality of his character; he is far from the one-dimensional pirate that the word usually conjures, but instead, a "dual character."

The ship, the Hispanolia, is a major symbol and representative of some of the themes in the book as well as the only transportation of the crew. The ship serves in this chapter, as in the novel, as a mechanism between savagery and civilization. It is the in-between stage between the romantic notion of adventure and the reality that will set in once those onboard reach the island. Stevenson accomplishes this task by the everyday routine of the ship being impinged on by the picturesque and the unfamiliar on the familiar. This is far different than the island, representing savagery, where unfamiliar and the strange will become a part of everyday life. The ship is also a contained space that does not easily allow intrusion (like the secluded inn and the island), a theme in the settings of this romantic adventure.

Another interesting aspect of this chapter is Jim's relationships with both Long John Silver and the captain. Long John Silver and Jim continue their easygoing relationship, and Jim is clearly in awe of the man (not unlike many of the pirates on the ship). He is especially impressed that he "treated him like a man." This relationship is countered by Jim's relationship with the hatred. Although neither the captain nor Jim ever give a reason for it, there is clearly hatred between the two characters. This is interesting, especially given the fact that Long John Silver will turn out to be the more evil of the characters, and the captain, although authoritarian at times, is clearly the more respectable figure.

Also contained within the pages of this chapter are the building of suspense and the use of chapters in order to further heighten the reader's apprehension. By ending the chapter on a note where Jim only tells us of the evil and warns us of the danger that he heard in the apple building, Stevenson again makes the book more adventuresome and scarier.

***Critical Analysis:***

Just before dawn the crew hauls up the ship's anchor, and the voyage begins. Passage to the island goes smoothly with a few exceptions. The first mate, Mr. Arrow, is often drunk, and one night he disappears, most likely having fallen overboard while intoxicated. The boatswain, Job Anderson, moves up in rank to serve as mate, and the experienced coxswain, Israel Hands, fills in wherever he is needed.

Silver, whom the crew has nicknamed "Barbecue," continues to serve well. The men respect and even obey him, and he is always kind to Jim. Often he invites the boy to "come and have a yarn with John." He tells Jim about his parrot, Cap'n Flint, and her buccaneer past. From Israel Hands, Jim learns that Silver is well educated, "can speak like a book" if he pleases, and is no common man when it comes to strength and courage.

Jim's admiration for Silver grows, until one evening, Jim crawls into a large, nearly empty barrel of apples looking for a snack, dozes off, and is startled to hear Silver's voice just outside. With just a dozen words Silver reveals his true nature, and Jim realizes that "the lives of all honest men aboard" now depend on him.

The chapter is a "cliff-hanger" that leaves the reader in suspense. What did Jim hear? The stage is set for the betrayal that will wound Jim and shock his companions. Jim's assessment of the situation while he's still in the apple barrel reflects a maturity not demonstrated until now. He sees and accepts that the safety of others will depend on what he does.

Up to now, Silver has been the model seaman, performing his duty, and always good-natured and helpful. His galley, like his tavern, is "clean as a pin." No one but a real cook would keep such a galley. Yet appearances can be deceiving.

Similarly, the parrot, Cap'n Flint, is a clue that Silver is not what he appears to be. Silver relates the parrot's long and violence-filled history. Her vocabulary reveals what she has heard all her long life: pirate talk. The question is, if she has been the property of pirates, what is she doing in [Long John Silver](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Treasure-Island/character-analysis/#Long_John_Silver)'s possession?

Aboard the *Hispaniola* there's another instance of a man whose true nature is not understood. [Squire Trelawney](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Treasure-Island/character-analysis/#Squire_Trelawney) continues to misread [Captain Smollett](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Treasure-Island/character-analysis/#Captain_Smollett). His antipathy toward the captain persists even though Smollett quietly goes about his duties, performing them well.

***Summary and Analysis Part by Part:***

***Summary Part 1:***

It’s late at night and [Jim](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/jim-hawkins) is tired, but he doesn’t want to leave the deck since he’s fascinated by everything going on. [Long John Silver](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/long-john-silver) begins to sing the sailor song ending, “Yo-ho-ho, and a bottle of rum!”, which recalls to Jim the tunes of [Billy Bones](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/billy-bones-the-captain). But Jim is soon distracted by the preparations for departure: the anchor is pulled up and they sail off.

***Analysis Part 1:***

This is another clue that Long John Silver is more closely tied to the pirates Jim met than he thought, or at least tried to convince himself. Nonetheless, these points of similarity are not strong enough to cause Jim to worry.

***Summary part 2:***

[Mr. Arrow](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters) soon turns out to be a disappointment: he lacks authority and command, and begins to spend most of the day drunk, though no one can figure out where he gets the liquor. One night he disappears overboard, neither shocking nor saddening the others.

***Analysis Part 2:***

To be a respectable authority figure on a ship, it seems, one must be careful not to lose the respect of the other people on board—a lesson that it appears Mr. Arrow was unable to follow.

***Summary Part 3:***

The coxswain [Israel Hands](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters) begins to take on some of the mate’s duties in place of [Mr. Arrow](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters). Hands is a confidant of [Silver](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/long-john-silver), and shares with [Jim](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/jim-hawkins) that Silver once used to be able to fight four men singlehandedly, before he lost his leg.

***Analysis Part 3:***

Jim begins to learn more about Silver’s past and his remarkable courage: his lost leg is a sign not of weakness but rather of his eagerness to fight.

***Summary Part 4:***

[Silver](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/long-john-silver) himself treats [Jim](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/jim-hawkins) kindly, often welcoming him into the galley with his parrot, whom he’s named [Captain Flint](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/captain-flint) after the pirate, and who repeats “Pieces of eight!” (a kind of silver coin) over and over. He tells Jim that the parrot has been to Madagascar, Surinam, and Providence: he’s too fond of her even to stop her from imitating the swear words she’s picked up.

***Analysis Part 4:***

This is yet another instance of Silver’s close ties to the world of pirates, piracy, and the hunt for treasure. The parrot Captain Flint will become a kind of motif that prepares the way for or signals the presence of Silver, who exerts as much power over the parrot as over other people.

***Summary Part 5:***

Meanwhile, [Captain Smollett](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/captain-smollett) and [Squire Trelawney](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/squire-trelawney) fail to hide their mutual dislike. Still, the Hispaniola sails well, and most of the crew seems content, especially because they’re often given “double grog” (a [rum](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/symbols/rum) drink), “duff” (a pudding), and there’s a barrel of apples for anyone who’d like one. The captain disapproves of spoiling the crew this way, but [Jim](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/jim-hawkins) notes that it was this apple barrel that ended up saving all their lives.

***Analysis Part 5:***

Although the squire had hired the captain, the latter is too uptight for the squire’s liking, unwilling to “spoil” the cabin crew and, the squire thinks, overly fearful. Here, though, with a bit of foreshadowing, the narrator-Jim suggests that this lack of trust was ultimately misplaced.

***Summary Part 6:***

[Jim](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/jim-hawkins) explains that on the last night before reaching land, he decides to grab an apple. He heads to the deck, climbs into the barrel, and is about to climb back out when he hears a few significant words spoken in [Silver](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/long-john-silver)’s voice, so he remains silent and listens.

***Analysis Part 6:***

Jim has a good deal of freedom on the ship, and his ability to roam around is matched by his quick thinking when it seems that he might have something to learn or gain by spying.

***Quotations***

***Quotation 1:***

"There," John would add, "you can't touch pitch and not be mucked, lad. Here's this poor old innocent bird o' mine swearing blue fire, and none the wiser, you may lay to that. She would swear the same, in a manner of speaking, before chaplain." And John would touch his forelock with a solemn way he had that made me think he was the best of men. (10.20)

***Explanation 1:***

We discuss Long John Silver's moral lessons using Captain Flint the parrot in "Symbolism, Imagery, Allegory." What also strikes us about this passage is Jim's final sentence: "John would touch his forelock with a solemn way he had that made me think he was the best of men." Does the tone of this reflection sound angry at his younger self? Regretful? What do you think Future Jim's feelings are about his past self's faith in Long John Silver?

***Quotation 2:***

Mr. Arrow, first of all, turned out even worse than the captain had feared. He had no command among the men, and people did what they pleased with him. But that was by no means the worst of it, for after a day or two at sea he began to appear on deck with hazy eye, red cheeks, stuttering tongue, and other marks of drunkenness. Time after time he was ordered below in disgrace. [...] He was not only useless as an officer and a bad influence amongst the men, but it was plain that at this rate he must soon kill himself outright, so nobody was much surprised, nor very sorry, when one dark night, with a head sea, he disappeared entirely and was seen no more. (10.7-9)

***Explanation 2:***

Mr. Arrow can't maintain discipline with the crew because he's drunk all the time. Long John Silver clearly has no trouble identifying and manipulating Mr. Arrow's weakness, just like he exploits Squire Trelawney's blind patriotism and Jim's vanity. Mr. Arrow's weakness isn't so different from the others'; it's just more visible and difficult to ignore. This is why we find Jim's contemptuous conclusion that Mr. Arrow is better off dead a little bit hard to take: it's not like Jim has been so perfect.

***Quotation 3:***

I got bodily into the apple barrel, and found there was scarce an apple left; but sitting down there in the dark, what with the sound of the waters and the rocking movement of the ship, I had either fallen asleep or was on the point of doing so when a heavy man sat down with rather a clash close by. The barrel shook as he leaned his shoulders against it, and I was just about to jump up when the man began to speak. It was Silver's voice, and before I had heard a dozen words, I would not have shown myself for all the world, but lay there, trembling and listening, in the extreme of fear and curiosity, for from these dozen words I understood that the lives of all the honest men aboard depended upon me alone. (10.30)

***Explanation 3:***

It sounds like Jim is feeling a rush about the fact that "the lives of all the honest men aboard depended on [him] alone." Suddenly, he's going from cabin boy, the lowliest member of the crew, to the savior of all. One reason Jim always finds himself in the right place at the right time is because he's so young. He's small and childlike enough to climb right into an apple barrel and fall asleep, which sounds like something we would have done when we were kids. Jim childlike nature is the very thing that saves the "honest men" on board the Hispaniola (or at least, many of them) from death at the hands of the pirates.

***Quotation 4:***

In the meantime, the squire and Captain Smollett were still on pretty distant terms with one another. The squire made no bones about the matter; he despised the captain. The captain, on his part, never spoke but when he was spoken to, and then sharp and short and dry, and not a word wasted. He owned, when driven into a corner, that he seemed to have been wrong about the crew, that some of them were as brisk as he wanted to see and all had behaved fairly well. As for the ship, he had taken a downright fancy to her. "She'll lie a point nearer the wind than a man has a right to expect of his own married wife, sir. But," he would add, "all I say is, we're not home again, and I don't like the cruise." (10.21)

***Explanation 4:***

Captain Smollett's honesty with Squire Trelawney sets him apart from the easy flattery of men like Long John Silver and Israel Hands. It's because Captain Smollett is willing to be disagreeable that we know he is trustworthy.

***Quotation 5:***

"Stand by to go about," the parrot would scream.

"Ah, she's a handsome craft, she is," the cook would say, and give her sugar from his pocket, and then the bird would peck at the bars and swear straight on, passing belief for wickedness. "There," John would add, "you can't touch pitch and not be mucked, lad. Here's this poor old innocent bird o' mine swearing blue fire, and none the wiser, you may lay to that. She would swear the same, in a manner of speaking, before chaplain." And John would touch forelock with a solemn way he had, that made me think he was the best of men. (10.19-20)

***Explanation 5:***

Long John Silver uses Captain Flint the parrot to teach Jim a lesson about keeping good company: hanging around pirates will make you look and sound like one. And indeed, this lesson does seem to explain the morally ambiguous choice the good guys make to maroon the three pirates on Treasure Island. After all, isn't marooning a specifically pirate punishment? Even the good guys have spent too much time around Long John Silver to be totally morally pure.

***Quotation 6:***

All the crew respected and even obeyed [Long John Silver]. He had a way of talking to each and doing everybody some particular service. To me he was unweariedly kind, and always glad to see me in the galley, which he kept as clean as a new pin, the dishes hanging up burnished and his parrot in a cage in one corner. (10.14-5)

***Explanation 6:***

Obviously it's in Long John Silver's interests to have everybody like him. But does that negate the fact that he has "a way of talking to each" sailor that makes the ship seem like a better place? Even if Long John Silver has ulterior motives, he is still being nice. His ability to be kind, even if it's a mask for his true feelings, makes him a more likable character than pirates like Pew or Israel Hands, who are so cruel that they can't even pretend to be decent.

***Quotation 7:***

"Now, that bird," [Long John Silver] would say, "is, maybe, two hundred years old, Hawkins--they live forever mostly; and if anybody's seen more wickedness, it must be the devil himself. She's sailed with England, the great Cap'n England, the pirate. She's been at Madagascar, and at Malabar, and Surinam, and Providence, and Portobello. She was at the fishing up of the wrecked plate ships. It's there she learned 'Pieces of eight,' and little wonder; three hundred and fifty thousand of 'em, Hawkins! She was at the boarding of the viceroy of the Indies out of Goa, she was; and to look at her you would think she was a babby. But you smelt powder--didn't you, cap'n?" (10.18)

***Explanation 7:***

Here, the tales Long John Silver is spinning are all about his delightful parrot, Captain Flint. Silver uses his tales of derring-do to keep Jim Hawkins interested and to persuade Jim to sympathize with him. It's interesting, though: these tales are meant to distract and intrigue Jim, but they work on us, too. It's partly Long John Silver's gift with language that makes him so appealing to the reader, no matter the terrible things he does over the course of the novel.