***Treasure Island***

***Chapter 12:***

# *Council of War*

***Brief Summary:***

* A lot of people rush across the deck.
* Jim slips out of the barrel without being seen.
* He joins Doctor Livesey to look at the island coming into view.
* Long John Silver tells Captain Smollett that he has seen this island before. There is a safe place to dock on the south side.
* Captain Smollett hands Long John Silver a chart to show exactly where. The chart is a copy of the original treasure map, but without the marks showing the location of the treasure.
* Long John Silver claims to be surprised that Captain Smollett has such an accurate map.
* Jim is frightened and impressed by how carefully Long John Silver hides his feelings at seeing the map and the island.
* Long John Silver approaches Jim and promises to pack him a snack if Jim wants to go exploring the island.
* Doctor Livesey calls Jim over to ask him to fetch his pipe.
* As soon as Jim gets within earshot of Doctor Livesey, Jim whispers that he has some news, but that it has to be kept a secret.
* Doctor Livesey walks over to Squire Trelawney and Captain Smollett and, without drawing attention to himself, explains that Jim needs to talk to them in private.
* Captain Smollett calls the men together to offer them grog (alcohol) to celebrate their arrival.
* After several toasts, the captain, Doctor Livesey, and Squire Trelawney all go below decks to the captain's cabin.
* They then send for Jim as though nothing were out of the ordinary.
* Jim describes everything he overheard from Long John Silver.
* Squire Trelawney apologizes to Captain Smollett for not taking his suspicions seriously.
* Captain Smollett apologizes for not realizing what the crew has been up to: they've shown no signs of rebellion and mutiny until now.
* Doctor Livesey remarks that their discipline is the result of the remarkable Long John Silver.
* Captain Smollett declares several things: 1) they can't turn back because the men will rebel. 2) They still have some time to plan before the treasure is found. 3) Some of the sailors must still be faithful.
* Given these three things, Captain Smollett suggests that they attack the mutineers when they least expect it.
* Then the three men try to figure out who is still loyal. They are sure that Squire Trelawney's servants will stand by them, but who else?
* Doctor Livesey thinks the best thing to do is to rely on Jim. The men are willing to talk around him and he notices everything. Maybe Jim can figure out who will stay loyal.
* Jim is worried: he knows their odds of winning are bad because, at current count, it's only seven good guys against nineteen pirates.

***Synopsis:***

With the island visible before them, Smollett and his crew discuss the best place to drop anchor. Smollett consults a map of the island, and Jim notices that it is an exact copy of the treasure map he saw before, but without the “X” marking the treasure’s hiding place. Silver knows the island well, and offers advice, enthusiastically telling Jim how much he enjoys the island. Smollett congratulates the crew on a job well done, and then meets with Trelawney below deck. Later, Jim goes below deck and warns Smollett and Trelawney about Silver’s criminal intentions, telling them what he overheard while hiding in the apple barrel. Trelawney immediately admits that he has been a fool in hiring the crew and trusting Silver. Smollett urges everyone to stay vigilant.

***Analysis Ch(7-12):***

As the journey to Treasure Island unfolds, and the familiar landscape of England gives way to the contours of the unknown island, boundaries and roles become more ambiguous. The crew that earlier seems docile and friendly now seems resentful and sour, even hostile. The first mate, Mr. Arrow, whom Trelawney initially likes very much, is revealed to be a useless drunkard after only a few days at sea. Likewise, Silver is not the staunch supporter of the captain that he initially appears to be. The conversation Jim overhears shows that Silver and a majority of the ship’s crew are thoroughly disloyal. Even Jim’s role on the ship turns out to be very different than originally planned, as he quickly breaks out of the limited role of a mere cabin boy. Livesey calls Jim the most useful person on the ship, as he is perceptive and not suspected by the conspirators. As we see the once-loyal crew shift to the side of the mutineers and the cabin boy become a hero, we see that human character is indeed quite malleable.

These changing roles on the ship challenge established ideas about social hierarchy and authority, and give precedence to a nontraditional set of values. The old order and power structure gives way to a new one that is based on strength and charisma. Before the voyage begins, Squire Trelawney is clearly in the position of greatest control and resents the fact that Captain Smollett does not show him what he considers due respect. Mr. Arrow, as first mate, occupies a position only slightly subordinate to Trelawney. Jim, as the cabin boy, is on the lowest rung of the power ladder, and Silver, as the ship’s cook, also seems to be a minor figure. Immediately after the ship sets sail, however, Silver wins Jim’s respect with his nimble one-legged movement around the deck, while the authority of the boozy first mate Mr. Arrow quickly collapses. When Trelawney finally admits that he was a fool to trust the crew, the old system of power relationships and authority finally unravels. Now, Stevenson suggests, a new society must develop—not according to the inherited titles and wealth that have given power to men like Trelawney, but according to the very different principles of cleverness, fortitude, and perceptiveness.

Stevenson develops the character of Long John Silver intensely in these chapters, and shows him to be a very complex man. On the one hand, Silver’s motivation for seeking the treasure is no different from what motivates Trelawney and Livesey: greed and a love for the pirate life. Indeed, Silver is merely after money in the bank and a life of leisure ahead—the kind of life Trelawney already enjoys. Though Silver may be looking for fortune the wrong way, his goal of having a good life for himself is not in itself criminal. On the other hand, however, Silver displays an ability to mask his true feelings and motives to an almost devilish degree, raising a cheer for the captain whom he secretly hates, fooling everyone with his fake applause. Though Jim knows Silver is disappointed to see the map with no “X” on it, Silver shows no signs of this disappointment. He is a master of duplicity in a way that approaches evil. Indeed, Silver himself refers to this evil side, remarking in Chapter X about all the “wickedness” his parrot has seen.

***Critical Study:***

In Chapter 12 ("Council of War"), Jim escapes from his barrel in the rush of crew to their stations. Smollett orders a course just to the east of the island and asks whether anyone knows this place; Silver replies that he does and describes the anchorage. He is shown a map, and Jim guesses his disappointment on finding that it is only a copy of the original, with treasure locations unmarked. Silver makes some friendly remarks to Jim and then goes below. Jim tells Dr. Livesey that he has "terrible news," and asks to be sent for in the cabin. After the doctor has had a chance to tell this to Smollett, the captain announces to all hands that Squire Trelawney is pleased with their performance and will have grog sent up for them. He leads a cheer for the squire, and another cheer follows this for Smollett himself, led by Silver. After a little while Jim is sent for, and in the cabin he tells Trelawney, Livesey, and the captain what he has heard.

The squire apologizes to Smollett, saying the captain was right in the first place, and Smollett says he wasn't completely right, or he would have seen some sign that the crew was going to mutiny, which he has not; Livesey says this is Silver's doing in his firm control over them. Then Smollett advises them that their best course is to wait, because the pirates will not make their move until the treasure has been found, and then they can be surprised, giving the others a needed edge. They count the men on whom they think they can rely, and their calculation is that, of the twenty-five grown men on the ship, only six can be trusted.

This second part of the book develops three of the major characters more fully. Two of these are Jim and Squire Trelawney, who seem to have much in common despite their different stations in life. Both are romantics, such that the lure of the sea, the colorful talk and dress and walk of seafarers, the idea of the voyage of adventure — in short, everything about the enterprise they are on — appeals to them both tremendously. Jim's description of Bristol, in the mid-eighteenth century a busy port in the busiest sea-going nation of Europe, is positively lyrical; and the squire's very language, in the letter that opens Chapter 7, shows that he has immediately chosen, wholeheartedly, to adopt the life of the seafaring man as the new object of his immense and more than a little silly enthusiasm. Both Jim and Trelawney, too, are inclined to judge people according to how much their own egos are flattered. Trelawney's "old friend" Blandly, who sold him the ship, has obviously assured him that he is making a deal he can be proud of, and the squire loves to be proud of his own accomplishments (in fact, Blandly has lied outright to Trelawney, hiding his own ownership and sale of the ship, a fact that Trelawney has heard but refuses to believe); Long John Silver, having heard of this rich, voluble country squire who has already told "all of Bristol" that he will sail in search of treasure, has read him well and, thus, posing as an honest and rather touching old fellow who lost his leg in service of his country, has no trouble in taking over the hiring of the first mate and crew. Silver certainly knows that Trelawney and his friends are the ones in possession of Billy Bones' chart. Jim, too, is flattered by Silver's treating him like an adult, and after only a few minutes has convinced himself that this one-legged man cannot be the one whom Billy Bones paid him to look out for. By the same token, both Jim and Trelawney dislike Captain Smollett because he does not flatter them, and, because they dislike him, both are sure that he does not know his business as well as they do. Of course, Jim knows absolutely nothing about the sea except, as you may surmise, what he has read in romanticized histories, and Trelawney — although he is said to have "followed" it — knows not a great deal more. All of this childishness is natural and perfectly understandable in Jim, who is, after all, about twelve or thirteen years old. But Trelawney, who calls himself an "old bachelor," must be in his thirties or forties and ought to know better.

About Dr. Livesey readers are again assured, by his intervention into the discussion between Trelawney and Smollett, that the doctor is honest, diplomatic, and, above all, sensible.

Two more major characters also make their first appearance in this part. Captain Alexander Smollett and Long John Silver are polar opposites in most ways, but both are old hands at the sea. And both, unlike Jim and the squire, are hard to fool. Smollett, fair-minded and plainspoken, smells something rotten about the whole venture. But, as he admits, he has no real proof that anything is wrong. He has already signed on as ship's captain, and he will not resign on the basis of a mere hunch. (Note that Smollett would not resign outright but would ask to resign — his scrupulous honor will not allow him simply to quit, which is why he addresses Trelawney so bluntly in Chapter 9, foreseeing and perhaps hoping that he will be fired, as he surely would be without the doctor's intervention.) Smollett, however, is no diplomat, and he does not hide the fact that, in his opinion, the squire is in some ways a fool and Jim a spoiled pet. Still, he is a professional and has had long experience in his line of work, which means that he is able to tolerate men, even to respect their strengths, without much liking them. This trait becomes important as the voyage and the book progress.

Silver, too, has had long experience. As he reveals in Chapter 11, he is fifty years old (which was elderly, not merely middle-aged, in the eighteenth century) and has sailed with the murderous fictional pirate, Flint, and the somewhat less murderous historical pirate, Edward England. He is not in his own profession for glory and adventure, but for gain — he speaks derisively of Pew, who spent 1,200 pounds in a year (nearly three times as much, according to one source, as the average merchant sailor may have earned in his lifetime) and then had to beg for a living. Silver also tells the young sailor Dick (apparently a very young man, probably only a year or two older than Jim) exactly how much money he brought back from his previous voyages and how he has saved it. Silver is a shrewd observer of human behavior, and he trusts people to be what he sees they are. Thus he trusts his wife to sell his tavern, withdraw his savings, and meet him at an agreed-upon place; and, despite the fact that he implies to Dick she can be trusted because she fears him, he obviously knows she will not do anything stupid in the conduct of their business. Silver sees through Jim instantly, of course. He has also seen through Trelawney, and he hates the squire. He does not say why, but from what is revealed about Silver here, you can guess that he despises him not because he is a fool (Silver has surely known plenty of fools in his time) but because he is such a lucky fool; Trelawney has always lived luxuriously, as Silver wishes and intends to live, without having to work or even to use his wits, whereas Silver has had to do both, losing his leg in the process, and will never again be a smart, able-bodied young man. His hatred of Trelawney is based in envy.

Israel Hands, a minor character who reappears in a later chapter and proves to be cut from the same sort of pattern as Black Dog and Pew, is interesting here mainly because of his name, which was the real name (or perhaps alias — pirates often used various names) of an historical buccaneer who sailed, to his grief, with the notorious Edward Teach, a.k.a. Blackbeard. One evening in his cabin, without warning and for no apparent reason, Blackbeard blew out his lamp, drew his pistol, and shot Hands — who was sitting across the table from him — in the knee, crippling him for life. When asked why he had done so, Teach reportedly said that he had to kill one of his crew every so often in order that the rest would remember who he was.

In describing the voyage, Jim says he omits most particulars. This allows the adventure to proceed apace without the tedious narration of what was, in reality, a mostly tedious time. Treasure Island is a romance, written specifically with a young audience in mind, but given that some aspects of the book and its characters are brutally realistic, it may be well to comment briefly on the real nature of such a voyage.

At 200 tons and perhaps 25 to 30 yards along her main deck, the Hispaniola would have been a rather large schooner, large enough to carry three times the 26 men, plus Jim, with whom she sails from Bristol. She is a quick ship with a shallow draft, meaning that she can make good speed and be anchored in "shoal," or shallow, waters, which second characteristic will prove important in later chapters. Still, the voyage from Bristol to Treasure Island and back will take well over five months (from their departure date, apparently early in March, to their arrival back in port just before the departure of the consort Trelawney has arranged to sail after them should they not return by the end of August). Two and a half to three months at sea on a sailing ship, even with only 25 shipmates, cannot have been a picnic. Sleeping quarters, even for the officers, were crowded. Food was at best monotonous, with hard-baked, unleavened bread (ship biscuit) and fried or boiled salt pork being the staples, because only a condition of dryness or of immersion in salt could preserve food (more or less) from insect infestation and rotting. (Silver boasts of eating "dainty all my days, but when at sea," and even "dainty" in the mid-eighteenth century was not what twenty-first century Americans may find appetizing.) Drinking water was often rationed and was hardly fresh. Sanitary facilities were nonexistent; men did not bathe (of course, few bathed even on shore; it was considered unhealthy and slightly unmanly), and toilets were either the sea itself or buckets dumped into the sea. Lights and heat required open flames, which were a terrible hazard on wooden ships.

Note here that the men are not abusing young Jim by giving him a glass of wine to drink during their "council of war" in Chapter 12. Wine, at this point in the voyage, would have been much more palatable than water. Moreover, eighteenth-century customs were different from ours; Jim would probably have been drinking ale and hard cider with meals at his parents' inn since his early childhood. If anything, the men are honoring him, admitting him to their company as an adult.

***Critical Analysis:***

Saved by the discovery of Treasure Island, Jim is able to escape from the apple barrel and joins the other in perusing the island. The island, as they discover, has three hills, one higher than the surrounding two.

At this point, Long John Silver admits that he has been on the island before, claiming that he was there as a cook on trading shop that was forced to stop on the island for water. While there, he claims that he learned the pirates' names for places on the island and offers to help the captain find the best place to anchor. He claims that the best place is an islet denoted as Skeleton Island, and that the previously identified highest hill is called Spy-glass, since it was the pirate's lookout. Because of his knowledge Captain Smollet asks Silver to look at a chart and identify the place the ship should anchor. Jim, astutely, recognizes that Silver merely wants to look at the chart in order to find out where the treasure is buried, but luckily, from Silver's disappointment, it is clear that the mark that Silver looks for was not on the map. During this time, Silver speaks to Jim and gives the boy a pat on his back, a friendly gesture, Jim coils inside and finds it extremely difficult to hide his feelings. Following this incident, Jim discretely tells Dr. Livesy that he has terrible news and asks that the doctor, squire, and captain meet in the cabin for him to tell them this news.

In the cabin, Jim tells the gathered group the terrible news that he overheard. Immediately, the squire apologizes to the captain, acknowledging that the captain was right from the beginning of the expedition. The doctor, however, explains that only Long John Silver's authority has kept the crew from showing any signs of the coming mutiny to this point. The captain realizes that the rest of the men must proceed like they know nothing or risk immediate mutiny. When the men least expect it, they will attack. They also realize that they must know who will be on their side. From the initial count, it seems only six grown men and a boy will be against nineteen other men. At the conclusion of the chapter, the squire and the doctor tell Jim that they are relying on him to learn more about the pirate's plan.

At this point in the book, it is relevant to consider the fact that Robert Louis Stevenson used real men from history to model the pirates from. Although he is a larger than life creation, Long John Silver was inspired by the pirate Henly. Having lost a leg, Henly provided a physical disability that would become an integral part of pirate lore. Many critics also believe that Silver's surname was suggested while he was on his honeymoon, part of which was spent at the Silverado mine in California. Other characters might have also had historical precursors, including Ben Gun (Benjamin Gunn of Rio Pun go), Blind Pew (Thomas Pew, admiral of the pirate fleet at Madagascar), and Darby McGraw (Darby Mullins, who was hanged with Captain Kidd in the early 18th century).

Another theme of the book becomes clear in this chapter, as the crew learn of the pirates planned mutiny. Robert Louis Stevenson plays almost a game of balancing knowledge against ignorance. First, the reader and Long John Silver's gang know the truth, while Jim and his friends remain in ignorance; then Jim and his friends learn the truth about silver's gang, but still Silver and his gang do not know that Jim and his friends know. Careful balance between knowledge and ignorance greatly enriches the possibilities of suspense, and Stevenson makes good use of the opportunities that he provides himself.

The role of the narrator, Jim, is also evident in the actions of the last two chapters. Because he is the narrator, Jim is central to the action of the plot. For example, it is through his overhearing the conversation in the apple barrel that the plot has taken another twist. Because Jim is a boy, he is small enough to escape depiction at many points and thus can learn more than the other characters can. Jim is also central to the plot because through the boy, the reader responds emotionally to what Jim is experiencing. For example, in this chapter, when Jim is trying to conceal his anger at Silver's touch, the reader learns of the cruelty of the pirate and the feelings of a young boy at trying to conceal his hatred and anger for the safety of the honest men aboard the ship.

***Significance:***

At the cry of "Land ho!" everyone rushes to the *Hispaniola*'s bow. In the distance is an island with three cone-shaped hills, one higher than the others. Silver strolls over to Jim, who nearly shudders now at his closeness, thinking only about telling what he knows to [Captain Smollett](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Treasure-Island/character-analysis/#Captain_Smollett), [Dr. Livesey](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Treasure-Island/character-analysis/#Dr._Livesey), and the squire. While the crew enjoys a round of rum being served topside, the three men and Jim meet in the cabin below. Jim quickly tells them about the plot.

When Jim finishes, [Squire Trelawney](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Treasure-Island/character-analysis/#Squire_Trelawney) apologizes to Captain Smollett for questioning his instincts, but the question now is what to do. Captain Smollett advises that the time to fight the mutineers is "some fine day when they least expect it." The drawback is that only 7 of the 26 men aboard the ship are trustworthy, and one of those 7 is only a boy.

Jim's dream of adventure has been displaced by reality. And that reality has all the qualities of a nightmare. His imagined adventures never involved the violence of mutiny. Now his first glimpse of Treasure Island is tainted by dreamlike dreadful fear.

By coincidence Silver conjures Jim's childish dreams about the island with his wistful, nostalgic musings about the fun Jim will have ashore. Silver's picture of idealized childhood comes just minutes after the pirate was plotting a cruel death for anyone in his way—including Jim. Once again reality is turning out to be quite different from dreams, and the savagery of the pirate is at odds with his harmless and civilized notions of fun.

[Dr. Livesey](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Treasure-Island/character-analysis/#Dr._Livesey) is Silver's equal when it comes to calm, clear thinking. In some ways he is a foil for Silver. Both men are father figures to Jim. But each represents opposing values and has something different to teach. From the doctor Jim will learn the importance of duty and honor. From Silver Jim will learn survival skills for navigating the real world, where things are not always what they seem.

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

***Summary Part 1:***

In the madness following the announcement of land, Jim slips out of the barrel and reappears on deck, joining the others and listening to [Captain Smollett](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/captain-smollett)’s orders. The captain asks if anyone’s seen this island before. [Silver](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/long-john-silver) says that the best place to anchor is on Skeleton Island, which used to be a pirate hold: the main hill is called the Spy-Glass and used to be a lookout. Smollett shows him a map, and Silver’s eyes light up, but Jim notes that he’s disappointed, since this is not the [treasure map](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/symbols/the-map-of-treasure)—it’s an exact copy with the exception of the x-marks-the-spot and the instructions.

***Analysis Part 1:***

Again, Jim is clever and discreet enough to evade capture or suspicious glances. Now Silver is becoming increasingly unconcerned with hiding his true character: he tells the captain exactly what he knows from having sailed to Treasure Island on a pirate ship himself. But Jim recognizes that Silver is still missing one crucial element for his plan: the treasure map.

***Summary part 2:***

[Jim](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/jim-hawkins) begins to feel terrified at the sight of [Silver](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/long-john-silver), even though he recognizes that Silver didn’t know he overheard him. Jim goes to the [doctor](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/doctor-livesey) and asks him for a private conference with the [squire](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/squire-trelawney) and Smollett. Dr. Livesey agrees, but first the captain draws all the hands on deck and congratulates them: they’ll all be given drinks to celebrate. At the crew’s cheer, Jim can hardly believe that they’re all plotting to kill them.

***Analysis Part 2:***

While Silver had treated Jim kindly before, now Jim finds him many times more frightening than the much more obviously violent Billy Bones. Watching the crew rejoice, Jim is given another lesson in duplicity and the ability to hide one’s true feelings or intentions.

***Summary Part 3:***

Soon Jim is sent for and finds the [squire](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/squire-trelawney), captain, and [doctor](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/doctor-livesey) in the cabin. He relates what he heard. The squire admits to the captain that he was wrong, and the captain accepts his apology. They all note that Silver is a remarkable man for managing the crew with no signs of mutiny. [Captain Smollett](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/captain-smollett) says they can’t turn back now, and besides, only a few honest crewmen seem to be left—Trelawney’s three servants, plus the four of them. The squire tells Jim that he has great faith in him, but Jim is anxious: they are seven against nineteen, and he is only a boy.

***Analysis Part 3:***

Jim has remained loyal to the men who took him under their wings and brought him aboard the ship. This moment of reconciliation between the captain and squire can take place now that they’re facing a common enemy. This sense of adult strength and comradeship, however, is weakened by the squire’s insistence that Jim will be able to play an important role in helping: he’s again forcing Jim to act as an adult.

***Quotations***

***Quotation 1:***

The stranger kept hanging about just inside the inn door, peering round the corner like a cat waiting for a mouse. Once I stepped out myself into the road, but he immediately called me back, and as I did not obey quick enough for his fancy, a most horrible change came over his tallowy face, and he ordered me in with an oath that made me jump. As soon as I was back again he returned to his former manner, half fawning, half sneering, patted me on the shoulder, told me I was a good boy and he had taken quite a fancy to me. (12-3)

***Explanation 1:***

This sneering stranger is Black Dog, and he's trying to ambush his former shipmate Billy Bones at the Admiral Benbow Inn. Black Dog is like a pale imitation of Long John Silver. And like Israel Hands, he is unable to keep his "sneering" manner off his face, so even his flattery rings false. These efforts to get on Jim's good side prove that Black Dog isn't stupid, but he's not as smart as the real thing, Long John Silver.

***Quotation 2:***

I was surprised at the coolness with which John avowed his knowledge of the island, and I own I was half-frightened when I saw him drawing nearer to myself. He did not know, to be sure, that I had overheard his council from the apple barrel, and yet I had by this time taken such a horror of his cruelty, duplicity, and power that I could scarce conceal a shudder when he laid his hand upon my arm. (12.12)

***Explanation 2:***

Jim's new knowledge of what a complicated man Long John Silver really is seems to magnify his power over him. We find it fascinating that Jim succeeds in tricking even an arch-conman like Long John Silver: he says he can "scarce conceal a shudder," but Jim does conceal it. Jim really seems to have the makings of a conman himself. For more on the curious similarities we find between Jim and Long John Silver, see "Characters: Long John Silver" for more.

***Quotation 3:***

"My lads," said Captain Smollett, "I've a word to say to you. This land that we have sighted is the place we have been sailing for. Mr. Trelawney, being a very open-handed gentleman, as we all know, has just asked me a word or two, and as I was able to tell him that every man on board had done his duty, alow and aloft, as I never ask to see it done better, why, he and I and the doctor are going below to the cabin to drink your health and luck, and you'll have grog served out for you to drink our health and luck. I'll tell you what I think of this: I think it handsome. And if you think as I do, you'll give a good sea-cheer for the gentleman that does it." (12.19)

***Explanation 3:***

Captain Smollett tricks the pirates into holding off their mutiny temporarily in the simplest way possible: he offers them a round of drinks in the name of Squire Trelawney, and they are so cheerful that they wait to rise up against their leaders. The thing that surprises us to no end about this book is that the pirates are so cheap! They are like children, easily bought off. Their willingness to get drunk at a moment's notice allows Captain Smollett and Squire Trelawney to get the drop on the mutineers and take the Hispaniola for themselves before rowing to the island fort.

***Quotation 4:***

"Most likely Trelawney's own men," said the doctor; "those he had picked up for himself before he lit on Silver."

"Nay," replied the squire. "Hands was one of mine."

"I did think I could have trusted Hands," added the captain.

"And to think that they're all Englishmen!" broke out the squire. "Sir, I could find it in my heart to blow the ship up." (12.37-40)

***Explanation 4:***

Squire Trelawney's patriotism blinds his judgment. When Long John Silver tells Trelawney that he lost his leg in a battle under Admiral Hawke, Trelawney believes him. Here Squire Trelawney is disappointed in the pirates not just because they want to murder him, but because they are all Englishmen. Squire Trelawney's idealism makes him an easy mark for Long John Silver, which is perhaps meant to be a jab against idealism.