***Treasure Island***

***Chapter 19:***

# *Narrative Resumed by Jim Hawkins: The Garrison in the Stockade*

***Brief Summary:***

* Ben Gunn sees the British flag and stops Jim before he can run and join his friends.
* Ben explains that he doesn't want to go straight to meet the Squire and everyone else until he has their word of honor that they'll strike a deal with him.
* Ben tells Jim to bring Doctor Livesey or Squire Trelawney to meet with him at the same place where Jim first met Ben.
* He says he'll be around between noon and six the following day watching the forest.
* Ben also makes Jim promise he won't tell Long John Silver that Ben is still alive and on the island.
* Just then, a cannonball lands about a hundred feet away from them.
* Ben and Jim run in different directions.
* Jim is afraid, and takes a long time to creep over to the fort.
* Finally he manages to catch sight of the Hispaniola: the [**Jolly Roger**](http://www.cosmosmith.com/jolly_roger.html), the pirate flag, is flying on the mast.
* Jim sees the pirates breaking something apart with axes – the tiny rowboat the Captain and his party used to come ashore – and partying on the beach.
* Jim goes back in the direction of the fort. He catches sight of a white rock where, he remembers, Ben Gunn mentioned keeping a boat.
* Jim joins his friends and tells his story.
* He learns that Tom Redruth is dead.
* Captain Smollett divides the group up for guard duty: Doctor Livesey, Abraham Gray, and Jim are one group and Squire Trelawney, Hunter, and Joyce are another.
* Jim is put on sentry duty at the door of the fort.
* Doctor Livesey comes over several times to chat. He asks Jim about Ben Gunn. Jim says he doesn't think Ben is sane.
* Doctor Livesey says that since Jim is unsure, Ben is probably sane – he's just odd because he's been alone for three years.
* Doctor Livesey explains that he has a piece of Parmesan cheese in his snuff box and he'll gladly give it to Ben (who has been craving cheese) in exchange for his help.
* They eat dinner and bury Tom Redruth.
* Doctor Livesey, Squire Trelawney, and Captain Smollett get together to discuss plans.
* They decide they have to kill off as many of the pirates as they can in the hopes that they'll either surrender or leave the island in the Hispaniola. (Remember, they're expecting one of Squire Trelawney's servants to come after them in August, so it won't be the end of the world if the pirates leave with the ship.)
* Jim is exhausted and goes to sleep.
* When he wakes up, he hears a shout: someone is approaching the fort with a white flag.
* It's Long John Silver!

***Synopsis:***

Jim resumes the narration of the tale. Having seen the Union Jack flying above, he approaches the stockade along with Ben Gunn. Jim is unsure whether it is Captain Smollett’s crew or the mutineers who control the stockade, but Ben, assuring him that the pirates would never fly the Union Jack, encourages him to enter. A cannon shot makes the good sailors scatter out of the stockade. Later, Jim returns to shore to see the pirate’s black flag, the Jolly Roger, flying above the ship. The pirates’ voices suggest that they have been drinking a lot of rum. Jim enters the stockade to join Smollett’s group and tell his story. Smollett carefully assigns tasks to the men to divide the labor, naming Jim the sentry. Smollett asks about Ben’s sanity but displays kindness to the deranged man. Jim sleeps, but wakes to hear someone say that Long John Silver is approaching with a flag of truce.

***Notes:***

In chapter nineteen, Jim Hawkins takes over the story again. He tells what happens to him in the forest during his friends’ skirmish with the pirates. When he sees the Union Jack flying over the stockade, he thinks perhaps it belongs to the pirates. Ben declares this impossible and insists that only the captain’s men would raise the Union Jack. The mutineers would raise the Jolly Roger—“the black flag of piracy.” Although he encourages Jim to rejoin his friends, Ben refuses to come along. He is not willing to put himself at the mercy of Captain Smollett until he has spoken personally to one of the leaders of the expedition. He begs Jim not to tell Long John Silver that there is another man on the island. Ben’s pleas are interrupted by a cannonball, which hits the ground not far from where he is standing. He runs away. Jim flees in the opposite direction and spends the afternoon in various hiding places, hoping the cannonballs will miss him. When night falls and the bombardment stops, he finally decides that it is safe to enter the stockade. There his friends welcome him gladly and listen to his story. The night soon grows cold, and unfortunately, Jim’s new home is very uncomfortable. Wind blows sand inside, and smoke from the fireplace fills the room. To make matters worse, Redruth’s body lies in a corner, reminding everyone of the grim situation they are in. The men are at risk of sinking into despair, but Captain Smollett does not allow this to happen. He divides everyone into groups and sets them to work gathering firewood, burying Redruth, and keeping watch. The mood lifts when the men are busy, and Dr. Livesey privately tells Jim that the captain is an excellent man for leading them so well. After dinner, everyone discusses the plans for fighting the mutineers. Their little group cannot last long without more food, but their situation is not as bad as it could be. There are only fifteen pirates left, two of whom are wounded. The captain resolves to watch and wait, taking every opportunity to pick off pirates. His best hope is that the pirates will get fed up with fighting and sail away in the Hispaniola to seek their fortune on the high seas. If that happens, the loyal men will only have to wait a few more months until a rescue party arrives from England. Tired from his adventures, Jim goes to sleep. He sleeps late the next morning, awaking to find that the other men have been hard at work collecting firewood. As he gets up to find some breakfast, Jim hears one of his friends give a shout of surprise. Long John Silver is approaching the stockade, carrying a white flag.***Analysis Ch 19:***

In Chapter 19 ("Narrative Resumed by Jim Hawkins: The Garrison in the Stockade") Jim takes up the story again where he left it, three chapters earlier, sighting the British colors flying above the stockade. Gunn assures him that Silver would fly the pirates' flag, not this one, and that therefore the squire and his group must be occupying the stockade. He instructs Jim to tell the squire about him and his offer, lets him know where and when to find him, and — as firing from the Hispaniola commences — he and Jim flee, separately. Jim stays hidden until sunset and then approaches the shore, where he sees the pirates' colors flying from the ship and, after the end of the bombardment, watches the mutineers on the beach destroy the boat that has brought his friends to the island. Then he goes to the stockade, where he is greeted happily, and tells his story.

Captain Smollett sets them all tasks and arranges watches. The Doctor asks Jim about Ben Gunn, and tells him that the castaway cannot be expected to appear sane after three years alone here. Livesey has a piece of Parmesan cheese and says he'll give it to Gunn. He, Smollett, and Trelawney confer and decide their best course of action is to try to kill the pirates one by one until they are so weakened that the survivors are forced to leave with the ship. They hear the pirates a half-mile off, singing drunkenly for half the night, and the doctor says they will be sick with fever in a few days, camped near the swamp as they are. In the morning Jim wakes to hear someone announcing that Silver has arrived with a flag of truce.

***Critical Study:***

The next chapter is again narrated by Jim Hawkins. It begins with Ben Gunn pointing out to the young boy that the British flag is clearly a signal of where his friends are because the pirates would never fly a British flag, but instead a Jolly Roger. After pointing Jim in the right direction, he declines to join him but instead will be available at any time to discuss plans with the doctor or the squire. He concludes his speech to Jim by saying that if the pirates camp on the island, it is "likely that their wives will become windows." When the island starts becoming under attack by the cannons, Jim heads by a circuitous route towards the stockade, the area being hardest hit. Near the shore, just after sunset, Jim observes the Hispaniola flying the Jolly Roger and hears the last of the cannon fire. On the land, he sees a large fire in the distance. Some of the pirates are destroying the boat near the stockade while other pirates are rowing a different boat to the Hispanolia. From their loud voices and actions, Jim is almost positive that these men have been heavily drinking.

Finally, Jim makes his way to the fort and finds his friends there. Surprised, they are extremely happy to see him and he tells his side of the story to the men at the fort. After they here the story, the captain differentiates the men into watches, as well as assigning someone to collect firewood and dig a grave. The doctor is assigned cooking and Jim is stationed as a sentry at the door. After Jim and Livesy discuss the situation surrounding Ben Gunn, they decide that the only item that they could afford to give the pirate is a piece of cheese in Livesey's snuff box.

The next task that the men accomplish is burying Redruth, after which they eat pork for supper. As they are eating, they realize that because of the shortage of food supplies they will not be able to withstand a long siege by the pirates. Because of this limitation, they realize that they need to kill off any pirate that they can and hope that eventually the pirates will either surrender or simply leave. By their count, fifteen of the nineteen pirates remain, but one is seriously wounded. Their only hope is that, according to the information that Jim provided, the mutineers are drinking heavily, and according to Dr. Livesey, they are camped in a swamp where it is easy to contract malaria without any medicine.

When Jim wakes up, he hears someone call "Flag of truce" and learns that Long John Silver himself desires to enter the stockade.

One of the most brilliant parts of this book is the way the narration plays out and the information that [Robert Louis Stevenson](https://www.gradesaver.com/author/robert-stevenson) provides his readers. In this chapter, the narration switches back to Jim which makes the reader only privy to a certain amount of information, the information that Jim sees. While much is going on in the pirate ship (including the questioning of Long John Silver), it adds to the realism and suspense of the story for the reader only to know one side because that is all that Jim or the other men on the island would know.

Again, this chapter shows the theme of Stevenson's use of moral ambiguity. In the book, although there are "good" and "bad" sides it is not if as if you are choosing between the sides based on their morality - both are after the same prize, using the same methods of deceit, etc. in order to obtain it. Choosing a moral side in Treasure Island is more like choosing between two baseball teams based on their morality: it is pointless.

At this point, as the captain is delegating responsibilities, it is interesting to note the significance of the captain's name, Smollett. This name was by no chance arbitrary, as it appears to be based on a real-life person, Thomas Smollett. Thomas Smollett was a Scottish writer who could have been predicted to attract Stevenson's interest. Having joined the navy at an early age, he rose to become surgeons' mate, sailed the Spanish Main and, as a young man of twenty, took part in an expedition against the Spaniards in the West Indies in 1741. He was probably, figuratively speaking of course, a contemporary of Long John Silver, because of the information his pirate provided . This name, therefore, is of someone who is really interested in pirates and would have been someone who Robert Louis Stevenson would have been intrigued by.

***Critical Analysis:***

Jim resumes his role as narrator, relating how he and Ben Gunn arrived at the stockade. Jim is unsure who might be inside, but Gunn has no doubt it is Jim's friends. Gunn urges Jim to make arrangements for him to meet with either the squire or the doctor.

Jim waits until the mutineers stop shelling the stockade and then announces his presence and climbs the outer wall. Once safely inside, he tells his story to "the faithful party." [Captain Smollett](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Treasure-Island/character-analysis/#Captain_Smollett) assigns everyone specific duties—cooking, gathering firewood, or digging a grave for Redruth.

To signal the reader that Jim has resumed his role as storyteller, a line is added to the title: *Narrative Resumed by Jim Hawkins*.

The chapter works mostly to knit together the doctor's narrative with Jim's and to clarify where their storylines overlap. A few comparisons are made that underscore the minor theme of savagery versus civilization and further develop the key theme of duty and honor.

Before parting with Jim, Ben Gunn insists that he will speak only to a born gentleman because he is well acquainted with gentlemen of fortune (pirates) and knows how they compare to real members of the civilized world.

The flags flown by the two groups indicate their differences in character and values. The Union Jack flown over the stockade represents pride in country and the elevated principles its occupants live by, such as honor and duty. The Jolly Roger flown on the ship represents violence, death, and the buccaneers' disregard for laws and social order.

As the occupants of the log house prepare for another attack, [Dr. Livesey](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Treasure-Island/character-analysis/#Dr._Livesey) compares himself to [Captain Smollett](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Treasure-Island/character-analysis/#Captain_Smollett). Like the doctor the captain provides a moral and behavioral benchmark against which other characters may be measured. He is courageous, commanding, and quick-thinking in dangerous situations. Most of all, he is trustworthy and devoted to duty, always with an eye to serving a greater good. Also like the doctor, the captain stands out in counterpoint to Silver, who is anything but trustworthy and defines duty as doing whatever he must to reach a selfish goal.

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

***Summary Part 1:***

With the point of view returned to [Jim](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/jim-hawkins), he explains that [Ben Gunn](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/ben-gunn), seeing the flag, had said his friends must be there, though Jim thought it was more likely to be the pirates. But Gunn knows that pirates would prefer to fly the Jolly Roger flag. Gunn tells Jim that he can find him back in the same place: but whoever meets him will have to bear a “white thing” in his hand, and come alone, between noon and six. Gunn has reasons of his own for this proposal, he says.

***Analysis Part 1:***

Jim has learned a great deal since his time at sea, and assumes treachery and betrayal at every turn: Gunn, though, knows the pirates even better, as he’s been one of them for so long. The white thing probably refers to the flag of truce that is supposed to enable a meeting to take place peacefully.

***Summary part 2:***

They hear a cannon ball and each rush off in different directions. [Jim](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/jim-hawkins) moves from one hiding place to another, and finally manages to creep towards the stockade. From a hill, he catches sight of pirates on the beach destroying something with axes (he’ll later learn it was the jolly-boat). He also notices a group of pirates who, by the sound of it, have been drinking [rum](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/symbols/rum). Finally he is able to sneak into the stockade.

***Analysis Part 2:***

Jim cannot know that the captain’s crew was able to escape the ship, or that the boat they used is now useless thanks to the pirates’ actions. Jim also registers once again how much the pirates can be weakened by drink, becoming less threatening but perhaps also less predictable.

***Summary Part 3:***

After greeting his friends, [Jim](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/jim-hawkins) tells his story and looks around him at the log-house, surrounded by tall firs and oaks. A fine layer of sand enters the house and coats everything within it, so that they’re constantly coughing. [Gray](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters) has a cut on his face and [Redruth](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters)’s body remains unburied. While everyone is tired, each is given a task: to dig a grave, to fetch firewood, and so on. At one point, [Dr. Livesey](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/doctor-livesey) confides in Jim that [Smollett](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/captain-smollett) is a better man than he is.

***Analysis Part 3:***

While Jim has been exploring, the others have been setting up for a long stay, and the realities of entrenched battle, with all their small indignities, are starting to become clear. Part of being welcomed as an adult in this group, Jim learns, is participating in the less exciting chores that need to be done.

***Summary Part 4:***

[Dr. Livesey](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/doctor-livesey) asks [Jim](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/jim-hawkins) more about [Gunn](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/ben-gunn). Jim isn’t sure whether he’s sane, but the doctor says a man in his condition can’t expect to seem entirely sane. He’ll bring a piece of Parmesan cheese to Gunn, he decides.

***Analysis Part 4:***

Dr. Livesey seems to trust Ben Gunn more than Jim did at first, or at least is thinking strategically about the benefits of having Gunn on their side.

***Summary Part 5:***

The group buries [Redruth](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters) in the sand, before eating pork and drinking brandy for dinner. They decide that their best hope is to battle the pirates whenever they can, until they either surrender or run off with the Hispaniola. All night, they hear the pirates roaring and singing under the influence of [rum](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/symbols/rum). But early in the morning, they hear a voice crying, “Flag of truce!”—it’s [Silver](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/long-john-silver) himself.

***Analysis Part 5:***

Once again it becomes evident that the pirates may be a formidable force, but they do have a great weakness in their addiction to rum (even though the captain doesn’t seem to want to explicitly take advantage of this weakness). Silver, of course, remains apart from such revelry.