

Jim was delighted and immediately began packing for Bristol. He was more excited than he had ever been in his life. Only one thing worried him: that man Silver, who the squire had mentioned, had only one leg! And hadn't the Captain been watching for a sailor with one leg?



## CHAPTER 4

**I**T WASN'T LONG BEFORE JIM HAD A CHANCE TO MEET LONG John Silver. In two days he and Dr Livesey were in Bristol, aboard the *Hispaniola*. It was almost ready to sail, and Silver was busy in the ship's kitchen, which was called a galley. When he walked in, Jim noticed that the galley was neat and in perfect order. So was Silver. He was a tall, strong man, with the leg cut off at the hip. Under his left arm was a crutch, which he used to help him move about. He hopped over to Jim like a bird, and held out his hand, smiling. "You must be the new cabin boy. I am pleased to meet you!" On his shoulder was a colourful parrot. "This is Captain Flint," said Silver. "I named him after the famous pirate captain."



"Pieces of eight!" the parrot shrieked suddenly. Jim jumped.

"What are pieces of eight?" he asked.

"They are Spanish coins," Silver explained. "Flint robbed many Spanish ships, and he got thousands of Spanish coins." He laughed and petted the parrot. "Perhaps Captain Flint here saw some of the treasure. He is over a hundred years old, and has sailed on many ships. Since I adopted him, however, his life has not been very exciting."

Silver went on to tell Jim of how he served in the Navy, then lost his leg, and ended up running an inn, just like Jim and his mother did. Jim thought he was the most interesting person he had ever met, and he soon forgot about the one-legged sailor that the Captain was so afraid of. After all, Silver was polite and kind, not at all like the rude, dirty pirates who had come to the Benbow. Jim decided he liked Silver very much, and they soon became friends.

Finally, Jim left the galley and went to find the squire and the doctor. They were in the dining room talking to the ship's captain, who was a tall, serious man, about forty-five years old. His name was Smollett. Captain Smollett and Squire Trelawney seemed to be having an argument.

"I was told the purpose of this voyage was a secret, even from me," the captain was saying. "That's fine. But then I found out that every sailor on this ship has heard that we are going after treasure. They also know that you have a map of an island indicating where the treasure is buried. Are you sure they will stay honest when they know there is so much money at stake?"

"I am sure I never told anyone about the map!" said the squire, looking puzzled.

"Maybe you did, maybe you didn't," said Captain Smollett. "However, I will not go on this trip unless you do the following: you must keep all the weapons close to your cabin, along with your servants Joyce and Redruth, and there must be no more talk of treasure with the crew."

"I think you are worrying too much," said Dr Livesey, "but we will do as you suggest." He smiled at Trelawney, who was





still angry. "We are lucky to have such a careful and responsible captain." Captain Smollett didn't smile at the compliment. Instead he looked at Jim, who was listening.

"What are you doing here, standing around?" he said sharply. "Go and find some work to do!" As Jim hurried away, he heard Captain Smollett add to Livesey and Trelawney: "I won't have any favourites aboard my ship."

Jim decided that he disliked Captain Smollett just as much as Squire Trelawney did. But soon he forgot the captain's harsh words. Early the next morning, the *Hispaniola* lifted anchor and left port. The voyage began well, and even Captain Smollett was pleased with how the ship sailed. The crew was also happy, because Squire Trelawney had spent a lot of money buying the very best supplies he could. These included a barrel of apples, as fresh fruit helped keep the crew healthy. Captain Smollett, of course, said that the squire was too friendly with the men, and that no good would come of it. But as it turned out, some good did come of the apple barrel. In fact, it helped save the lives of Jim and all the honest men on the ship.





## CHAPTER 4

### Comprehension

#### 1 Read Chapter 4 and match the two halves of the sentences.

- |                                                     |                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Silver was a tall strong man, with a leg cut off | a. angry with Squire Trelawney. |
| 2. Captain Flint was                                | b. the squire and the doctor.   |
| 3. Jim left the galley and went to find             | c. going after treasure.        |
| 4. The crew knew they were                          | d. at the hip.                  |
| 5. Captain Smollett was                             | e. the name of a parrot.        |

#### 2 Complete the summary of Chapter 4 using the words in the box.

interesting treasure friendly parrot well honest met

Trelawney travelled to Bristol before the others, to make arrangements for the voyage to Treasure Island. Two days later, Jim (1) \_\_\_\_\_ Long John Silver on board the Hispaniola in Bristol. On his shoulder was a colourful (2) \_\_\_\_\_. Silver told Jim the story of his life. Jim soon decided that he was the most (3) \_\_\_\_\_ man he had ever met. Captain Smollett and Trelawney had an argument because the captain found out that everyone on board knew about the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ map. Smollett was worried that the crew would not stay (5) \_\_\_\_\_ now that they knew about the gold. After the ship left the port, everything went (6) \_\_\_\_\_, though Captain Smollett complained that Trelawney was still too (7) \_\_\_\_\_ with the men.

### Vocabulary

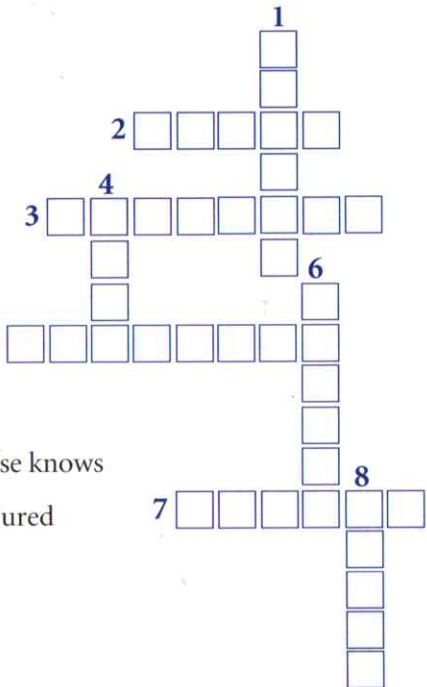
#### 3 Choose a, b or c to complete the sentences below.

- Mrs Pearson's son is now \_\_\_\_\_ in the Navy.  
a. shrieking      b. serving      c. lifting
- Some famous Hollywood stars have \_\_\_\_\_ young children from poor countries.  
a. adopted      b. hurried      c. indicated
- The boat's \_\_\_\_\_ work very hard.  
a. stake      b. crew      c. team
- Guns and other \_\_\_\_\_ are dangerous and should be kept away from children.  
a. supplies      b. favourites      c. weapons

- The most important quality in a friend is that he or she is \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. careful      b. honest      c. thin

#### 4 Complete the crossword.

- A ship's kitchen
- It appears on your face when you are happy
- Quarrel, fight
- Not polite
- A valuable collection of coins, gold and jewellery
- Some information that no one else knows
- An object that helps someone injured stand and walk
- A small room on a ship



### Follow-up activities

#### 5 Discuss.

- Would you like to find hidden treasure, like that belonging to Captain Flint? What would you do with it?
- Jim dislikes Captain Smollett because he is too strict. Do you think that makes him less good as a captain? Are things always as they seem?
- Smollett says that he won't have any favourites aboard his ship. How would you feel if someone is a favourite in class?
- Do you think that the one-legged man that the Captain was afraid of and Long John Silver is the same person? What is your opinion of Long John Silver? Is Jim right to consider him a friend?

#### 6 Imagine that you are Captain Smollett the night before your voyage began. Write an entry in your diary about the quarrel with the squire and your doubts concerning this trip. (60-80 words)