

those trees. My friends must have come ashore!" The flag was flying from a small fort on top of a hill. Ben Gunn explained to Jim that Flint had built it before he left the island. It was very strong and a few men could hold back many others. Jim began to walk towards the fort when he heard Ben Gunn call out:

"Jim! I almost forgot. If you ever need to get to your ship, I have a little boat hidden by the tall rock on the shore. You can use it! Now don't forget to tell your friends about me!"

"I won't!" promised Jim. Then he heard Dr Livesey calling out his name.



CHAPTER 7

JIM'S FRIENDS WERE RELIEVED TO SEE HIM ALIVE AND WELL. There were six of them: The doctor, the squire and the captain, plus Hunter, Joyce, and Abraham Gray. The doctor told Jim: "We decided we could not defend the ship against so many enemies. I saw this fort marked on Flint's map, so we filled a boat with supplies and started for the shore. Here, we are safe." The fort was made of thick tree trunks, and there were loopholes in the walls. These were small slits, through which the defenders could aim their guns and shoot down any attackers.

Captain Smollett added: "But you must not run away again, Jim. We need all the hands we can get." He divided the men into two watches: Jim, the doctor and Gray on one, and the squire, Hunter, and Joyce on the other. "The pirates are sure to attack in the morning," said Smollett. "However, if we work together, we may win the fight." That night, each watch took turns standing guard while the other slept.