

CHAPTER 6

CAPTAIN SMOLLETT'S PLAN WAS TO LET SILVER AND HIS MEN go ashore and rest. Himself, the squire and the doctor would stay on the ship. They thought of taking the Hispaniola somewhere else, but there was no wind and they could not sail away. Plus, some of the pirates had stayed on board, and that was one more thing the men had to deal with.

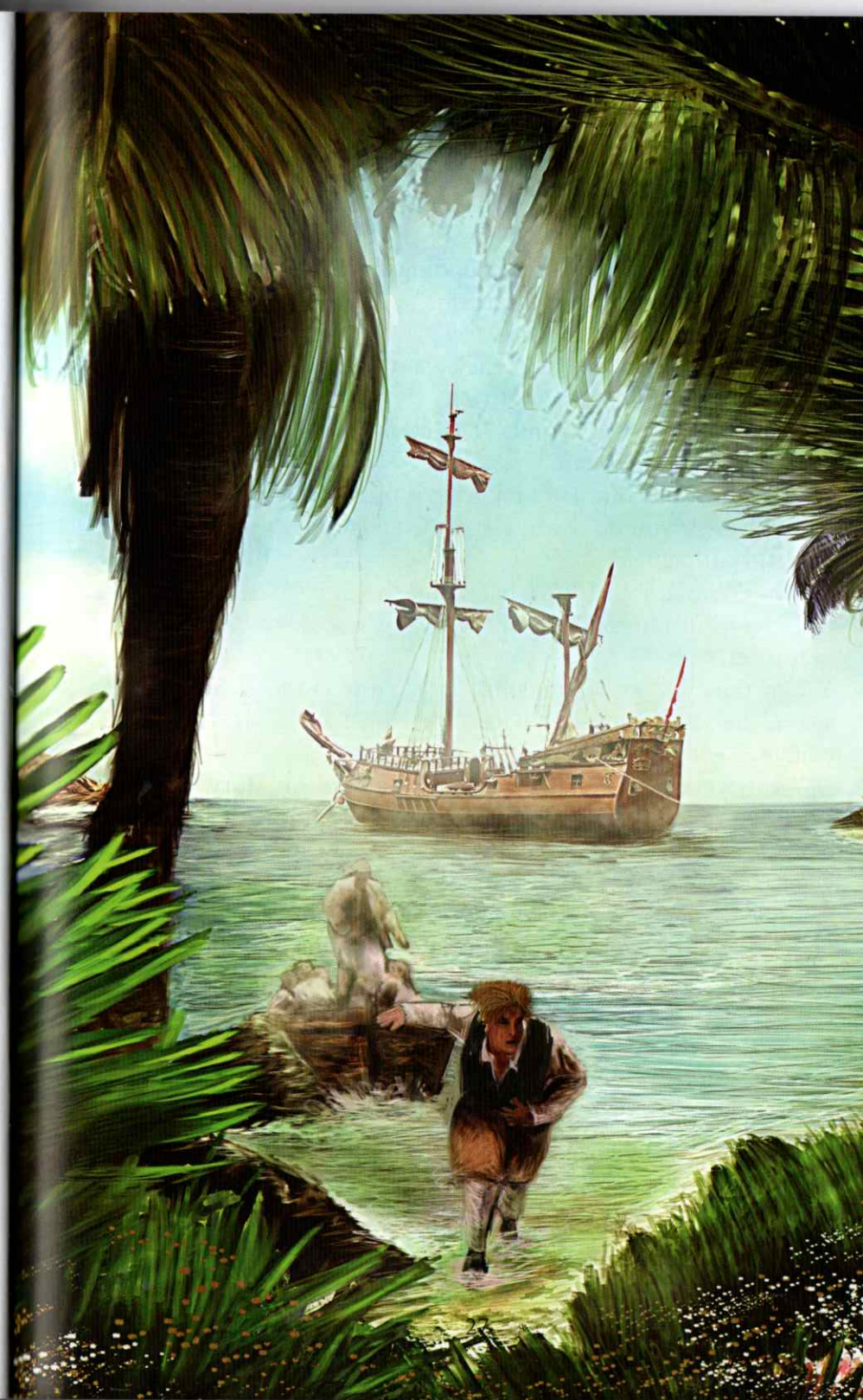
So, they decided to wait for Silver to act first. Jim, however, didn't want to just sit and wait. Without telling his friends, he secretly grabbed a pistol and joined Silver's crew going to the island. As soon as the boat touched the shore, he jumped out and ran as fast as he could into the woods to get away from the pirates!

Jim didn't stop until he thought he was far from the pirates. Then he slowed down and began to look around. He was at the bottom of a steep hill. Then he noticed something jump behind a tree. He wasn't sure if it was a bear, a monkey, or a man, but it moved with the speed of a wild animal. Whatever it was, Jim wanted to get away from it, so he started running again! But the creature was too quick for him. Then Jim saw it was a man, though he was dressed in rags, had long, untidy hair, and looked wild. No longer afraid, the boy took out his pistol and walked towards the stranger. To his surprise, the man fell on his knees and lifted his arms.

"Have mercy," he said, "my name is Ben Gunn, and I haven't seen another man in three years."

"Three years!" cried Jim. "Were you shipwrecked?"

"No," replied Ben Gunn. "I was marooned." Marooning was a horrible punishment used by pirates. A man was left alone on a deserted island with a few supplies, where he then had to survive on his own. Ben Gunn put his hands together and begged: "You haven't got any cheese, have you? I've been dreaming of cheese for three years." Although Ben Gunn was strange looking, he seemed harmless. Jim decided to be friendly with him.



"I haven't got any cheese with me, but I will bring you some later from my ship." Ben Gunn smiled. Then suddenly they heard gunfire coming from far off. "The pirates!" cried Jim. "They must be attacking the ship."

"Pirates?" asked Ben Gunn, standing up suddenly. "Has Flint's crew come back? Are you with them?"

"I'm not a pirate," said Jim. "Nor is our captain. But some of Flint's crew are with us, and they want to steal our ship. Their leader is Long John Silver."

"Silver!" cried Ben Gunn. "I knew him. You are in serious trouble, my young friend."

"I know," said Jim. He took a deep breath. "Will you help us fight Silver? If you do, I will ask my friends to take you home to England with us."

Ben Gunn grabbed Jim's hand and shook it. "Yes! Ben Gunn will save you! I'm the king of this island, the richest king you'll ever meet!"

Jim thought Ben Gunn must be slightly crazy. "I hear guns again," he said. "I must go back." He added curiously: "Did you really sail with Captain Flint?"

As they were walking, Ben Gunn told Jim his story. "When I was your age, I was honest and good," he said. "But I wanted adventure, and so I joined Flint's pirate crew. I didn't know then what a wicked man he was. I was there when he came to this island. He took the treasure and six of the crew with him, and the rest of us stayed on the ship. A few hours later, he came back alone. The other six were dead. He killed them so nobody would know where the treasure was buried! After Flint died, I joined another ship. Years later, as we were sailing by this island, I told the crew that Flint's treasure was buried here and that we should go ashore and find it. They agreed and we searched for three days, but we found nothing. It was too well hidden. They were so angry with me that they decided to leave me here alone. How I regretted becoming a pirate! But if I ever get back to England, I'm going to be an honest man again, Jim, I promise."

"Look!" interrupted Jim. "I see the flag of England flying above



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.

CHAPTER 6

Comprehension

1 Choose a, b, or c to complete the following sentences.

- Captain Smollett could not move the Hispaniola because
 - Long John Silver had a pistol.
 - the squire and the doctor were still on the ship.
 - there wasn't any wind.
- Ben Gunn was the name of
 - a wild creature.
 - one of Silver's pirates.
 - a marooned man.
- Captain Flint had visited the island to
 - bury treasure.
 - meet some other pirates.
 - leave six of his men.
- There was a flag flying
 - over the spot where the treasure was.
 - in a fort on a hill.
 - at the bottom of a steep hill.
- Jim promised to tell Doctor Livesey and the others
 - about the man he had met on the island.
 - about the small boat.
 - about the small fort Flint had built on the island.

2 Match the two halves to make true sentences. Write a-e in the boxes.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Jim ran into the woods on the island | <input type="checkbox"/> | a. Captain Flint died. |
| 2. Jim discovered that the stranger he met | <input type="checkbox"/> | b. to have some cheese. |
| 3. Ben said that he wanted | <input type="checkbox"/> | c. to escape from the pirates. |
| 4. Ben had joined another ship when | <input type="checkbox"/> | d. someone calling out for him. |
| 5. Near the fort Jim heard the voice of | <input type="checkbox"/> | e. had been marooned. |

Vocabulary

3 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in capitals.

- Don't be afraid of the dog. It's absolutely _____ . HARM
- _____ often spend months on their ships away from their homes. SAIL
- My sister is _____ taller than me. SLIGHT
- Jenny is a very capable person, so we have made her the _____ of our team. LEAD
- Tim's clothes are always _____ and look like rags. TIDY
- _____ for some crimes can sometimes be very hard. PUNISH

4 Find the opposites of the following words in Chapter 6.

- aboard _____ (page 26)
- top _____ (page 26)
- slow _____ (page 26)
- good, nice _____ (page 28)
- lost _____ (page 28)
- remembered _____ (page 30)

Follow-up activities

5 Discuss.

- Jim thinks that Ben Gunn is slightly crazy. Do you agree? Why? / Why not?
- What would you do if you were in Jim's position when he met the wild man? Would you stay and talk to him or run away? Why?
- Ben Gunn has been alone on Treasure Island for three years. If something like that happened to you, what would you do to keep your mind in good condition?
- Do you think Jim and his friends should stay in the fort? Why? / Why not?

6 Imagine that you are shipwrecked on a tropical island. Write a note to put into a bottle to throw into the sea. Say what happened, where you think you are and ask for help. (60-80 words)