

CHAPTER 2

JIM AND HIS MOTHER SOON WISHED THAT THE CAPTAIN WOULD leave the inn, because he never paid his rent. Whenever Jim's mother asked for money, he looked very angry and she was too frightened to say anything to him. The Captain continued to give Jim a silver coin every month, however, to watch out for the one-legged man. But the winter months went by, cold and rainy, and few people came to the inn.

Then early one January morning a stranger walked in the door. Two fingers were missing on his left hand, and he carried a sword. But he looked nervous rather than fierce. Jim asked the man if he wanted anything.

"Is my mate Bill staying here?" he asked.

"I don't know your mate Bill," Jim replied. "Our only guest is someone we call the Captain, and he is out walking."

"Well, my mate Bill was a captain once," said the man with a short laugh. He took Jim tightly by the arm. "Come hide behind the door with me and we'll give him a surprise!" Jim did not think the Captain would be happy to see this man at all.

Suddenly the Captain walked through the door, slamming it. "Bill," the stranger called out nervously, and the Captain turned and stared.

"Black Dog!" he said, very pale as he sat down on a chair. "What do you want?" Black Dog let go of Jim and walked towards the Captain.

"I'm here for the rest of the crew," Black Dog replied. "We know you have Flint's map, and now we've found you. We want our fair share."

The Captain stared at him, and then at Jim. "Get out of here!" he shouted. "And don't listen in on us!" Jim didn't need to be told twice. He ran to the kitchen, wondering what the men were talking about and what would happen next. Suddenly he heard the sound of fighting. Jim went to look, and saw Black Dog running out the door. He thought the Captain would chase him, but instead he sat



down. He looked ill: he was pale, sweaty, and shaking.

"They're coming for me," he said. "I must get away!" He tried to get up, but felt dizzy and sat back down on the chair.

"Who was that man, Black Dog?" Jim asked.

The Captain explained: "Black Dog was a sailor on Captain Flint's ship and I was first mate. We stole a fortune in gold, but Flint did not share it with the men. He buried it in a secret place and then he told us we must sail for more. Flint planned to go back for the treasure, but then he became sick. Before he died, he gave me a map. That's what Black Dog and his friends want." He grabbed Jim's hand. "But I must get away! Help me bring my chest down from upstairs!" He stood up, but then with a strange sound, fell to the floor! Jim tried to wake him, but it was hopeless: the Captain was dead.

Jim quickly called his mother and told her what the Captain had said. "The pirates are coming here!" he said. "We must run away immediately."

But Mrs Hawkins did not agree. "Dr Livesey and his friend Squire Trelawney are coming to visit," she said. "They will be here soon with their servants and they will protect us. And that man" - she pointed to the Captain's body - "owed me six months' rent. We are poor and I must have the money!"

Jim and his mother went upstairs and opened the Captain's chest. There was a lot of rubbish in it, but eventually Mrs Hawkins found a bag of money. "I will only take what he owes me," she said. But it was hard to count the money because it came from many different countries. Minutes went by and Jim wished his mother would just take all the money and leave. Then suddenly, they heard a long, low whistle from outside. They jumped with fright!

"Let's get out of here!" said Jim's mother. "I'll take the money I have." Jim noticed a leather packet still lying in the chest.

"And I'll take this," he said and they hurried out the door, running as fast as they could. "Quick - let's hide under the bridge!" Jim cried. But his mother stopped. She was very pale.

"I think I'm going to faint," she whispered, and collapsed in

Jim's arms. At the same time, Jim heard the pirates banging on the door of the Benbow. He dragged his mother under the bridge and hid her as best as he could.



CHAPTER 2

Comprehension

1 Answer the following questions.

- Why did Jim and his mother want the Captain to leave the inn?

- What was the name of the man who came to see the Captain?

- What did Flint give the Captain before he died?

- Why did Mrs Hawkins and Jim look inside the Captain's chest?

- Why did Jim and his mother go under a bridge?

2 Match 1-5 with a-e to make sentences. Write a-e in the boxes.

- Jim heard ☐ a. went upstairs and opened the Captain's chest.
- Jim wished his mother ☐ b. the sound of fighting from the room.
- Jim dragged his mother ☐ c. their friends would arrive soon and protect them.
- Jim's mother hoped that ☐ d. under the bridge and hid her.
- Jim and his mother ☐ e. would just take the money from the chest and leave.

Vocabulary

3 Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the words in capitals.

- He waited _____ for the phone to ring and find out if he had got the job. **NERVOUS**
- My sister is _____ at history! She hardly knows anything at all. **HOPE**
- John is _____ of the dark. **FRIGHTEN**
- If you get _____ in the gym, you need to have a shower afterwards. **SWEAT**

- She held the baby _____ in her arms. **TIGHT**
- There is a strong wind today which keeps _____ the door. **SLAM**

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

- The policeman told his partner to _____ a red Ferrari with a broken window.
a. watch out for b. hurry out c. listen in on
- 'Can you wait a moment? I want to _____ the number of people who are coming to my party.'
a. turn b. count c. wonder
- It is not nice to _____ at people.
a. hide b. slam c. stare
- 'Paul looks very _____, do you think he's sick?'
a. fierce b. pale c. fair
- As there were not enough books for everyone, the students had to _____ them.
a. share b. chase c. grab
- In most English homes people sleep _____.
a. outside b. upstairs c. in chests
- I think I am going to _____ from hunger.
a. whistle b. drag c. faint

Follow-up activities

5 Discuss.

- How would you feel if someone borrowed something from you, such as a DVD or money, and did not return it? How long would you wait before saying something about it? What would you say?
- Jim's mother only tried to take the money that the Captain owed her from the dead man's chest. Was she right or wrong to do so? Why?
- The Captain kept a big secret until he died. Why do some people have secrets?
- What do you think will happen next? Will the pirates find Jim and his mother or will they manage to escape?

6 Imagine you are Mrs Hawkins. Write to the police, giving a detailed account of the events that led to the Captain's death. (60-80 words)