

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.

"Flag of truce!" yelled a man.

The voice woke Jim out of a deep sleep. He saw that the other men were already awake. Then the squire said: "It's Silver himself!" Jim immediately jumped up and ran to see what was happening.

Captain Smollett went to the door of the fort. "What do you want with your flag of truce?" he called out.

"It's Captain Silver, sir, come to make a deal," he said, holding a white flag and walking slowly towards the fort on his one leg.

"Captain Silver! Never heard of him," said Smollett. "I had a cook called Silver once."

Silver laughed. "Well, the lads elected me Captain, after you ran away from the ship. I'm here to speak for them. We want the treasure, and we'll have it, one way or another. And I assume that you want to get off this island alive. You have the map, don't you?"

"Maybe we do, maybe we don't," the captain replied.

"Oh, we know you have it," said Silver. "We want that map. Here's the deal; give it to us, and I'll give you two choices: you can sail with us, and we'll leave you somewhere safe ashore, or you can stay here, and we'll tell the next ship we see to come and pick you up. That's it. Agree to our offer, and you live. Refuse and you'll get nothing more from me but bullets."

"Now listen to my offer," Captain Smollett replied. "If you come to me one by one, unarmed, I will take you prisoner and sail for England. There, I promise you will all get a fair trial. If you don't accept that, you can all go hang. You can't find the treasure without the map. You can't sail the ship - you will get lost on the ocean. Besides that, there's no wind. That's all I have to say. Now get out of here."

Silver's eyes burned with anger. He spat on the ground. "That's what I think of you!" he shouted. "Before an hour goes by, I'll knock your old fort to the ground! Those that die will be the lucky ones." Then he limped away and vanished into the forest.

Captain Smollett turned around and saw all the men in the fort watching. "Go back to your posts!" he shouted. "What if the pirates attacked us from the back while you were watching Silver?"



He paused. "They will certainly attack in the next few minutes. I believe we can fight them off, but you must stay at your posts and shoot them before they get near the fort! Jim," he added, "you and I are not very good at shooting, so we will help the others load their guns."

Everybody was serious now. Nervously, they pointed their guns out of the loopholes, and waited. Suddenly, several shots were fired at the fort. But none of them could get through the thick walls. Then they heard a loud yell, and a bunch of pirates came running towards them. Squire Trelawney and the doctor began firing. Two pirates fell, but the others kept on coming towards the fort. Jim loaded their guns as fast as he could, but the gunfire could not keep the pirates back. Soon, they started climbing up the walls of the fort.

"Jim, take a sword!" cried Captain Smollett. "We must leave the fort and fight them in the open!"

Jim immediately grabbed a sword and ran outside. He found himself face to face with a pirate in a red cap. It was Mr Hands. Hands' sword almost struck him, but Jim jumped to one side. Then he slipped and rolled down a hill.

By the time he got up, he realised his friends had won the fight. The men were much more skilled with their swords than the pirates. Those who were not dead or injured had run off. However, there was a price for the victory. Joyce had been shot dead, Hunter was unconscious. And the squire was kneeling beside the captain. "Captain Smollett is wounded!" he cried.



CHAPTER 7

Comprehension

1 Decide if the following sentences are True or False. Write T or F in the boxes.

1. Jim's friends were angry because he had left them. ☐
2. Captain Smollett decided to have two watches of men guarding the fort. ☐
3. Jim was the first person to see Silver coming towards the fort. ☐
4. Smollett and Jim were not very good at using guns. ☐
5. Two pirates were killed as they were attacking the fort. ☐
6. Jim and a pirate fought with swords inside the fort. ☐
7. Captain Smollett and Hunter were killed by the pirates. ☐

2 Put the following events in the order which they happened. Write 1-5 in the boxes.

- ☐ Doctor Livesey and his men won a victory.
- ☐ Long John Silver tried to make a deal with Captain Smollett.
- ☐ Captain Smollett refused to give the map to the pirates.
- ☐ Jim's friends came ashore and went into a fort.
- ☐ The pirates attacked the fort and there was a sword fight.

Vocabulary

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

point strike enemy conscious elect truce

1. The policeman _____ his gun at the kidnapper.
2. A door opened suddenly and _____ Tim in the face.
3. He fell off a ladder and is now _____.
4. An army has to protect a country from its _____.
5. After years of fighting, the two sides eventually signed a _____.
6. A new Prime Minister has been _____ for the next five years.

4 Read the definitions below and find the words in Chapter 7.

1. not dead _____ (page 31)
2. food and other necessary things _____ (page 31)
3. a drawing that shows
the position of a place _____ (page 32)
4. small objects fired from a gun _____ (page 32)
5. to be hurt or injured _____ (page 34)

Follow-up activities

5 Discuss.

1. What do you think of Captain Smollett's attitude towards Long John Silver?
2. What do you think of Silver's offer to the men?
3. Now that Smollett is badly wounded, who do you think should be the new leader? Why?

6 Imagine that Treasure Island has been made into a TV series. After watching Episode 7, write a short review for a TV guide. (60 -80 words)