

Theatre Resource Guide

TREASURE ISLAND



NOVEL BY ROBERT LOUIS
STEVENSON

ADAPTED BY JOSEPH GEORGE
CARUSO



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For Teachers

This theatre resource guide for *TREASURE ISLAND* by Joseph George Casuso is designed to be used with students before and after attending the Festival Theatre production. The guide includes information that will increase students' understanding of this and other theatrical performances. The mission of Festival Theatre is *to make the arts welcoming to all people as an essential part of their well being and for the vitality of the community.*

We believe the arts are vital in the education of children. Art has a job to do in the development of a creative, concerned, caring society and our children are the perfect place to start. Live theatre is an excellent way for students to experience the arts and all that it has to offer, both on stage and as part of the audience.

You may reproduce any and all of the following pages to use as you wish. The information will help you make the most out of your visit to Festival Theatre. If you have questions or would like more information please contact me at (715) 483-3387, artsedfestivaltheatre@gmail.com or P.O. Box 801 St. Croix Falls, WI 54024. Enjoy the show!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Albers

Arts Education Coordinator

Festival Theatre



The Story

ACT ONE

In Black Hill Cove, a group of villagers discovers that brave Captain Bill Bones is actually a pirate. When Captain Bones killed Flint, the meanest pirate to ever sail the seas, he stole his treasure map. Flint's pirate crew decides that the treasure belongs to them and they set sail to claim it and kill Captain Bones. Before the pirates can steal the treasure map, Captain Bones gives it to Jim. Upon the pirates' arrival, Captain Bones dies from heart problems and Aunnie Nan, Dr. Livesy, Laurie, and Jim prepare to set sail for Treasure Island.

Auntie Nan hires Captain Smollett to use the Hispanola for their voyage. She also meets up with Long John Silver who runs the Spyglass Inn where she is staying. Long John is secretly the leader of the pirate crew and asks them to help run the Hispanola. When they finally reach Treasure Island after weeks of sailing, Captain Smollett, Auntie Nan, Laurie, Dr. Livesy, and Jim finally realize they are on a ship with their enemies!

ACT TWO

The pirate crew takes Jim with them to find the treasure because he can read the map. When Jim takes a second look at it, he steals the map and runs into the jungle. While there, Jim meets Belle Gunn who used to be a member of Flint's pirate crew before getting left behind to die on Treasure Island. She promises to help Jim's friends escape as long as they help her return to England safely.

Jim approaches the group and he says he will only lead the pirates to the treasure if they let the captives go free. The pirates free his friends and they flee into the jungle. Jim leads the pirates to the spot that the treasure was buried. He doesn't tell them that Belle Gunn moved the treasure to her cave over a year ago. They dig up only one small bag of coins before Jim tells them that the treasure is cursed. Belle appears as a ghost and scares the pirates off and they run off the cliff. The villagers finally get to return to England with their treasure.

Important Terms

Characters

Captain Bill Bones

Mr. Grundy

Mrs. Grundy

Mr. Posket

Dr. Livesy

Laurie

Auntie Nan

Jim

Smollett

Red Dog

O'Brien

Morgan

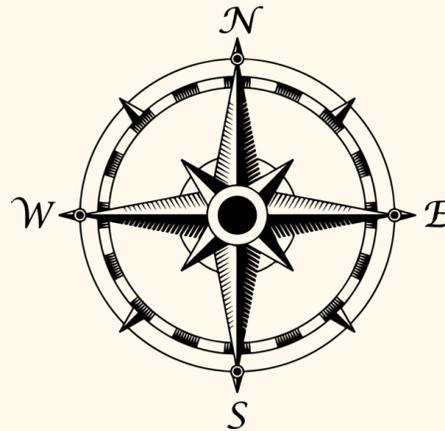
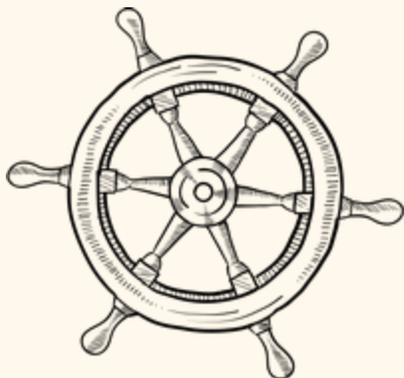
Bonny

Calico Annie

Flint

Long John Silver

Belle Gunn



Vocabulary

Black Spot- a letter of guilt

cankorous-unhealthy and disgusting

cutlass- a short sword

detain- to keep in holding

dispatch- to send away with speed

lad- a young boy

mangy- in poor condition

mutiny- rebellion against the captain

nary- not

persuasive- good at convincing someone

Piece of Eight- a Spanish dollar

rum- alcoholic drink

swab- unkind name for a seaman

weevil- a type of beetle

Novel to Play



Adapted means the playwright used the original novel as a starting point. Joseph George Caruso used parts of the novel *Treasure Island* to make the play very similar to the story but in a form that would be entertaining on stage. In the play *Treasure Island*, we find some of the same characters dialogue (what the characters say) and settings from the book and many of the same details.

-What parts of the play came directly from the novel?

-What parts of the play did the playwright, Joseph George Caruso, choose to use his imagination?

-How is a play different from a novel or movie?

-If you have read *Treasure Island*, watch for changes in the characters and how the setting is shown when you attend the performance.

Robert Louis Stevenson

In 1850, Robert Louis Stevenson was born in Scotland. He went on to write many novels, essays, and poems. In addition to writing novels like *Treasure Island*, Stevenson also wrote over 22 short stories including the famous *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*.

To the Hesitating Purchaser

*If sailor tales to sailor tunes,
Storm and adventure, heat and cold,
If schooners, islands, and maroons,
And buccaneers, and buried gold,
And all the old romance, retold
Exactly in this ancient way,
Can please, as me they pleased of old,
The wiser youngsters of today:
--So be it, and fall on! If not,
If studious youth no longer crave,
His ancient appetites forgot,
Kingston, or Ballantyne the brave,
Or Cooper of the wood and wave:
So be it, also! And may I
And all my pirates share the grave
Where these and their creations lie!*

-Epigraph, *Treasure Island*, by Robert Louis Stevenson

Staging a Story



When you attend a play, you agree to **play pretend**. You agree to suspend your disbelief and agree that the stage actions and characters are real. In order to make a play, actors must portray those characters. They spend many hours memorizing their lines and blocking (stage movement). They also attend rehearsals where the entire cast practices for the play that the audience sees.

The **design team** helps create the atmosphere or mood of the play. The costume designer helps tell the story by dressing the actors in costumes that clarify their character's personality and status. The lighting and set designers use color, shape, and texture to show when and where the different scenes are taking place.

The director of the play makes sure that everyone involved in the production is telling the same story. The director of *Treasure Island*, **Andrew Bradford Benson**, helped the actors and the design team bring the play to life.

The stage manager, **Peter Weber**, makes sure that the actors both on and off the stage are in the right place at the right time. He is also the person that makes all of the sound and light changes happen.

The Audience

Everyone at **Festival Theatre** has worked very hard for over a month to get this play ready. Now all we need is **YOU!**

YOU have a part to play in *Treasure Island*. You are the audience.

Your part requires you to listen carefully and watch closely. It's okay to laugh or applaud if you enjoy the play, but remember that you and the actors are in the same room. Talking or whispering to friends during the performance will distract the actors.

Help the actors play their parts well by playing YOUR part well.

