

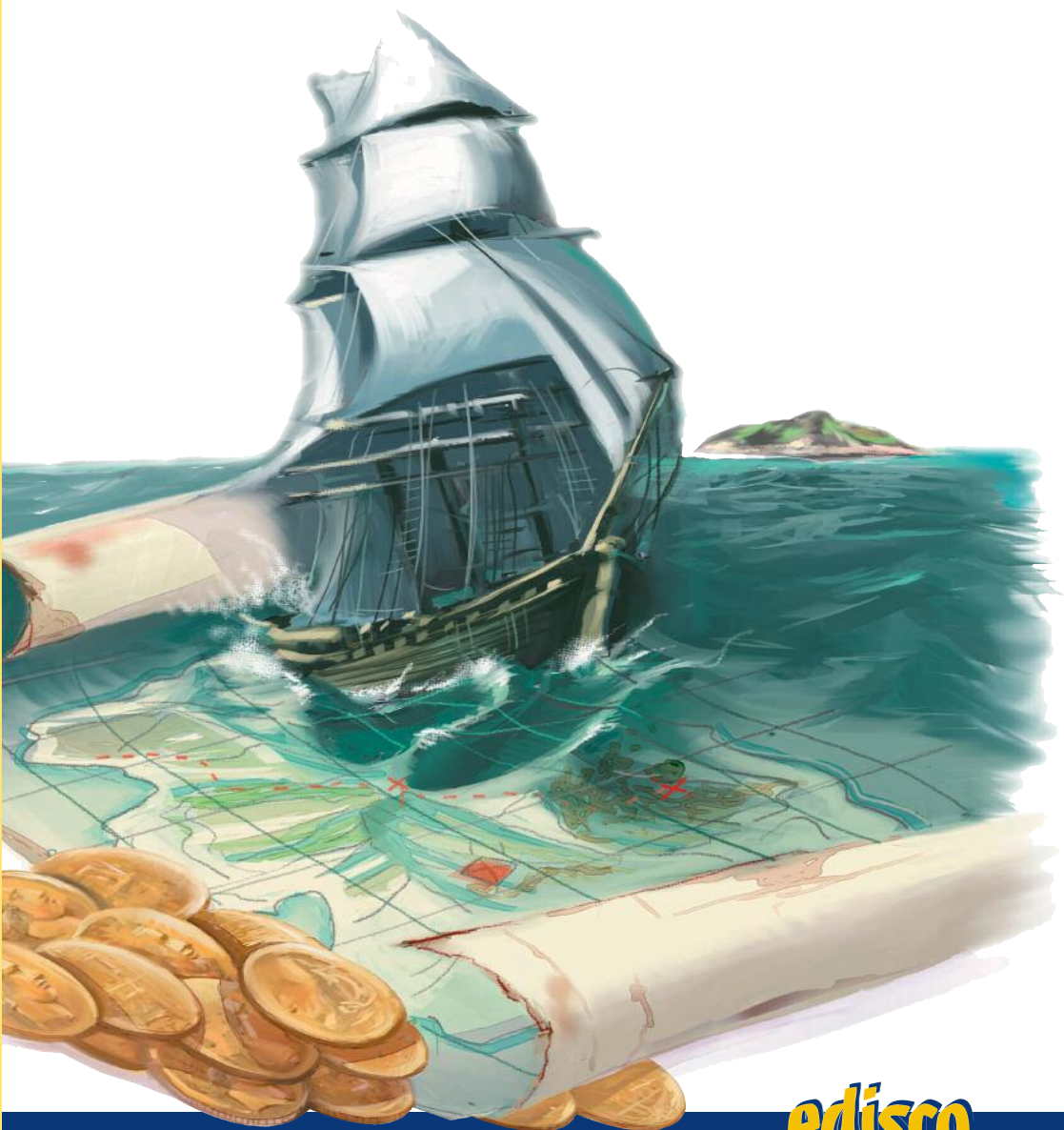


pre-intermediate

R A I N B O W S

Treasure Island

Robert Louis Stevenson



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List of the grammar structures per level

BEGINNER • A1 (Breakthrough)

Nouns, short compound nouns, common adjectives, be, have, can, must, countable/uncountable nouns, articles, will future, imperative, basic prepositions of time and place, adverbs, numbers, some/any/no, personal pronouns, possessive adjectives/pronouns, 's, demonstrative adjectives/pronouns, present progressive, present simple, simple *wh*-questions, was/were.

ELEMENTARY • A2 (Waystage)

Structures of preceding level + longer compound nouns, past simple, past progressive, present perfect simple, could, future with *going to*/present progressive, some/any/no/every+compounds, comparatives, superlatives, quantifiers (a lot, much/many, a little/a few), conditional sentences (type 1), *have to*, less common prepositions of time and place, may, simple forms of passive, *that/who/which* (relative pronouns), *would you like/shall we?*

PRE-INTERMEDIATE • B1 (Threshold)

Structures of preceding levels + *defining/non-defining relative clauses*, *don't have to/needn't*, *each other/one another*, *had to*, *might/could*, *should*, *ought to*, question tags, common phrasal verbs, past perfect, more complex forms of passive, present perfect simple and progressive, *for/since*, reported questions/imperatives, conditional sentences (type 2), reflexive pronouns, *will (offer)*, *used to*.

INTERMEDIATE • B2 (Vantage)

Structures of preceding levels + *had better*, *have+object+past participle*, less common phrasal verbs, indirect questions, *have/make/let/get+object+infinitive*, past perfect simple and progressive, conditional sentences (type 3), *be used to*, verbs of perception, *wish*, *would rather*, *be able/likely to*, *so/neither*, gerund and infinitive.

POST-INTERMEDIATE • C1 (Effectiveness)

Structures of preceding levels + idioms, other uncommon phrasal verbs, future progressive, future perfect, past conditional, inversion.



R A I N B O W S

Robert Louis Stevenson

Treasure Island

Adaptation, dossiers and activities
by Paola Della Valle



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Treasure Island

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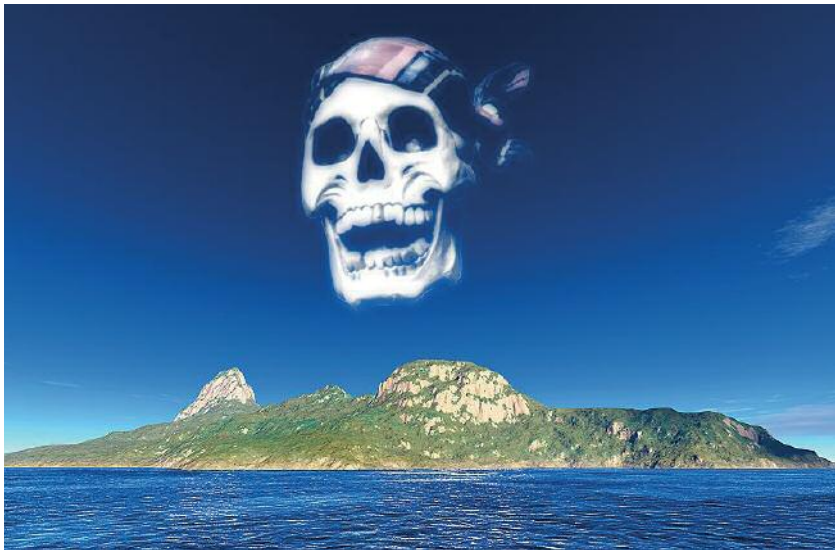
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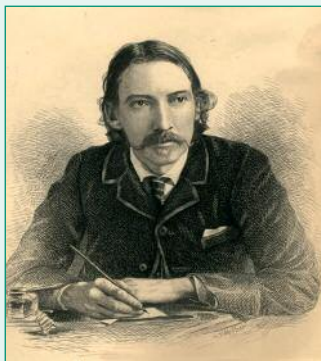
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The author

Robert Louis Stevenson

Robert Louis Stevenson (born Nov. 13, 1850, Edinburgh – died Dec. 3, 1894, Samoa) was born into a prosperous and conservative Calvinist family and destined to follow his father's career as an engineer. He soon became impatient with his parents' religion and respectability. He adopted a bohemian life style, grew his hair long and took up eccentric manners. At the age of 21 he abandoned engineering to study law. Meanwhile he contributed to¹ several magazines, such as 'Vanity Fair' and the 'Academy'. He graduated in 1875, but he never practised as a lawyer. He decided instead to become a full-time writer.



He spent most of his life travelling in search of a climate which was suitable for his poor health. He suffered from respiratory disorders, possibly² tuberculosis. He went to the south of England, Germany, France, Switzerland and Italy. While he was travelling in France in 1876, he fell in love with Fanny Osbourne, an American divorcée with two children. They got married four years later.

Most of Stevenson's early works are reports of his numerous journeys. *An Inland Voyage* (1878) describes a canoe trip in Belgium and France, and *Travels with a Donkey* (1879) relates a tour across the French Cévennes with his donkey, Modestine. In 1882 he published a collection of short stories, *New Arabian Nights*, which were pervaded by a sense of suspense and supernatural worthy of Edgar Allan Poe. But his first notable success was *Treasure Island*, an adventure novel, written in 1881 for Fanny's son Lloyd and published in 1883.

Stevenson's fame increased with the publication of *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* (1886), which dealt with³ the theme of man torn⁴ between good and evil forces. This was followed by some historical novels set in Scotland, including *Kidnapped* (1886) and *The Master of Ballantrae* (1889).

Since his health was deteriorating, in 1887 he decided to move to America with his family. When Stevenson's American publisher

1. *contributed to*: wrote articles for.

2. *possibly*: maybe.

3. *dealt* (deal-dealt-dealt) *with*: was

about.

4. *torn* (tear-torn-torn): unable to decide which one to follow.

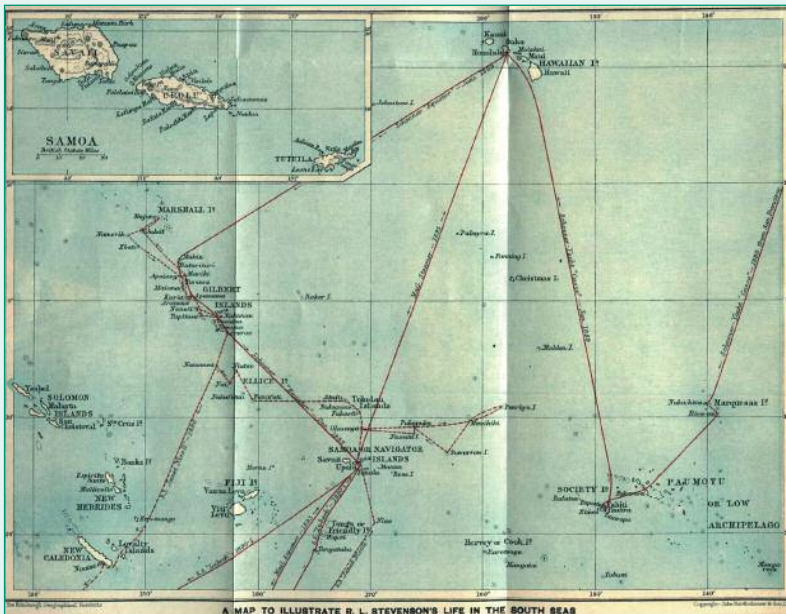


On the verandah of Vailima, Samoa, 1892.

commissioned him a volume on the South Seas, they all left for a cruise to Polynesia and Hawaii. They finally settled down⁵ in Samoa, where the climate was beneficial for his health and where he gained⁶ a reputation as ‘Tusitala’ or ‘The Story-teller’. He also became involved in Samoan politics, supporting the natives’ cause. *In the South Seas* (1890) is the account⁷ of his impressions about this land and his people. He died there suddenly in 1894 from a cerebral haemorrhage.

5. *settled down*: started living in a place.

6. *gained*: got, obtained.
7. *account*: description.





BEFORE READING

1 Answer the questions, making predictions about the story.

- a. From the title of the book, what type of story do you expect?
- | | |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A love story | <input type="checkbox"/> A ghost story |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A horror story | <input type="checkbox"/> An adventure story |
- b. Look at the picture in Chapter 1. When does the story take place?
- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> In the 20 th century | <input type="checkbox"/> In the Renaissance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In the 18 th century | <input type="checkbox"/> In the Middle Ages |
- c. Look at the picture again. Where does the story start?
- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> On the English coast | <input type="checkbox"/> In London |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In the Caribbean Sea | <input type="checkbox"/> In the English countryside |
- d. Read the title of Chapter 1. What is the *Admiral Benbow*?
- | | |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A shop | <input type="checkbox"/> A private home |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A small hotel | <input type="checkbox"/> A ship |

2 What do you know about pirates? Here is some vocabulary which can help you to express your ideas.

*criminals – black flag with a white skull – to attack – colonies
gold and silver – ships – to sail – to steal – to murder – galleons*

.....

.....

.....

3 Match the words in column 1 with a synonym in column 2.

- | 1 | | 2 |
|----------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| a. buccaneer | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. piece of wood |
| b. inn | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. pirate |
| c. telescope | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. to hit lightly |
| d. cutlass | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. small hotel |
| e. chest | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. spy-glass |
| f. to tap | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. customer |
| g. to look out | <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. wooden container |
| h. sailor | <input type="checkbox"/> | 8. to be careful |
| i. guest | <input type="checkbox"/> | 9. seaman |
| j. stick | <input type="checkbox"/> | 10. sword |

The Old Seaman at the Admiral Benbow

Chapter 1

The story is narrated by Jim Hawkins, the son of the Admiral Benbow's innkeeper¹.



Squire Trelawney, Dr Livesey and the rest of the gentlemen have asked me to write down all the particulars about Treasure Island, from the beginning to the end. So I take up my pen in the year of grace 17—, and go back to the time when my father had an inn by the sea called *Admiral Benbow* and the old seaman with a cut on his right cheek arrived.

I remember when he came plodding² to the inn door with a big sea-chest: a tall, strong, heavy man in a dirty blue coat. He looked suspiciously around the bay, banged on the door and, when my father appeared, ordered a glass of rum roughly³.

He asked if there were many guests at the inn. When he heard that unfortunately there were very few, he replied: “Good! I am going to stay here for a while. You can call me ‘Captain’. Here are four gold coins. Tell me when you need some more”.

Every day he used to walk around the bay or on the cliffs, looking at the sea with his telescope. In the evening he sat in a corner of the parlour⁴, next to the fire, drinking rum. He never spoke to anybody. But when he drank too much, he became loud⁵ and violent. He slapped⁶ his hand on the table for silence and forced people to listen to some frightening stories or sing an old sea-song with him:

*“Fifteen men on the dead man’s chest
Yo-ho-ho, and a bottle of rum!”*

1. *innkeeper*: the manager of an inn.

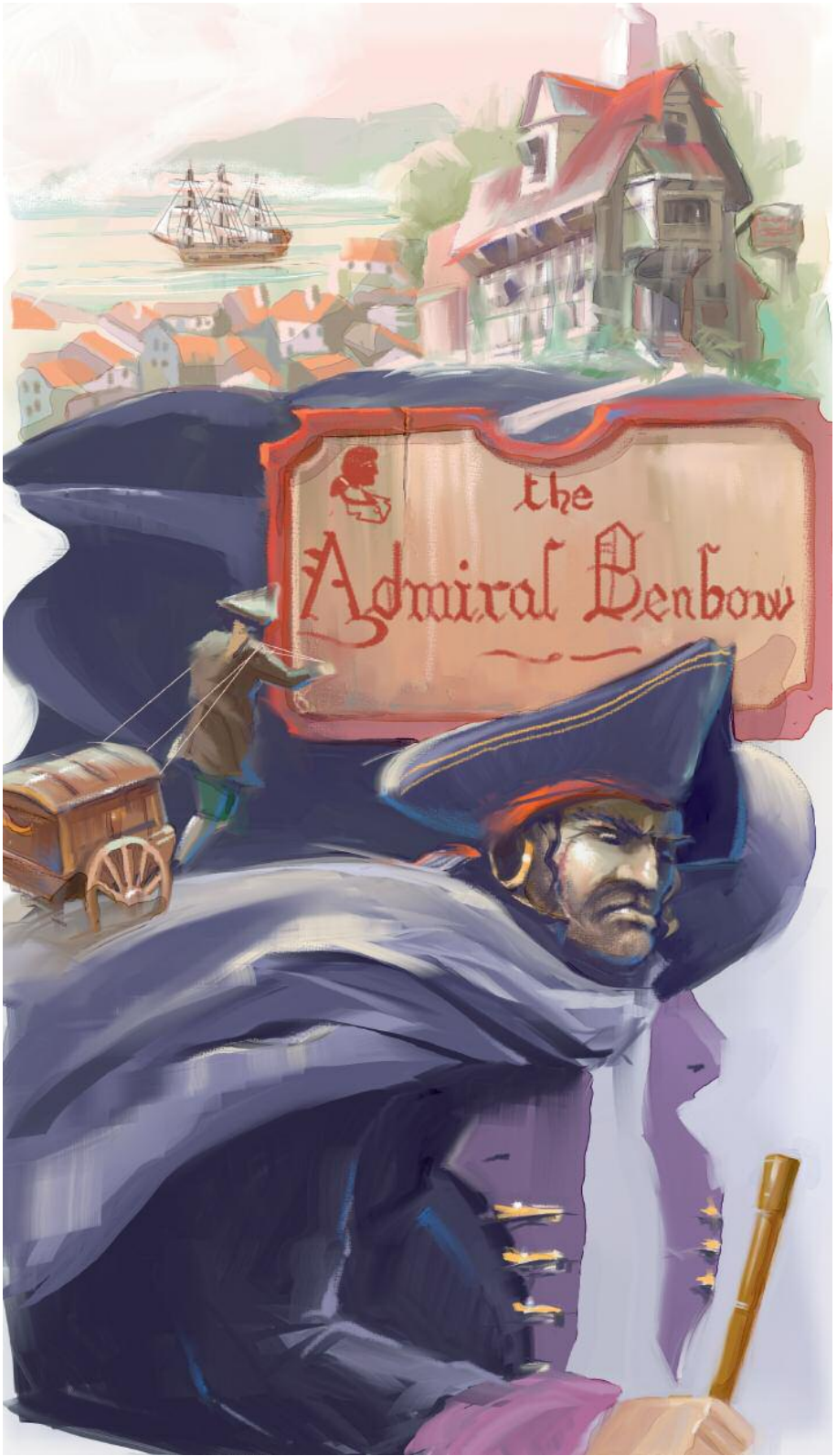
2. *plodding*: walking slowly, with difficulty.

3. *roughly*: rudely.

4. *parlour*: sitting-room.

5. *loud*: noisy.

6. *slapped*: put down with force.





Once he took me aside⁷ and said: “Boy, look out for a sailor with one leg. If you see him, you must tell me at once. I’ll give you a silver coin every month.” I needn’t tell you how that one-legged man haunted⁸ my dreams!

The Captain continued to live with us week after week, month after month, but never paid his bills. My poor father didn’t dare⁹ to ask him for the money and was very worried: “We’ll lose all our customers, if he treats them like that!” He wasn’t in good health and the terror in which he lived surely worsened¹⁰ his physical condition.

One afternoon Dr Livesey came to visit father. Then he sat in the parlour to smoke his pipe and talk to a friend. Unlike¹¹ the other guests, he didn’t seem to pay much attention to the drunken Captain, even when he shouted “Silence!” at him. The seaman was furious! He took out his knife but the doctor’s reaction was steady¹².

“First, I think you should drink less rum or you will die soon” he said calmly. “Second, if you don’t put down that knife immediately, you’ll be thrown in prison! I am a magistrate as well as¹³ a doctor and I’ll keep an eye on you from now on¹⁴!”.



That night and for many nights the Captain didn’t cause any more trouble. It was not long after this that we had a visit. It was a cold January morning. Mother was upstairs looking after¹⁵ father, who was confined to bed. The Captain had already gone to the beach. I was laying his breakfast table as usual, when a stranger¹⁶ came in: a pale man without two fingers on his left hand.

“Is this my friend Billy’s table?” he asked. I answered that it was the Captain’s.

“I see!” he sneered¹⁷. “I’ll wait for the Captain then. We’ll give him a little surprise.”

7. *aside*: to one side.

8. *haunted*: appeared regularly frightening.

9. *didn't dare*: wasn't courageous enough.

10. *worsened*: made it worse.

11. *unlike*: differently from.

12. *steady*: firm and controlled.

13. *as well as*: beside, and.

14. *from now on*: from now and in the future.

15. *looking after*: taking care.

16. *stranger*: someone you don't know.

17. *sneered*: smiled in an unkind way.