

Treasure Island

Retold by Pauline Francis

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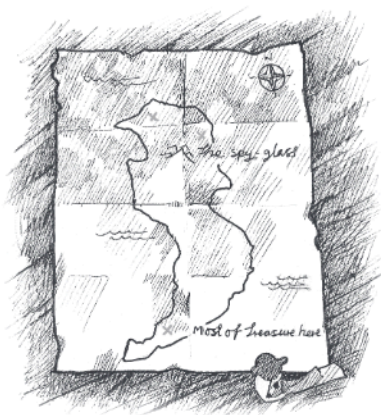
Introduction

Robert Louis Stevenson was born in 1850, in Edinburgh, Scotland. After studying law at Edinburgh University, he decided to earn his living as a writer. Unfortunately, he became ill with tuberculosis, a disease of the lungs, and he had to travel to warmer countries to improve his health. However, he did earn some money by writing about his travels.

In 1880, Robert Louis Stevenson married Fanny Osborne and, a year later, he wrote *Treasure Island* for her young son. In 1886, *Kidnapped* was published. Both these books were very popular, but they did not make much money. So, in 1886, Stevenson wrote *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*. This story made Stevenson well known, and made him more money, because it was bought by adults.

Treasure Island is an exciting adventure story in which a young boy, Jim Hawkins, tells us of his hunt for buried treasure and his fight with pirates led by the one-legged Long John Silver. It is still one of the best-loved stories for children.

In 1887, Stevenson's father died. With the money that he left, Robert Louis Stevenson and his family were able to live in Samoa, an island in the Pacific Ocean. The warm climate improved his health and he wrote there until his death in 1894.



My name is Jim Hawkins. My friends have asked me to write down my adventures, from beginning to end.

I shall tell you the story of Treasure Island; but I shall not tell you where the island is, because there is still some treasure there.

Let me go back to the very beginning when I was living in Black Hill Cove, at the Admiral Benbow Inn. My father was the landlord there. One day, a sun-burned old seaman, with a scar across his cheek, knocked on our door. I remember him as if it were yesterday...