

TREASURE ISLAND

Citizenship

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‘Treasure Island’ is a novel by Robert Louis Stevenson. Published in 1883, it has had a huge **impact** on how pirates are represented in popular culture. The typical pirate has a wooden leg, wears an eye patch and probably has a parrot on his shoulder. In this story, a crew sets sail from England in search of treasure. When some of the crew **betray** the captain and decide to try to find the treasure for themselves, fighting **breaks out** and the main character, a boy called Jim Hawkins, is **taken hostage** by a **vicious** pirate called Long John Silver. You’ll have to read the book to find out what happens... Some people are such huge pirate fans that they created a ‘Talk Like A Pirate Day’ on September 19th. Pirate vocabulary that you could practise using include saying ‘Arrr!’ to mean ‘Yes’, ‘Shiver me timbers!’ when you’re surprised, and ‘Ahoy me hearties!’ to say hello to your friends. Of course, there are many other representations of pirates in literature and film. You should know that these fictional characters are **stereotypes** and the fun way of looking at an issue that is serious and still exists today.



Match the words or phrases from the text with a definition:

impact

betray

breaks out

vicious

taken hostage

stereotypes

kept as prisoner

a fixed idea that people have about a type of person that may be wrong

the effect someone/something has

violent and dangerous

to behave in a bad way towards someone who trusts you

starts or begins suddenly

Read the text again and answer the questions:

- 1 Who wrote 'Treasure Island'?
- 2 What does a traditional popular culture pirate look like?
- 3 Why does the crew start fighting?
- 4 What happens to Jim Hawkins?
- 5 If you were a pirate, what could you say if you agree with someone?
- 6 Are the images of pirates shown in many books and films true? Why/why not?



Discuss with a friend, teacher, or your class

Have you read any books or seen any films about pirates?

If you had to bury treasure for someone to find in the future, what would you put in the treasure chest?

Is it right that people dress up and talk like pirates for fun when piracy is still a very serious problem in the world today?



Challenge!

Create your own pirate character and write a short story about their adventure.

