

STEPPING STONES™

a chapter book

CLASSIC

TREASURE ISLAND



by
**Robert
Louis
Stevenson**
adapted by
Lisa Norby

1. The Old Sea Dog

Squire Trelawney and Dr. Livesey have asked me, Jim Hawkins, to write down the story of Treasure Island. I will tell you everything, just as it happened. The only thing I won't tell you is where the island is. That's because there is still treasure buried there.

To begin my story, I must go back to the time when my father kept the Admiral Benbow Inn. I still remember the day when a strange new guest turned up at our door. He was an old

sailor—tall and strong, dressed in a dirty blue coat. His hands were rough. His fingernails were black and broken. A long white scar ran across one cheek. Just looking at it made my knees tremble.

I watched the old sailor as he came up the road to our door. Our inn stood on a high cliff. At the foot of the cliff was the ocean. The stranger stared out at the waves for a long time. Then he started singing to himself. It was the first time I heard the old sea song that I was to hear so often:

"Fifteen men on the dead man's chest,
Yo-ho-ho, and a bottle of rum!"

The old sailor's face was always dirty. His clothes were in rags. But he acted like a man who was used to giv-

ing orders. We called him the captain.

The best chair in our parlor was right next to the fireplace. The captain claimed that chair right away. Night after night he would sit there staring into the fire. But when other sailors came to the inn he stayed out of sight. He would hide behind the heavy curtain at the parlor door and spy on our new guests.

One day the captain told me that he wanted me to keep an eye out for an old seafaring man with one leg. I had to promise to warn him if the one-legged man showed up. In return, he would give me a silver coin at the beginning of every month.

The thought of that one-legged stranger gave me nightmares. I used

CLASSIC

STEPPING STONES™

a chapter book



Young Jim Hawkins spends his days working at his father's inn. But everything changes when a strange sailor comes to stay as a guest. The sailor dies, leaving behind a map in his sea chest. Jim sets out on an adventure to find a treasure, but a thieving pirate gang is after him! Find out who gets the gold when they get to Treasure Island!

