

Treasure Island

A play based on the novel by Robert Louis Stevenson
Adapted by Ellen McHenry and Tania Thompson for production by SFEA

Cast:

Mother

Child

Jim Hawkins

Mrs. Hawkins

Billy Bones

A gardener

Black Dog

Pew, a blind beggar

Squire Trelawney

Dr. Livesey

Captain Smollet

John Hunter, a servant of Trelawney's

Tom Redruth, a servant of Trelawney's

Richard Joyce, one of Trelawney's friends

Abraham Gray, ship's carpenter, a faithful sailor

Benn Gunn

Long John Silver, ship's cook and leader of the pirates

Pirates:

Israel Hands

George Merry

Tom Morgan

Job Anderson (honest hand turned pirate)

Dick

Joe

Jacques

Little Pat

The Terrible Ten:

Azize (Turkish) M or F

Babette (French) F

Cheche (African) M or F

Dante (Italian) M

Enrico (Spanish) M

Fritz (German) M

Goldie (English) M or F

Hoshi (Japanese) M or F

Ingrid (Scandinavian) F

Jonah (Hebrew) M

ACT 1

Setting of stage: The main part of the stage shows the interior of the Admiral Benbow Inn. To one side of the main set is a completely different one: a simple child's bedroom scene with a bed, bookshelf, chair, lamp, etc.

SCENE 1

Spotlight is on the bedroom scene, mother and children enter, children get into bed, mother tucks them in.

CHILD: Mother, can we have a bedtime story?

MOTHER: What kind of story would you like—a scary one or a funny one?

CHILD: A scary one! But with the light on...

MOTHER: Hmm... let's see what's on the shelf. *(scans bookshelf)* Here's just what we're looking for! An exciting pirate story written by a man named Robert Louis Stevenson. Mr. Stevenson lived in Scotland over 100 years ago. Now Scotland is a very rainy, dreary place a lot of the time. On days when it rained and rained, Mr. Stevenson would draw pictures to amuse his son. One rainy day his son said to him, "What I want today is an exciting story!" So Mr. Stevenson began to draw a map of a mysterious island where there was buried treasure. As the map began to take shape, so did an amazing adventure story that he eventually wrote into a book called Treasure Island. *(mother pauses, opens the book, and gets ready to read)*

CHILD: Who is the hero of the book? A pirate?

MOTHER: The main character is a boy named Jim. He was only a little older than you.

CHILD: And his mother let him sail with pirates?! Where were the social workers?!

MOTHER: It's just a story, dear. Let's begin reading before it gets too late. The story is told by Jim himself. Here's how he begins...

"Chapter 1, The Old Buccaneer.

I remember him as if it were yesterday, as he came plodding to the door of the Admiral Benbow Inn. He was a tall, strong, heavy man, wearing a dirty blue coat. His hands were ragged and scarred, with black broken, dirty nails, and he had a big white scar on one cheek. I remember him singing that old sea-song:

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

At this point, the light dims on the bedroom set and goes up on the stage. Jim and his mother are inside the inn cleaning up dishes and wiping tables. Billy Bones comes from offstage and approaches the door of the inn. He is dragging a huge sea chest.

BILLY BONES: *(Singing)* Fifteen men on a dead man's chest. Yo-ho-ho and a bottle of rum. *(he enters, sits at the table)* Heh, there! Give an old sailor a glass o' rum! *(Mrs. Hawkins brings him his drink while Jim eyes him warily.)*

MRS. HAWKINS: Welcome to the Admiral Benbow, sir.

BILLY BONES: Do ye get much business at this here grog shop?

MRS. HAWKINS: Unfortunately, no we don't. Maybe we're too far inland. It's a pity since our livelihood depends on it...

BILLY BONES: (*loudly*) Well, then, this is the berth for me! I think I'll stay here a bit. I'm a plain man. I'll just want eggs and bacon and rum for breakfast every morning.

MRS. HAWKINS: And who might you be sir?

BILLY BONES: You can just call me "Cap'n."

MRS. HAWKINS: (*amused*) Aye, aye, sir. (*She then goes about her business, which eventually takes her offstage*)

BILLY BONES: Laddy!

Jim looks around, hoping he's not being spoken to, then realizes that he is.

BILLY BONES: Laddy!

JIM: Me?

BILLY BONES: Come 'ere lady! I've got a job for ye! (*Jim approaches slowly*) I say, lady, how would you like to make a nice salary—a silver four-penny every month? All you have to do is (*gets closer and says into Jim's ear*) is keep your eyes open for a sea-faring man with one leg. If you sees that man with one leg, you come and tell me straight away, eh?

JIM: I guess so, Mr. Cap'n, sir.

BILLY BONES: That's a good lady! Now you can help me get my affairs stowed away, eh?

Billy Bones and Jim drag the sea chest off stage, supposedly to Billy's room upstairs. Light goes off main scene and onto the bedroom set.

SCENE 2

CHILD: Can I have bacon and eggs and rum for breakfast tomorrow morning?

MOTHER: Of course, not! (*Continues reading.*) "The captain stayed with us all that fall and into the winter. He would entertain our other guests with his stories about pirates he had met at sea. He would tell stories of storms at sea, places on the Spanish Main, and how men were made to walk the plank. Judging by his tales, he must have sailed with some of the wickedest men that ever sailed the seas, and the language that he used shocked us plain country folk. He also neglected to pay his bill and if my mother would dare bring up the subject he would snort through his nose and stare us out of the room.

CHILD: Like this... (*tries to imitate snorting and staring*)

MOTHER: Yes, like that. The only person that wasn't terrified of the captain was our faithful country doctor, Dr. Livesey.

Lights go out on bedroom, onto the main stage.

Some guests are in the inn, Mrs. Hawkins and Jim are busy, and Dr. Livesey comes in. Billy Bones is still off stage.

MRS. HAWKINS: Dr. Livesey, how good of you to stop in to see us. We are delighted to see you. What brings you our way?

DR. LIVESEY: I had to visit a patient in the next village and I was passing right by the Admiral Benbow on the way home. (*Dr. Livesey has a very warm and friendly demeanor and Jim and his mother like him very much.*)

MRS. HAWKINS: You are welcome any time, doctor. It is always a pleasure to see you. Will you be taking dinner?

DR. LIVESEY: No, I can't stay long. I just dropped in to see how you and Jim were getting on.

GARDENER: Dr. Livesey! It's been a while!

DR. LIVESEY: Excuse me a minute. (*turns to gardener*). Hello Harold, so nice to see you again. How is your garden this summer?

GARDENER: A little wet.

(The two sit down to talk.)

DR. LIVESEY: It has been such a wet summer.

GARDENER: Yes, it has. Good for the grass, you know.

At this point, Billy Bones appears in the doorway. Very slowly entering the room.

BILLY BONES: *(staring everyone down)* You'll all be joinin' me in a song this evening, won't ye?

Everyone sinks down in their seats, afraid of Billy Bones, and they after a fearful look at each other, they nod yes.

BILLY BONES: *(starts singing)* Fifteen men on a dead man's chest, Yo-ho-ho and a bottle of rum.

Customers start singing along with the chorus "yo-ho-ho". Dr. Livesey stay silent, ignoring everyone. While they are singing Dr. Livesey is talking outloud to someone.

BILLY BONES AND CUSTOMERS: Drink and the devil had done for the rest, Yo-ho-ho and a bottle of rum. The wind's in the sails and I'm watching from the nest- Yo-ho-ho and a bottle of rum. *(at this point he stops, Dr. Livesey keeps right on talking, ignoring him Billy turns his attention to the doctor..)*

DR. LIVESEY: *(all during the song, talking to the gardener, who is terrified of Billy Bones and doesn't say much, just nods)* Do you do raised bed planting? I creates good soil drainage. Root crops can be so easily damaged by an excessive amount of moisture. Rots them right in the ground, so it does. It's always a shame to see a good planting of potatoes and carrots go to waste. Last year my wife's carrots grew extraordinarily well because we tilled sand in with the soil to create drainage. They were... *(this dialog can be shortened or lengthened to be the same length as the song)*

BILLY BONES: *(Slaps his hand loudly on the table.)* Silence there, between the decks! *(Everyone but Dr. Livesey cringes.)*

DR. LIVESEY: *(calmly)* Are you addressing me, sir?

Billy Bones comes over to stare him down.

DR. LIVESEY: I have only one thing to say to you, sir. If you keep on drinking rum, the world will soon be rid of a dirty scoundrel.

BILLY BONES: Why you! *(Pulls out knife and threatens doctor. Everyone in the room gasps with horror. The doctor does not budge.)*

DR. LIVESEY: If you do not put that knife away this instant, I promise on my honor that you shall hang tried and hung the next time the judge is in town.

(The two stare at each other for at least five seconds. Billy Bones knuckles under and looks down and begins to put away his knife.)

DR. LIVESEY: And now sir, since I know that there is such a fellow in my district I will be watching you day and knight. I am not only a doctor, I am a magistrate. If I hear one complaint about you, I will bring the law down on your head. Savvy? *(Billy goes to sit down.)* And one more thing—I say this for your own good—if you don't lay off the rum, it'll be the death of you.

DR. LIVESEY: Good day, Mrs. Hawkins, Jim. *(He exits.)*

(Characters in the inn go back to normal and begin eating, talking, Mrs. Hawkins serves dinner, the lights go down on the stage and go up on the bedroom scene.)

SCENE 3

MOTHER: "We didn't have much trouble with the captain after that. But he still seemed to be on the watch for something or someone. Several times every day he would go out

with his telescope to survey the landscape. And he still took me aside often and told me to watch out for “the seafaring man with one leg.”

One January morning, very early, the captain set off for a walk with his brass telescope under his arm. While he was gone we had a strange visitor come to the inn...”

Spotlight goes off the bedroom set and the lights go up on the main stage.

MRS. HAWKINS: Jim, dear, please set out breakfast for the captain while I go into town to get some eggs and milk.

JIM: Yes, mother.

Mrs. Hawkins exits. Jim begins setting out breakfast. Black Dog appears at door of inn.

BLACK DOG: Hey, sonny! Is this where I may find my mate, Bill?

JIM: There’s no one here by that name, sir. The only boarder we have right now is the captain.

BLACK DOG: Well, my mate Bill would be called the captain likely as not. He has a cut on his right cheek, has my mate, Bill. Have you seen him?

JIM: That sounds like our captain. But he’s not here right now. He went for a walk. He should be back any minute, for breakfast.

BLACK DOG: Ah, we’ll give my mate Bill a little surprise, sonny. *(He grabs Jim and pulls him behind the door, and gets his sword prepared for action.)*

Billy Bones returns from his walk and enters the inn, closes the door, revealing Jim and Black Dog to the audience... He marches straight to his breakfast, not seeing the two behind the door, sits down and begins to eat.

BLACK DOG: My matey, Bill!

Billy Bones jumps in surprise, almost has a heart attack.

BILLY BONES: Black Dog!

BLACK DOG: Yes, it’s me, Black Dog, come to see my ol’ shipmate, Billy.

BILLY BONES: What do you want?

BLACK DOG: Just a word with ye. *(Looks at Jim)* In pirate—I mean private...

Billy Bones nods his head at Jim and Jim retreats to the far side of the stage. The two begin to have a discussion in low whispers. The mysterious discussion begins to heat up and results in the two standing up defiantly.

BILLY BONES: No, no, no! and an end of it! If it comes to hanging, hang all, I say! *(Draws cutlass and threatens Black Dog who heads for the door.)* Out with you, you scoundrel!

BLACK DOG: *(as he runs out the door and away.)* You haven’t seen the last of us, matey Bill!

After Black Dog exits, Mrs. Hawkins comes back in.

MRS. HAWKINS: Well, boys, I’m back! How’d you manage without me? Did any guests come while I was out?

Billy Bones and Jim look at each other, then both slowly and deliberately shake their heads “no,” with a wide-eyed expression on their face, (or make some shrug-off gesture) designed to get a chuckle out of the audience.

Spotlight goes off the Inn (figures “freeze”) and onto the bedroom scene.

SCENE 4

CHILD: Was Black Dog a pirate?

MOTHER: Well, with a name like "Black Dog," he probably wasn't the butcher or the baker. Let's keep reading:

"A few days later an old blind beggar came to the Admiral Benbow Inn. He was hunched and wore a tattered old sea-cloak with a hood, and a shade over his eyes. I never saw in my life a more dreadful looking figure."

Spotlight goes back onto the Inn. Pew comes on stage.

PEW: *(gropes his way to the Inn door, sticks his hand in, where Jim is standing.)* Will someone please tell a blind beggar where he is?

JIM: You're at the Admiral Benbow Inn, sir.

PEW: Will you give me a hand, young friend, and lead me inside?

Jim approaches Pew. As soon as he touches him, Pew grabs him and holds him hostage-style.

PEW: Now take me to the captain, laddy!

Jim walks him into the Inn, to where the captain is sitting.

PEW: Boy, take his hand by the wrist and bring it close to mine. *(Jim does so. Pew puts something in Billy's hand.)* There! Now it's done! *(Now he exits by himself.)*

JIM: What is it captain?

The captain trembles as he opens the paper, to reveal the black spot.

BILLY BONES: The black spot! The pirate's death sentence! They're coming for me, Jim! In six hours. I only have six hours!

JIM: Who's coming?

BILLY BONES: My old shipmates, that's who. I'll tell ye, Jim, they was my mates when I sailed with ol' Captain Flint.

JIM: Who was Captain Flint?

BILLY BONES: He was the meanest pirate ever to sail the seas. And I was one of the mates on board, Him, when Flint sailed to a deserted island to bury his treasure. And what treasure it was! Thousand of gold pieces- more than you could count! All the mates are after the treasure, don't you see? And there's only one person that has the map of where to find it. Well, enough talk, Jim, you're got to help me get out of here!

(Billy Bones is in a panic now, and starts hauling the chest out from its hiding place. He strains and tugs and exerts himself, and suddenly grabs his chest and falls to the floor.)

JIM: Captain! Are you all aright?! Captain!

As Jim is kneeling to examine Billy Bones, Mrs. Hawkins enters.

MRS. HAWKINS: I'm back boys! Did anyone come while I was out?

JIM: Well, yes and no. Someone came and someone went. *(points to Billy as he says "went")*

MRS. HAWKINS: Oh no! Well, Doctor Livesey predicted this. He said that if the captain didn't stop taking rum he would do himself in. I suppose now I can collect the money he owes me. Jim, where do you suppose he keeps the key to his chest?

JIM: Well, if I were a pirate, I'd keep my key around my neck.

MRS. HAWKINS: If you were a WHAT?

JIM: Private—If I were... private. If I were private, I'd keep my key around my neck. You know how private the captain was.

MRS. HAWKINS: Okay. Here goes. *(She winces and makes a show of displeasure as she reaches inside Billy Bones' shirt and finds the key. You might want to have her take out some funny things before retrieving the key.)* Now for the money he owes me...

(She opens the chest and starts taking things out. Again, you may want to have funny objects taken out.) Here's some money down at the bottom. Oh dear, all the money is in foreign currency. Dubloons, pieces of eight, guineas-- I don't know how much these are worth. I'll just have to guess. But I won't take any more than he owes me.

JIM: Hurry mother, I think I hear someone coming. I didn't tell you, but—the Captain was expecting visitors right about now. We need to get out of here fast.

MRS. HAWKINS: But I'm not done counting.

JIM: Just take the coins you have, and I'll take... this *(picks up map)*, and let's get out of here before they find us!

Jim hurries his mother out through the other door.

At this point, Pew, Black Dog, Tom, Dick, and Joe come in.. Jim stands outside the inn for this next conversation, listening in to what the pirates are saying.

BLACK DOG: So! Our old matey is ready for Davey Jones' locker, I see! 'Tis a shame. Ha, ha ha!

PEW: Search him!

Tom, Dick, and Joe, search Billy Bones.

Tom: There ain't nothin' on him.

BLACK DOG: The chest! Search the chest! *(Tom, Dick, and Joe search the chest)*

JOE: It ain't here neither.

BLACK DOG: Someone has taken it!

PEW: It'll be the boy and his mother, I'll wager. Find them! Tear the place apart if you have to, but find them! Oh, if I only had my eyes!

Jim pulls out the map, looks at it, puts it back in again, and runs off stage.

Spotlight fades on Benbow Inn as pirates begin their search. They then start changing the set for the next act. Spotlight returns to bedroom set.

MOTHER: "I now knew that I carried on my person the valuable treasure map of Captain Flint."

CHILD: Can I have a glass of water?

MOTHER: A glass of water? At a dramatic moment like this? All right. But let me set up the next scene first.

"I had to get the map to someone I could trust. My mother and I agreed that Doctor Livesey was the best choice. She sent me on my way immediately to see the doctor. As it happened, a friend of his was dining with him that night, Squire Trelawney. I gave the doctor the map and he and the squire looked it over."

Mother exits for glass of water.

ACT II

SCENE 1

Squire Trelawney, Dr. Livesey, and Jim are on-stage, standing close together looking at the treasure map. The spotlight is on them while the scenery is being changed.

TRELAWNEY: Doctor, do you know what we have here?

DR. LIVESEY: Yes. The big red X with the words “bulk of treasure here” is more than a strong hint.

JIM: It's a treasure map, isn't it?

DR. LIVESEY: Yes, Jim.

JIM: Captain Flint's treasure. The treasure all the pirates are after!

DR. LIVESEY: Now, now, Jim. Let's not make assumptions.

TRELAWNEY: Treasure just waiting for us! Doctor Livesey, you will give up your medical practice at once. Tomorrow we start for Bristol. In three weeks time we'll have the best ship and the choicest crew in England. You'll be the ship's doctor, Livesey. And young Hawkins here shall be the cabin boy! I'll be the admiral. We'll take Redruth, Joyce and Hunter. They're good men. Just think—when we return from this journey, we'll have money to roll in!

JIM: Dr. Livesey, please, come along.

DR. LIVESEY: Well... I guess I'll agree to come along. However, there's only one thing I am afraid of. Or should I say-- someone.

TRELAWNEY: Name the dog, sir, and I'll deal with him!

DR. LIVESEY: You, Trelawney! You! You cannot hold your tongue. We are the only men who know about this map. We must not breathe a word of this to anyone. This kind of information will attract the wrong sort, if you know what I mean.

TRELAWNEY: Dr. Livesey, I'm surprised at your lack of faith in me. Not a word about this shall escape my lips.

DR. LIVESEY: Make sure you keep that promise! Good day, Squire, I must be off. Come, Jim, you shall stay by my side from now until we sail.

Dr. Livesey and Jim exit.

TRELAWNEY: Redruth! Joyce! Hunter! Come here!

Redruth, Joyce, and Hunter enter.

REDRUTH, JOYCE, HUNTER: Yes, sir.

TRELAWNEY: Men, you are to accompany me on a journey.

REDRUTH: Make I ask where, sir?

TRELAWNEY: No! I want you to go to town and see Mr. Blandy about a ship.

REDRUTH: Any specifications, sir?

TRELAWNEY: Fast enough to outrun any p... other ships.

JOYCE: And a crew, sir?

TRELAWNEY: Joyce, you get started on finding loyal and sea-worthy men. Check their backgrounds. I can't risk mutiny on this voyage.

JOYCE: Yes, sir.

TRELAWNEY: Hunter, start purchasing dry goods and barrels of water.

HUNTER: Rum, sir?

TRELAWNEY: My better judgment says it'll bring nothing but trouble, but...

HUNTER: Happy sailors make a pleasant voyage, sir.

TRELAWNEY: Purchase a few barrels, but not too many. We can't take up too much cargo space. We may need every last bit of cargo space on the return journey.

HUNTER: From where, sir?

TRELAWNEY: Nowhere. Now be about your business all of you. Report to me in the morning. Good day, sirs.

REDRUTH, JOYCE, and HUNTER: Good day, sir.

Trelawney exits one way, the other three exit the other way.

SCENE 2

Spotlight goes off stage and onto bedroom.

MOTHER: *(with glass of water)* Here. The next scene takes place in a tavern, so you can pretend you are one of the customers.

CHILD: Wow. You're letting me go into a tavern with pirates hanging around?

MOTHER: Sure, but just this once.

"The squire gave me a note addressed to someone named Long John Silver and told me to deliver it at a tavern called "The Spyglass."

Spotlight goes off bedroom and onto main stage.

Jim goes into the tavern and gradually makes his way over to the counter where Long John Silver is working. Several pirates are sitting in the tavern, including Tom. Dick, Joe, and Black Dog. Tom is talking to Black Dog.

LONG JOHN: Top o' the mornin' to ya, lad. What can I do fer ye?

JIM: Are you Mr. Silver, sir?

LONG JOHN: Such is my name, to be sure. And who may ye be?

JIM: Jim Hawkins, sir. This note is from Squire Trelawney. *(hands him the note)*

LONG JOHN: Squire Trelawney, eh? Then you must be our cabin boy. Pleased I am to meet you. *(shakes hands with Jim)*

Jim stands silently while Long John reads the note.

LONG JOHN: Sailing on the Hispaniola we are. She's a fine vessel. *(goes back to reading silently again)* *Jim looks around and notices Black Dog. Black Dog notices that Jim is looking at him and quickly gets up and runs out.*

JIM: Stop him! It's Black Dog!

LONG JOHN: He left without paying his bill. Fellows, run and catch him! *(Dick and Joe run to catch Black Dog. Then Long John speaks to Jim.)* Who did you say that was? Black what?

JIM: Dog, sir. Black Dog. Has Mr. Trelawney not told you about the pirates? He was one of the pirates!

LONG JOHN: So, a pirate in my tavern, eh? Hey, Morgan, ye were talking with that fellow. Come here!

Tom Morgan comes forward, sheepishly, not quite knowing what is going on.

LONG JOHN: Now, Tom Morgan, you never saw that man ever before, did ye? *(Long John cues Tom Morgan by shaking his head "no" while asking the question.)*

MORGAN: No sir, I did not.

LONG JOHN: You didn't know his name, did ye? *(again cues him)*

MORGAN: No, sir.

LONG JOHN: And what were ye two talking about?

MORGAN: Don't rightly know, sir.

LONG JOHN: Don't rightly know?! Do you call that a head on your shoulders, or a blessed dead weight? Don't rightly know! What were ye talking about?

MORGAN: Walking the plank, sir.

LONG JOHN: A mighty suitable topic for the likes of ye! If you get mixed up with the likes of him, I'll never let you put your foot inside my tavern ever again, and you may lay to that! Now, get back to your place, you clumsy seaman! *(Then confidently, to Jim)* He's quite an honest man, Tom Morgan is, only stupid.

Just then Dick and Joe come back in.

DICK: We couldn't catch him, sir.

LONG JOHN: Well, we'll have to report this to the squire, won't we? *(Long John comes out from behind the counter and Jim gives a start when he sees he has only one leg.*

Long John sees Jim staring at his leg.) I lost it in the service of my country, laddy, there's no shame in that. A canon ball hit me dead on, right in the middle of a sea battle. *(changing the subject suddenly)* Well, my lad, we'd best report this here little pirate incident to the squire. Let's be off!

Long John and Jim exit. Lights go off the main stage.

SCENE 3

Enter the Terrible Ten. They are lined up in alphabetical order, from left to right as the audience sees them. During this time, the stage set must be changed to be the deck of the Hispaniola.

AZIZE: *(to Babette)* Have you seen them loading the 'Hispaniola' down at the dock?

BABETTE: 'Tis a fine ship, she is, the Hispaniola. What port is she bound for?

AZIZE: None can tell. The orders are sealed. But I'm thinkin' it's someplace south, so I am. There weren't nothing against the cold brought on board.

BABETTE: *(to Cheche)* The Hispaniola's sailing south to an unknown port.

CHECHE: Port? She's not bound for a port. I "just happened" to be outside the mapmaker's shop when the squire was there yesterday, and I did hear him say the word "island." *(turns to Dante)* The 'Hispaniola' must be sailing for a mysterious island in the southern seas.

DANTE: Sailing there for what purpose? I saw them loading dozens of empty crates on board. *(to Enrico)* Why would anyone take empty crates as cargo?

ENRICO: Unless they were meanin' to bring back a load from that mysterious island.

(turns to Fritz) "A load of what?" we might wonder to ourselves...

FRITZ: ..yourselves can spend time wondering, but this self is more clever than the fresh-water selves present. This self will be swabbin' the decks of the Hispaniola, keepin' a weather-eye on those crates full of treasure.

GOLDIE: Treasure?! You're sailing for treasure?! *(to Hoshi)* This no-account scoundrel is sailing for treasure without us!

HOSHI: Not without me he's not! *(to Ingrid)* What about it, are you in for the treasure voyage?

INGRID: I'm in! Jonah, you in? We're sailing to Treasure Island.

JONAH: I'm in. When do we sail?

INGRID: *(to Hoshi)* When do we sail?

HOSHI: *(to Goldie)* When do we sail?

GOLDIE: *(to Fritz)* When do we sail?

FRITZ: You swabs will have to get properly hired on by the man who's rounding up the crew.

GOLDIE: And who be in charge of the crew?

FRITZ: Well, for this you can thank your lucky star. It be none other than our blessed Long John his self!

ENRICO: *(to Dante)* Flint's treasure! Long John swore he'd never take to the sea again, lessin' it be to find Flint's treasure!

DANTE: *(to Cheche)* Long John's after Flint's treasure!

CHECHE: *(to Babette)* Long John's found Flint's treasure!

BABETTE: *(to Azize)* Long John's sharin' Flint's treasure with us!

AZIZE: We're rich!!

All exit, maybe singing some pirate song.

SCENE 4

Spotlight goes onto bedroom set.

MOTHER: "Our ship was called the Hispaniola and our captain was to be a man called Smollet. He was a sharp-looking man who seemed angry with everything on board. Captain Smollett was very concerned about the voyage.

(The dialogue between the captain, doctor, and squire can also be set in front of the stage, just as the Terrible Ten were, if the set crew needs extra time to finish changing the set. If not, then the three of them can be standing on the deck.)

TRELAWNEY: Well, Captain, what have you to say?

SMOLLETT: Well, to be honest, I don't like this cruise, I don't like the crew, and I don't like the officers.

TRELAWNEY: Perhaps you also don't like the ship?

SMOLLETT: I can't say as to that, as we haven't tried her yet.

DR. LIVESEY: You say you don't like the cruise. What do you mean?

SMOLLETT: It seems like every sailor on board knows more about where we are going than I do! I was hired with sealed orders. Orders I haven't even opened yet. How can my entire crew know the contents of my sealed orders? How would you like that if YOU were the captain?

DR. LIVESEY: Yes, I can see your point.

SMOLLETT: Next, I learn from these "honest" seamen that we are going after treasure. I don't like treasure voyages. It's a bad sign when even the ship's parrot knows the longitude and latitude of this so-called "treasure island!" Someone's been talking!

TRELAWNEY: I've not told a soul. It must have been you, Livesey, or Hawkins.

DR. LIVESEY: It certainly was not me. I warned you about this, squire. But in the end, it won't make a difference who it was. Smollet, you said you don't like the crew. What don't you like about them?

SMOLLETT: Well, first of all, I think it is highly irregular that they were all hired by the ship's cook.

DR. LIVESEY: The cook hired them?

TRELAWNEY: He's not just a cook. You may not be able to tell by looking at him, but he's an educated man. He's a good man, Mr. Silver is. I won't have you insulting him.

SMOLLETT: I'll hold my peace about the crew under one condition: that you agree to move the gun powder and the weapons to a good safe place under our cabins. I don't think either one of you know what you are getting yourself into.

TRELAWNEY: All right, enough insults. I'll agree to moving the powder if you agree to mind your own business and give the crew the benefit of the doubt. They're all honest seamen as far as we know.

SMOLLETT: Well, if I were you, I'd make a garrison of the stern part of the ship, manned with your trustworthy friends and stocked with all the arms and ammunition on board.

DR. LIVESEY: In other words, you fear a mutiny?

SMOLLETT: It's my duty to see to the safety of the ship and all its personnel, sir. Excuse me, I have things to attend to.

Smollett exits.

DR. LIVESEY: Trelawney, I think that in spite of yourself, you managed to get two honest men on board—Captain Smollett, and Long John Silver.

TRELAWNEY: John Silver, yes, but as for that intolerable humbug Captain Smollett, I declare that his conduct is unmanly, unsailorly, and downright un-English!

DR. LIVESEY: Well, Trelawney, time will tell.

Livesey, Trelawney, and Jim exit. All hands come on deck.

SCENE 5

The Terrible Ten do a pirate song:

JONAH: Fifteen men on the dead man's chest

ALL: Yo-ho-ho and a bottle of rum

INGRID: Drink and the devil had done for the rest

ALL: Yo-ho-ho and a bottle of rum.

HOSHI: Now the wind's in the sails and the watch is in the nest

ALL: Yo-ho-ho and a bottle of rum.

GOLDIE: Nary half the crew lies sunken in the west.

ALL: Yo-ho-ho and a bottle of rum.

FRITZ: The cap'n always does what he thinks best.

ALL: Yo-ho-ho and a bottle of rum.

ENRICO: Never gives an ear to a last request.

ALL: Yo-ho-ho and a bottle of rum.

DANTE: Beware to the hands that sail on the quest.

ALL: Yo-ho-ho and a bottle of rum.

CHECHE: There's always more room on the dead man's chest.

ALL: Yo-ho-ho and a bottle of rum.

BABETTE: It's not fair.

CHECHE: What's not fair?

BABETTE: The song only has eight verses and there are ten of us.

CHECHE: Start over.

BABETTE: I don't want to.

CHECHE: Then make something up. Just make sure it ends with "est."

BABETTE: I'm feeling sea sick, where's the medicine chest?

ALL: Yo-ho-ho and a bottle of rum.

AZIZE: If you sail with pirates, wear a bulletproof vest.

ALL: Yo-ho-ho and a bottle of rum.

SMOLLETT: Silence on the decks!

The Terrible Ten recede to the back side of the deck, Long John and Jim come to the front.

SCENE 6

LONG JOHN: Top o' the mornin' to ya, Jim. Come 'ere and have a yarn with ol' John! Nobody's company is more welcome than yours. Sit down 'ere and say hello to Cap'n Flint.

JIM: Hello, Cap'n Flint. Hello. Hello.

CAP'N FLINT: Pieces of eight, pieces of eight, pieces of eight.

LONG JOHN: I call my parrot Cap'n Flint after the famous pirate. This here bird is almost a hundred years old. Many years ago, I've been told, she used to sail with pirates. She's seen more wickedness than the devil himself! She's been to Madagascar, Malabar, Surinam, and Portobello.

CAP'N FLINT: Pieces of eight, pieces of eight, pieces of eight.

JIM: What's she talking about?

LONG JOHN: She was there when they fished up half a million pieces of eight from a Spanish shipwreck. A piece of eight is an English gold coin. I daresay she heard so much talk about all those pieces of eight, it started her talking about them!

JIM: Can she say anything else?

LONG JOHN: She can swear like a sailor when she has a mind to. We'd best keep her mind on treasure, eh? *(Chuckles and winks at Jim, who trustingly smiles back.)*

Spotlight goes down on Hispaniola scene, and onto the bedroom set. During this narration, everyone disappears from the deck. The only actors left on stage are two watchmen, looking out to sea.

SCENE 7

MOTHER: "I am not going to relate the whole voyage in detail. It was fairly uneventful. The ship sailed well and the crew turned out to be capable seamen. There was always plenty to eat, and Long John was an excellent cook. The captain had ordered a barrel of apples to be kept on deck and encouraged the sailors to help themselves, to keep away the scurvy. The apple barrel turned out to be one of the most important items on board, for if it had not been for the apple barrel, the honest hands on board, including myself, would have never made it back home again. One evening, just after sundown, when all my work was done, it occurred to me that I should like an apple. I went up on deck. The watchmen were all looking out to sea, searching for any sign of the island..."

Lighting should indicate that it is night. Jim comes back on stage, goes over to the apple barrel, climbs inside to get an apple. While he is in the barrel, Long John comes on stage, along with Israel Hands, Dick, George, and Job Anderson.. Jim pokes his head out, sees the pirates, then puts his head back in quickly. They wander to mid deck as they begin talking, then Silver sits down with his back to the barrel. The other sit or crouch near Silver.

LONG JOHN: Yep, that's the blessed truth of it, that is. I was quartermaster when I sailed with ol' Flint. That was the voyage where I lost my leg to a cannon ball. Flint's crew was the roughest crew afloat. I don't throw in my lot with them. I'm no pirate, I'm a gentleman of fortune.

JOB: A gentleman?

LONG JOHN: When I gets back from a voyage, I put my money in the bank. There's some as would go into town and have their money all spent in a fortnight. Look at Pew-- he got the same lot as me, and there he was a beggin' in the streets! An where is ol'

Flint now? No, a gentleman's life's for me. I puts my money where it's safe and spend it wisely.

JOB: So if I join you, this could give me the cash I need to start a business.

LONG JOHN: Right you are, and so well put! You're as smart as paint you are! You've got a good head on your shoulders, that you do. Doesn't he Dick?

DICK: I knowed he'd be square, Silver.

JOB: I wasn't so sure about joining you, but now that I see that it could be a way to start an investment career-

ISRAEL: Enough talk! Here's what I want to know. How long are we just going to hang around doing nothing like we're on a blessed bumboat? When are we going to make our move, Silver? When?!

LONG JOHN: Israel, your head ain't much account, nor ever was. But at least you can hear, I reckon. Leastways, your ears are big enough. Now here's what I say: you'll keep sober and mind your manners till I give the word.

ISRAEL: But when, Silver, when?

LONG JOHN: I'll tell you when! The last moment I can manage, that's when. It was the likes of you that caused so much trouble on Flint's voyage. I was quartermaster under Flint. The whole crew was afeared of Flint, 'cept me.

GEORGE: Ah, he was the flower of the flock, was ol' Flint.

LONG JOHN: Flint was afeared of me, he was. An where is Flint now? He got hanged, so he did! This here ain't Flint's ship we're on now. It's ol' Long John's ship. An' I'll give the orders.

ISRAEL: Okay, okay. But when?!

LONG JOHN: The last moment we can manage. I say let the captain and the squire find the treasure for us and help us get it back on board. We can even let Smollet sail us half way back before we take over. That way we'll have no blessed miscalculations. With the likes of you at the helm, we'll end up in Zanzabar!

GEORGE: But when we do make our move, what'll we do with them?

DICK: I say maroon them. Just leave them there on the island with a gun and a barrel of water.

LONG JOHN: I can be a gentleman when I care to, but this is serious. When I'm back at home in England enjoyin' a life of riches, I don't want none of these here mates comin' home unexpected, spoilin' my fun and getting me hung.

ISRAEL: Me neither, Silver! I'm with you!

LONG JOHN: I give my vote.... Death to them all!

ISRAEL: Spoken like a real man!

LONG JOHN: Well, now that that's settled, let's have a round of apples to celebrate.

Dick, lad, fetch us a round of apples.

Dick rises and starts to reach into the apple barrel. Just as he does, Israel begins to speak, thus stopping him from reaching all the way in, thus, preventing Jim from being discovered.

ISRAEL: Stow the apples, Silver. Let's have a round of rum!

LONG JOHN: I'll allow a toast, but not with more than a swig. *(Produces a cask from under his coat. Holds it up as in a toast.)* Here's to ourselves, and hold your luff, plenty of prizes and plenty of duff! *(Drinks then passes it around.)*

LOOKOUT: Land ho!

Curtain closes.

Intermission could be taken here.

ACT III

SCENE 1

Stage is transformed into island setting. Lights are on bedroom set.

CHILD: Why do sailors always yell, "Land ho?"

MOTHER: Is this a question or a joke?

CHILD: A joke I just made up.

MOTHER: Okay. Why do sailors always yell, "Land ho?"

CHILD: Because if they whispered it no one would hear them!

MOTHER: Very good. I've got one for you. How many pirates does it take to screw in a light bulb?

CHILD: I don't know. How many?

MOTHER: Two. One to hold the map, and the other to dig his way down through the roof to the ceiling.

CHILD: I don't get it.

MOTHER: Just think about it for a while. Let's get back to the story. Remember, Jim had just found out that Long John Silver was the leader of the pirates and was planning to kill everyone who wasn't a pirate during the return voyage.

"I went and told the squire and the captain everything Long John Silver had said. Captain Smollett said there was no turning back now. We added up all the men we knew we could trust and came up with only seven. It was seven against nineteen. The captain decided not to fight those nineteen for the privilege of being in the landing party. He allowed John Silver to decide who was to go ashore in the small boats. He figured that Long John would take the worst of the pirates with him to the island.

It was at the point that I made my worst mistake. For some reason I can't explain, I decided that it would be fun to go ashore and explore. I hid in one of the boats just before it shoved off. Halfway to shore, one of the rowers discovered me and exclaimed, "Is that you, Jim?" Immediately I could hear the voice of Long John from the other boat, shouting my name and asking if it were really true that I had come along. I knew that I had made a terrible mistake and determined to give the whole lot of them the slip as soon as we reached the shore. The bow of our ship struck among the shore-side trees and I caught a branch, swung myself out, and plunged into the nearest thicket. I ran and ran and ran until I could run no more..."

The lights dim on the bedroom set and go up on the stage, which is now the island set.

Jim comes onto the stage, just slowing down from having run so far, and is still breathing hard. He sees something moving in the trees. Ben Gunn peeks out, then hides. Jim advances hesitantly. Ben Gunn and Jim play this little hide and seek game for a few minutes, then Ben finally comes out and approaches Jim. Ben falls on his knees to examine Jim.

JIM: Who are you?

BEN GUNN: Ben Gunn. I'm poor Ben Gunn, I am, and I haven't spoken with a Christian these three years.

JIM: Three years? Were you shipwrecked?

BEN GUNN: Shipwrecked, says he? Nay, mate. Marooned! Marooned three years ago and I've lived on goats and berries and oysters since then. My heart is sore for civilized diet. You mightn't happen to have a piece of cheese about you now? Many's the long night I've dreamed of cheese.

All this time, Ben Gunn has been feeling Jim's jacket, smoothing his hands, looking at his boots, and generally showing childish pleasure at being in the presence of a fellow human.

JIM: If I can ever get on board again, you shall have your cheese.

BEN GUNN: What do you call yourself, mate?

JIM: Jim.

BEN GUNN: Jim. Jim. Well, now, Jim, to look at me you'd think I'd never had a pious mother, would you?

JIM: Well, no, not really.

BEN GUNN: Ah, well, I had one, and remarkably pious, too. She made sure I was a good lad. I could rattle off my catechism just like that. And look what I've come to. My mother warned me not to make associations with certain folk. It were the Providence of God that got me here on this lonely island. I've learned my lesson and I'm back on piety now. You won't catch me drinking rum no more! And another thing, Jim (here he lowers his voice and looks around to make sure no one is listening), I'm rich! Rich! Rich! You should be thankful, Jim, that you was the first one who found me! Now, Jim, tell me true—is that Flint's ship that I saw anchored out in the harbor?

JIM: No, Flint is dead. But there are some of Flint's hands on board.

BEN GUNN: Flint's hands, says he. Is there a man with one leg?

JIM: Silver?

BEN GUNN: Ah, yes. Silver. That were his name!

JIM: He's our cook. And now I know that he's the leader of the pirates on board. I used to like him, but now I'm afraid of him.

BEN GUNN: You're a good lad, Jim. You trust ol' Ben Gunn. Now, Jim, lad, the squire aboard your ship—is he a real gentleman? Would he keep a promise to ol' Ben Gunn?

JIM: Oh, yes. The squire has his faults, but keeping promises isn't one of them. His word on something is as good as a signed contract.

BEN GUNN: Well, I cay say this much: I were in Flint's ship when he buried his treasure. He took fifteen strong seamen on shore to do his digging. They were a whole week on the island, then one day here come ol' Flint back in the little boat, all by himself.

JIM: What happened to the fifteen men?

BEN GUNN: What happened, says he?! All dead! Flint killed 'em! No one knows he, but he done it! That voyage were quite a long time ago now. Then I was on another ship, three years back. We sighted this island and I says, "That's where Flint buried his treasure!" Twelve days we looked for the treasure, but didn't find it. The captain says to me, he says, "As for you, Ben Gunn, here's a musket and a shovel and a pickaxe. You can stay here and find old Flint's treasure for yourself!" So they left me here. Three years to think about my mother and say my prayers. But I haven't wasted the time, though, no I hasn't. I've done some finding in my days. *(winks knowingly)*

JIM: Well, it really doesn't make a difference because I'll never be able to get back on board the Hispaniola.

BEN GUNN: Well, there's always my boat.

JIM: You have a boat?!

BEN GUNN: Made it with my own hands, I did. I keep it under the white rock down there. If worst comes to worst, we could use my boat after dark.

At this point, a cannon is heard.

JIM: I hear cannons! They've started to fight! I've got to go.

BEN GUNN: If you ever need old Ben Gunn, you'll know where to find him, won't you?

JIM: Yes, and thank you very much for your hospitality. Goodbye for now!

Jim exits quickly and Ben Gunn ambles off stage.

Lights go down on stage and up on bedroom set. Set crew should add the stockade to the set.

SCENE 2

CHILD: Did Ben Gunn really have a boat?

MOTHER: Yes, it turns out that he did. But a very small one, barely big enough to hold one person.

CHILD: What did he make it from?

MOTHER: Natural materials on the island.

CHILD: Didn't it leak?

MOTHER: Well, maybe a little, but there must have been greasy or waxy materials on the island he could use to make it waterproof enough to sail. But that comes into the story later. Right now Jim is about to run to something called a stockade. That's a small fort surrounded by a wall. Captain Flint must have made this stockade when he was on the island. While Jim was talking to Ben Gunn, the good guys from the ship came to the island and found the stockade.

CHILD: Okay, keep reading.

MOTHER: "I began to run towards the direction from which I had come. I'm not sure what I thought I was going to do, but I had a vague feeling that I should somehow help in the struggle against the mutineer pirates. I had hardly gone more than a few hundred yards in the woods when I came upon a stockade and saw the flag of England flying above it. I knew my friends from the ship must be inside. I entered the stockade and received a very warm welcome from the squire and Dr, Livesey. They were relieved to see me alive and well."

Switch lights off bedroom and on to stage. In the stockade are Smollet, Livesey, Trelawney, Redruth, Joyce, Hunter, and Gray. Redruth and Hunter are standing guard inside the stockade, by looking out through the slits in the walls.

DR. LIVESEY: And so, we decided our best bet was to come up here to the stockade.

Mr. Gray here almost didn't come with us.

GRAY: I'm sorry, sir.

DR. LIVESEY: All's well that ends well. Here you are with us.

GRAY: We still don't stand a chance, sir. The pirate mutineers have taken over the Hispaniola.

JIM: The pirates have taken the Hispaniola?

DR. LIVESEY: Yes, Jim. We let them have the ship. Half of the mutineers are on board the ship and the other half are camped here, on the beach. If I were them, I'd stay clear of that area down by the water's edge. It's horribly swampy down there, a sure bet for catching malaria. They'll be sick before you know it.

REDRUTH: They'll sooner be sick from rum than from the fever.

HUNTER: Those are our two allies: rum and the climate of this island. Half of them will be on their backs within a week.

JOYCE: Already they're down to only fifteen men, thanks to our sharp-shooting squire.

TRELAWNEY: All in a day's work.

REDRUTH: It still seems daft, though.

TRELAWNEY: How do you mean?

REDRUTH: They're pirates, and now they have a ship. They'll go right back to buccaneering!

JIM: But what about us? We'll be left on the island.

TRELAWNEY: Not to worry, Jim. I left instructions with my friend, Mr. Blandy, that if we did not return in three months time, he was to come looking for us. I gave him the latitude and longitude coordinates for this island.

REDRUTH: Cap't! Squire! The pirates are back! I can see Job Anderson at the head of them!

Everyone inside the stockade rushes to their posts. Job Anderson and several pirates appear at the back of the stage.

JOB: Fire, mates!

The pirates fire their pistols. Redruth, Trelawney, and Hunter fire back. Redruth is hit. The pirates withdraw.

JOYCE: Redruth's been hit!

DR. LIVESEY: Bring him over here, men. I'll see to him. Jim, come and give me a hand.

They help Redruth to lie down at one end of the stockade. Dr. Livesey tends to his wound. The rest go back to watching for pirates.

REDRUTH: Is it bad, Doctor?

DR. LIVESEY: I'm afraid so, Redruth. Just lie still and be a good patient for me. Jim, hand me that bottle in my medicine chest. *Jim hands it to him. Livesey talks to Jim while he works on Redruth.*

DR. LIVESEY: Jim, this Ben Gunn you told us about... what did you say he had a fancy for?

JIM: For cheese, sir.

DR. LIVESEY: For cheese, eh? Well, now, that's awfully lucky for him, because I just happen to be carrying with me a piece of Parmesian. I think I'll save it for ol' Ben Gunn.

JIM: Ben Gunn said that if you should want to speak with him, you could meet him at the top of the hill, where I first found him. He said such curious things! He even claimed to be rich! Poor, crazy Ben.

DR. LIVESEY: Likely as not, he's still sane, Jim. But three years alone on an island can certainly have serious effects-

A waving white flag has appeared at the back of the stage. It is Long John but we can't see him yet.

SMOLLETT: Men! I see a flag waving. It's a white flag of truce I do believe! Must be one of the pirates come to have a word with us.

Long John comes out from behind the scenery.

LONG JOHN: It's Cap'n Silver, sirs, asking permission to come on board! I'm on a mission of peace!

SMOLLETT: Captain Silver?!! Never heard of him! *(to himself)* Captain Silver, indeed!

LONG JOHN: Yes'r. The poor lads elected me cap'n after your desertion, sir. I ask your word of honor not to fire while we talk truce.

SMOLLETT: If there's any treachery, it'll be on your side, not mine. You have my word.

LONG JOHN: A word from you is enough, sir. I knows you're a gentleman.

Silver comes up to the stockade and stands in front of it so that those in the stockade can see him, although he is not actually in the stockade.

LONG JOHN: Ah, there's my boy, Jim! Top o' the mornin' to ya, lad! I see you're all together, again, like one big, happy family, so to speak. *(laughs)*

SMOLLETT: Speak your mind, Silver.

LONG JOHN: Now here's the thing. We want that treasure and we'll have it. But I'm willin' to strike a bargain with you. If you give us the map, we'll let you come back safely on board the Hispaniola and we'll promise that instead of doin' ya in, we'll set you off gently on some beautiful island.

SMOLLETT: I have my own terms, Silver. How about this: If you all come up, one by one, unarmed, I'll handcuff each one of you and take you back to England for a fair trial. You know very well that you mutineers don't know enough about navigating the ship to be able to get it back to England! You'd better bundle out of this place fast. I'll put a bullet in your back the next time we meet!

Silver reacts hotly, as one could imagine.

LONG JOHN: Good day, sirs! Within the hour we'll stove in your old blockhouse and them that dies will be the lucky ones!

Silver exits.

SMOLLETT: Quarters, everyone! Get to your posts! *(They all go back to their posts.)*

SCENE 3

Lights go dark on the stage and the spotlight comes on the bedroom set. The lights on the stage remain dark all through this scene. The dialogue occurs in the dark.

MOTHER: "It wasn't long before a cloud of pirates leaped from the woods and ran towards the stockade.

CHILD: I'm scared.

MOTHER: This is the scary part you asked for. Don't worry, it's classic literature. Let's see, where was I? *(pause)* "Rifle shots sounded everywhere."

Rifle shots go off on stage. The stage is still dark. We only hear what is going on.

TRELAWNEY: Stay at your posts, men. Steady!

MOTHER: "The pirates swarmed over the stockade fence."

JOB ANDERSON: Come on, fellows, there's no stopping us now!

All the pirates yell a war cry in response. There are more shots fired.

JOYCE: They're coming over the stockade fence! Look out, Hunter!

GRAY: Jim, are those pistols reloaded yet? I need another one, NOW!

JOYCE: I need another one, too!

MOTHER: "We fired again and again. Several pirates fell to the ground, several more were injured."

Sound of pirates going "Ahh!" as they are hit. More sounds of shots being fired. Then a pause.

JOYCE: The captain's been hit!

DR. LIVESEY: Get him inside!

TRELAWNEY: The pirates are retreating! They're retreating into the woods!

MOTHER: "Not only was Captain Smollet injured, but we also lost old Redruth. We were now down to only four able-bodied men, plus me, and I was only a boy."

Lights go off bedroom, and on to stage. During this time, Redruth has been covered with a sheet and Captain Smollet is lying wounded in the shoulder.

DR. LIVESEY: Captain, let me see the wound.

SMOLLETT: It's okay, Dr. The main thing I need right now is rest.

TRELAWNEY: Jim, are you okay?

JIM: Yes, squire.

TRELAWNEY: I hate to say it, but we'd better start getting things ready for the next attack.

Hunter, Joyce, and Gray start getting ready. Dr. Livesey takes out the map, looks at it, then puts it in his coat. The other men in the stockade watch as Livesey leaves the stockade.

HUNTER: Where, in the name of Davy Jones, is he going?

JIM: I think I know. I'll bet he's off to see Ben Gunn.

Lights go down on stage and on to bedroom set.

ACT IV

SCENE 1

CHILD: That was a scary part. Aren't there any more funny parts? Ben Gunn was funny.

MOTHER: I thought you wanted a scary story!

CHILD: Yes, but I've had enough now.

MOTHER: Well, we absolutely must have one more scary scene. One of the most famous parts of the story is where a pirate attacks Jim, and Jim has to kill him.

CHILD: Will he be a funny pirate?

MOTHER: I should say not. He's the worst of the cut-throats. He was the one who wanted to kill the good guys before they even reached the island.

CHILD: Couldn't we just check in on the funny pirates and see what they're doing?

MOTHER: I suppose if we must. But then we really have to get back to the story and let the pirate attack Jim. Let's see now... what could the funny pirates be doing?

The Terrible Ten come to one side of the stage.

JONAH: Wow, we had some narrow misses back there at the stockade. I'm telling ya- those good guys were good shots!

INGRID: This being a pirate stuff could get us killed!

JONAH: Yeah! You said it! Hey- when the time comes, how are you gonna go out?

INGRID: What?

JONAH: How are goin' to die? Face first? Over backwards? I'm goin' go like this. *He does a very silly, very short death scene, designed to get laughs.*

INGRID: Not me. I'm goin' like this. *Does her version. From the ground:* What about you, Hoshi? How you goin' out?

HOSHI: Like this. *Does another silly death scene.*

GOLDIE: I'm goin' like this. *Silly death scene.*

FRITZ: I'm goin' like this. *Silly death scene.*

ENRICO: I'm goin' like this. *Silly death scene.*

DANTE: I'm goin' like this. *Silly death scene.*

CHECHE: I'm goin' like this. *Silly death scene.*

BABETTE: I'm goin' like this. *Silly death scene.*

AZIZE: You guys are all amateurs. This is how it's done. *Silly death scene.*

They all lie there "dead" for a few seconds, then they hear a gun shot. They all leap to their feet and run, screaming, off the stage.

SCENE 2

MOTHER: We've got to get through this next scary part. Jim has to kill a pirate. Then it will get funny again when the pirates go hunting for the treasure.

CHILD: Do the pirates find the treasure and get rich?

MOTHER: Let's just say they get what they deserve. Are you ready for the scariest part of the book?

CHILD: Does the pirate die?

MOTHER: Yes, he does. But he's a really bad pirate and he deserves it!

CHILD: Okay, but let's hurry up and get to the funny treasure hunting part.

MOTHER: Okay, we'll keep it short. Here goes:

"After seeing Dr. Livesey leave the stockade and walk out into the woods, I suddenly had a strong desire to do the same. The more I thought about leaving, the more I determined to do it. I put some biscuits in my pocket, and, more important, a pistol in my belt. I thought I could go down to the bottom of the hill and search for Ben Gunn's boat. I was very curious as to how a man could make a boat with almost no tools or materials."

CHILD: That's what I wondered.

MOTHER: Yes, you must be thinking like Jim. "Ben's directions turned out to be excellent and I very quickly found the hidden boat. The boat was made of a wooden frame with goatskin stretched over it." (There's your answer!) "From the place the boat was hidden, I could see out into the harbor and could see the Hispaniola with the Jolly Roger flag flying from its mast. As I watched the ship I noticed it drifting about in a most peculiar way. It looked to me as though no one was at the helm. Could it possibly be that the pirates had abandoned the ship? In that case, I could alert the captain and the squire and we could take back possession of the ship. I got into the little boat and paddled out to the Hispaniola. I found the ship silent. The only pirate in sight was Israel Hands, who was lying on the deck, apparently both injured and full of rum."

Lights go off bedroom and onto stage.

SCENE 3

JIM: Mr. Hands! Are you much hurt?

ISRAEL HANDS: I need rum.

JIM: No, you'll have a drink of water.

Jim gives him a drink from one of the barrels.

ISRAEL HANDS: If that doctor were on board, I'd be right enough. Where'd you come from, anyways?

JIM: I've come aboard to take possession of the ship, Mr. Hands, and you'll be pleased to regard me as your captain until further notice.

ISRAEL HANDS: Aye, aye, cap'n. You get to the business of runnin' the ship and I'll just stay put right where I am.

JIM: That suits me just fine, Mr. Hands. First, I'll strike the flag. This is no longer a pirate ship. It sails under England again. *Jim goes over and rips down the Jolly Roger. Then Jim goes over to the railing of the ship, looks out to sea (or some other activity where he has his back turned to Hands). Hands slowly rises with a knife in his hand. Jim senses something and turns around to see Hands about to stab him. Jim ducks out of the way. Hands is obviously injured and can't get around very well, which gives Jim an advantage. Hands is still bigger and very determined.*

HANDS: Well Cap'n Hawkins, we'll have to agree to a truce, you and me. I can't sail this ship without you, and I daresay you won't be able to get along without me, either.

JIM: We're sailing around to the cove. We'll beach her there.

HANDS: Aye, aye Cap'n Hawkins.

Spotlight on back on bedroom.

MOTHER: "And so we sailed the ship two miles up the coast, to the Northern inlet. Israel Hands issued the commands and I followed them. I found that Hands could move around a bit and this concerned me, for I did not trust him one bit. I was also fairly sure that he was armed with a knife, a fact that was downright terrifying. Just as the ship was headed for the sandy shore, Israel Hands made his move."

Spotlight back on the stage.

Jim has his back to Hands momentarily and Hands begins sneaking up on him. Jim turns around and sees Hands coming for him.

JIM: One more step, Mr. Hands, and I'll shoot! Dead men don't bite, you know! *(nervous laugh)*

HANDS: Well, then, I reckon I'll have to strike first, which comes hard for me, seein' you're a youngster 'n all.

Now Jim and Hands start circling around the stage, Hands on the offensive, and Jim trying to evade.

JIM: Strike if you must, Mr. Hands, but I'm not giving up the ship. If I were you, I'd say my prayers. You've lived in sin and lies all your life. God have mercy on you!

HANDS: Him that strikes first don't need no mercy, Cap'n.

They circle around some more. Suddenly, Israel Hands throws his knife at Jim and hits him. Jim reacts in surprise and instinctively pulls the trigger on his pistol.

As soon as the shot is fired and Hands goes down, the lights go off the stage and back on the bedroom.

The stockade must be put back on the stage during this next mother and child dialogue.

SCENE 4

CHILD: Is that the end of the scary part?

MOTHER: That was it!

CHILD: You promised me a funny part next, where the pirates go treasure hunting.

MOTHER: Aye, aye, matey, that I did. Only first, let's check in on the pirates and see what they're thinking.

Enter Terrible Ten. Walking slowly across stage.

AZIZE: I've had enough of Long John!

BABETTE: That's right, I'm sick of waiting.

CHECHE: If it weren't for Long John, we'd a' had the treasure by now and be on our way home!

DANTE: Let's do something about it!

ENRICO: Yeah, let's do something about it!

FRITZ: Yeah, someone's got to stand up to him! Someone's got to tell him he's no longer in command.

GOLDIE: Do we have any volunteers? Come on! Raise your hands if you'll be the one to look Long John in the face! *(Nobody volunteers, of course. They're terrified of Silver)* So how are we gonna do it when we're all chicken?

HOSHI: We'll have to be subtle, like.

GOLDIE: Ooo— subtle! Now ain't that a fancy word for the likes of us?!

HOSHI: Speak for yourself, lubber. It's a good idea.

INGRID: Yeah, I'm with her. Let's give Long John a good strong hint.

JONAH: Let's give him the you-know-what.

INGRID: Yeah! *(to Hoshi)* The you-know-what!

HOSHI: *(to Goldie)* The you-know-what!

GOLDIE: *(to Fritz)* The you-know-what!

FRITZ: *(to Enrico)* The you-know-what!

ENRICO: *(to Dante)* The you-know-what!

DANTE: *(to Cheche)* The you-know-what!

CHECHE: *(to Babette)* The you-know-what!

BABETTE: *(to Azize)* The you-know-what!

AZIZE: Yeah... the you-know-what! That's what it'll be, mates. Let's go.

Terrible Ten exit.

SCENE 5

MOTHER: Now back to Jim. Here's what he says:

"The ship had drifted into the harbor and beached itself, so I had no trouble getting back to the island. I merely waded ashore. I ran straight for the stockade. When I got there, I thought it was curious that no one was on watch. I thought it rather careless of Captain Smollett to have no one on guard. What if I had been one of the pirates? Then I thought to myself that it was partly my fault. I should not have left them in the time of danger. Perhaps it was I who ought to have been on guard right at this present moment!

Lights go off bedroom and onto stage. Long John and the pirates are inside the stockade. Jim approaches the edge of the stockade and is jumped by two pirates. They grab him and hold him fast. Then Long John hobbles out of the fort to where Jim is.

LONG JOHN: Well, shiver me timbers. Here's young Hawkins come to see me. Top o' the mornin' to ya, Jim. And quite a pleasant surprise it is.

JIM: What are you doing here?

LONG JOHN: Your friends up and left. Said we could move right in. Seems they've given up on the idea of hunting treasure altogether. If you want your share, you'll have to join with us.

JIM: Join you??

LONG JOHN: There's only two sides present on this here island. An seein' as the good doctor himself told me they were glad to be rid of you, seems you don't have any other choice. 'Cepting maybe bein' shot.

JIM: Shoot me if you must. If you spare me, I'll testify on your behalf when you are tried for piracy back in England.

LONG JOHN: Ooo- now there's a brave lad! If you sea oafs had half the bravery of this lad, you'd be a finer lot, for sure!

GEORGE MERRY: I say let's kill him. Dead men don't bite, and dead boys don't bite, neither.

LONG JOHN: Thank ye, George, but I'm in command here.

MORGAN: We're tired of your command, Silver. If it weren't for you slowing us down all the time, we'd have dug the treasure already and be on our way home.

LONG JOHN: That's enough of you, Morgan. There's never been a man looked me between the eyes and seen a good day afterwards, and you may lay to that.

JOE: I'm on George's side.

DICK: So am I!

JOB ANDERSON: And the rest of us!

MORGAN: I'll not be hazed by you, John Silver. We're steppin' outside for a counsel.

Morgan signals the others and they all (except Silver) go into a huddle at a distance from Silver. One of them runs back into the stockade and comes out with a book.

He gives it to Dick who cuts out a page. He then uses a piece of charcoal from the fire to draw a dark spot on it. Meantime, Long John offers Jim a drink and they sit peacefully together eyeing the pirates suspiciously.

LONG JOHN: Pull up a seat here, Jim, laddy, and have a drink with ol' Long John. You and me, Jim, we'll stand by one another, won't we? You're the right sort of lad. Now you just wait and see what these fools are up to.

Pirates finish their private counsel and then approach Long John. Morgan hands him the paper with the black spot.

LONG JOHN: The black spot?! I thought so! But where might you have got the paper? Shiver me timbers! It's a page from the squire's Bible. Now what fool went and cut a Bible?

JOB ANDERSON: There! I told you! It's bad luck to cut a Bible!

LONG JOHN: Which one of you soft-headed lubbers cut the Bible?

LITTLE PAT: It was Dick!

LONG JOHN: Dick was it? Is this your hand-writing, Dick? *(Long John should make sure the audience sees the paper as he says this, for it is nothing more than a black spot.)* It's very pretty wrote, to be sure. Now I've got one thing to say to you insolent lubbers—I'll tell you why I'm the captain, 'cause I'm the man with the map! *(at this, he takes the map and tosses it to the ground). The other pirates race for the map, then pass it around, laughing and celebrating and dancing around.*

DICK: Where'd you get this?

LONG JOHN: I struck a deal with the doctor. I don't think we'll be needin' this no more, will we, Dick? *(he begins to hand the spot to Dick, but then changes his mind and hands it to Jim.)* Here, lad. Here's a souvenir from Treasure Island!

DICK: Long live Cap'n Silver!

All pirates cheer.

JACQUES: Let's go! There's treasure to be found!

Pirates all race off stage, with Jim and Long John trailing behind.

Lights go down on stage.

SCENE 6

While the stage crew remove stockade, and add any features necessary for the treasure hunting scene, the Terrible Ten do their scene. Azize has a canvas bag full of digging tools, ranging in size and usability. Jonah will get the funniest tool- perhaps a teaspoon?

AZIZE: Time for the diggin' tools, mates! Everyone line up!

BABETTE: We're always lined up.

AZIZE: Oh- right. I forgot. Here's one for you *(gives a tool to Babette, she then goes to the back of the line.)* One for you *(Cheche steps forward, receives a tool, then goes to the back of the line.)* Azize can make small talk or add comments at the discretion of the director. *The tools progress from shovels and spades to hammers, and less usable things. Finally, everyone but Jonah has a tool.*

AZIZE: *to whoever gets the first non-shovel tool* Sorry we ran out of shovels.

Pirates continue to receive their implements then go to the back of the line, until Jonah is in front of Azize.

AZIZE: And for you. *(hands him something funny, like a teaspoon or a toothbrush or a toothpick.)*

JONAH: Wow. Thanks. I'll hit bedrock in no time.

AZIZE: Now keep in line and follow Cap'n Silver!
They march back of stage the way they came in.

SCENE 7

Lights go back up. Pirates come back on stage looking exhausted, like they have been walking for hours.

JACQUES: I'm beat. The day's getting' real hot. I'm sittin' down for a minute.

LITTLE PAT: Me, too. I've got to rest.

LONG JOHN: Let me see the map, Morgan.

Morgan hands over the map.

LONG JOHN: *(looks at map, then looks around)* I'm bettin' that those trees over there are the trees marked in red here on the map. Spyglass hill must be in that direction.

JOB ANDERSON: You know, if Flint were here, we'd be in big trouble.

MORGAN: Well Flint be dead. I saw him dead with my own two eyes.

JACQUES: But if ever a spirit would walk, it'd be Flint's!

LITTLE PAT: His ghost might be guarding the treasure!

JOE: I wonder if his ghost would still be singin' his favorite song.

JACQUES, JOE, LITTLE PAT, MORGAN, JOB, DICK: "Fifteen men on a dead man's chest..."

VOICE: *(Ben Gunn)* "Yo-ho-ho and a bottle of rum."

All the pirates instantly panic and huddle together.

JOB ANDERSON: It's Flint's ghost! We're dead men!

DICK: We'd better start readin' this here Bible! *(starts paging through the Bible quickly)*

VOICE: *(Ben Gunn)* Darby McGraw! Darby McGraw! Fetch aft the rum, Darby!

MORGAN: Them's were Flint's last words before he died! I was there to hear them! It's Flint's ghost, I say!

Pirates all wail with terror.

LONG JOHN: Well, I'm not afraid of Flint, dead or alive. I intend to find his treasure! That voice... I know that voice! That voice belongs to an old shipmate of ours—Ben Gunn!

JOE: He's right, it did sound like Benn Gunn. Now who'd be afraid of Ben Gunn's ghost?!! *(laughs)*

LITTLE PAT: How could anyone be afraid of little Ben Gunn?

Pirates all laugh along reluctantly, except Dick who is still reading the Bible.

LONG JOHN: Let's go mate, the treasure is waiting!

Pirates all go off stage. Stage crew does whatever rearranging is necessary (at discretion of director) to alter the stage to be the area where the treasure once was.

Pirates come back on stage.

LONG JOHN: We're getting close, mates. If'n we followed the map accurate like, the treasure should lie just beyond that row of bushes.

They race over to where the treasure should have been.

JOB ANDERSON: There's nothing here!

DICK: The treasure's gone!

MORGAN: Silver! You knew it all along, I'll bet. And we followed you for nothing!

DICK: Come on, mates, let's at him!

Pirates pull out their pistols and start towards Long John and Jim. Suddenly shots are heard from out of the bushes. Some of the pirates fall, some run off. The doctor, squire, Smollett, Hunter, Joyce, Gray, and Ben Gunn step out of the bushes.

SMOLLETT: Well, I daresay the world's a cleaner place now.

JIM: Dr. Livesey! *(he runs to greet him)*

DR. LIVESEY: Jim! I am so glad to see you alive and well!

LONG JOHN: Well, Ben Gunn, it really was you.

BEN GUNN: I'm Ben Gunn, I am. How do you do, Mr. Silver? Pretty well, I thank you, says you.

TRELAWNEY: John Silver, you're a prodigious villain and imposter. A monstrous imposter, sir! I've been told by my friends not to punish you, so I won't, but you certainly deserve it, none the less.

LONG JOHN: Thankin' ye kindly, sir.

TRELAWNEY: Don't thank me. I see it as a neglect of duty. Hunter, tie his hands and bring him with us.

DR. LIVESEY: Come on, Jim. We'll show you where the treasure is. Ben Gunn found it over a year ago and took it all to his cave.

JIM: So that's why you gave the map to Silver! You already knew the treasure had been found.

DR. LIVESEY: That's right. The map was of no use anymore. I went and found Ben Gunn, myself, right at the spot you told me about. Ben took me to his cave and showed me all of Flint's treasure hidden there.

JIM: And captain, I can tell you where the ship lies—it is beached in the harbor.

SMOLLETT: And I suppose you sailed it in?

JIM: Yes, sir, with some help from one of the mutineers.

DR. LIVESEY: You're a brave lad, Jim. We all owe a lot to you. It was you who found the map in the first place. It was you who heard about the mutiny and came to warn us. And it was you who found Ben Gunn.

TRELAWNEY: You shall have your share of the treasure, lad. Let's be off to Ben's cave. You'll lie on a bed of gold tonight!

All exit. Stage lights go down. Lights go up on bedroom. Child is tucked well under the covers, ready to go to sleep. Stage crew should clear off island set and bring on something that will be Jim's bedroom back at the Admiral Benbow. (Jim will be in the bed with his mother tucking him in.)

SCENE 8

MOTHER: "The next morning we started early to work. We had to transport that great mass of treasure back to the Hispaniola. I helped to sort the coins into piles, then put them into bags."

CHILD: That sounds fun!

MOTHER: I'm sure it was. "There were coins from many different countries and they were stamped with the pictures of kings of Europe from the last hundred years. It took days to sort them and put them in bags. Finally, every last bit of treasure was on board and we sailed off."

CHILD: What happened to Long John Silver?

MOTHER: "We needed more hands on board, so we put in at a port. While we were anchored there in the port, Long John Silver made his escape. He took with him a large bag of coins. We weren't too upset about him stealing some of the treasure. The squire said what we all were feeling when he said that he was glad to be so easily rid of him.

CHILD: Is there another story about Long John Silver? Like a sequel or something?

MOTHER: No, Robert Louis Stevenson didn't write a sequel. Maybe you can write one some day.

CHILD: What happened to Ben Gunn?

MOTHER: Let's finish up the story and find out.

“Captain Smollett never went to sea again, nor did the doctor. As for Ben Gunn, he got his share of the treasure and had it spent in a few weeks- nineteen days to be exact. But we all felt sorry for him and bought him a small house in the country.

My mother was filled with joy to see me home again, alive and well. I reassured her that I had had enough of the sea to last me a lifetime. I was home to stay!

Lights go down on bedroom scene, up on stage. Jim is in bed with his mother tucking him in.

SCENE 9

MRS. HAWKINS: Good night, darling. Have pleasant dreams. I know I'll have the best night's sleep I've had in months. It was so hard while you were gone.

JIM: It was hard to be away. There were times when I felt sure I'd never see home again. I'm never going to sea, ever again!

MRS. HAWKINS: With your share of the treasure, we'll be able to fix up the Admiral Benbow and make it the finest inn on the coast!

JIM: Just being rid of those pirates will make the inn a better place. I'm glad they're gone. Good night mother.

MRS. HAWKINS: Good night, Jim. Sleep well.

Lights go down on stage and up on bedroom.

SCENE 10

Child is already asleep. Mother gets up.

MOTHER: Good night, Jim. Sleep well.

Mother quietly turns off lamp and exits.

Curtain.

