

A Reading

Stranded on Treasure Island

1 [1] Bright sunlight woke Tom. This was definitely not
his bed in his family's little house in Southwark,
London. Where was he? Slowly he opened his eyes.
Sand and palm trees as far as he could see. Behind him
5 he could hear the sound of waves. Then he
remembered ...

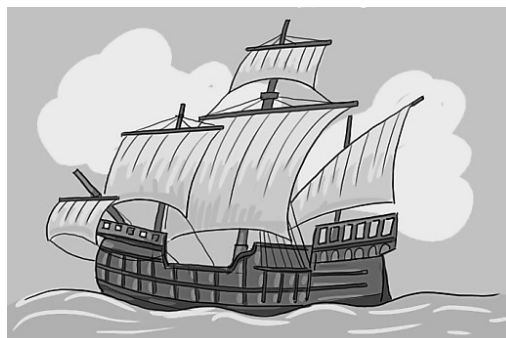
[2] Living in one of the poorer areas in London, his
parents had a hard time feeding seven little hungry
mouths. So when a letter arrived from his
10 uncle in the Bahamas offering him a place at his
plantation, they accepted. They collected all the money they had and bought him a passage¹ on the
next ship leaving for the Caribbean. It was September 10, 1732 when he went on board the huge ship
HMS Lightning that would take him and twenty other passengers as well as goods to the Caribbean.

[3] The first few days on the ship were exciting. Tom had never left Southwark before. He couldn't
15 believe that the world outside was so big and wonderful. But soon the voyage became boring. A blue
sky and the grey ocean day after day.

[4] Then after two weeks, they could see dark clouds in the distance and the wind became stronger.
The captain told all the passengers to go under deck. Tom sat there with the other women, children and
20 men hoping that the ship wouldn't sink. For two horrible nights Tom could not sleep because huge
waves kept hitting against the ship. Then the wind suddenly stopped. When a few days later land could
be seen, Tom was glad.

[5] However, before they could get to the island, they were attacked by pirates. Tom still didn't know
how the pirates had found them. But he remembered how he was woken by men shouting and
shooting. He heard the captain and his men trying to defend² the ship. Then there was a loud boom; the
25 ship was hit by something and, suddenly the room filled with water. The people around him panicked
and tried to get out. But it was too late; the ship started to sink. Tom grabbed a barrel that was floating³
next to him. Then everything went dark. Something must have hit him on the head.

30 [6] And now he was here at this beach with no idea
where he was or how he had gotten there. But he knew
that he couldn't stay there. He needed to get out of the
sun and find food and water. Slowly he stood and went to
the trees. There was a path near him which he decided to
follow. Maybe this island wasn't as lonely as it seemed
after all. And in fact, after a few minutes he heard voices.
35 Tom went towards the noise but stopped suddenly when
he saw a group of men standing in front of a cave. Boxes
of different sizes were lying on the ground between them.



“I’m not sure we should leave them here. I say it’s not safe. What if someone finds the remains⁴ of the
last ship we attacked.

40 “Stop complaining, John. We’ve stored⁵ our treasures here for months and nobody has found them.”

[7] Tom was shocked. These were the pirates who had attacked their ship! If they saw him, they would kill him. He had to get away. But it was too late.

“Hey, who’s there? Stop, or I’ll shoot your little head off!”

Tom froze. Eyes wide he saw one of the pirates pointing a gun in his direction.

45 “Is this one of the passengers from the HMS Lightning? I say shoot him. He has seen our treasure. He must die!”

“No;” said one of the men who wore a black hat and a strange sword. “He’s just a boy. He is no danger. Let’s keep him and teach him. He’ll be a scary little pirate one day, just like the rest of us.”

50 “But, Captain ...” “Enough.” said the pirates’ captain. Then he turned to Tom. “Well, boy. What do you say? Would you like to join us and pledge your allegiance to me? Or would you like to die here and now.” Tom looked at the pirate with fear⁶ in his eyes. What should he do?



¹ passage = Überfahrt; ² to defend = verteidigen; ³ to float = treiben, schwimmen; ⁴ remains = Überreste; ⁵ to store = lagern; ⁶ fear = Angst, Furcht

● **1 Which headings belong to which paragraphs in the text? Write the correct numbers. Be careful: You don’t need one of the headings.**

- _____ Treasure Island
- _____ What happened?
- _____ Surviving the storm
- _____ An invitation to the Caribbean
- _____ A difficult decision
- _____ A boring journey
- _____ Watch out for whale sharks
- _____ Attacked at night

● **2 Tick the correct ending for each sentence.**

1. When Tom woke up ...

- a) he felt hungry and thirsty.
- b) he didn't know where he was.
- c) he was afraid of the pirates.

4. During the storm Tom ...

- a) helped the women and children.
- b) cried all the time.
- c) found no sleep.

2. He got on the HMS Lightning ...

- a) with twenty other passengers.
- b) to travel to Bermuda.
- c) in 1723.

5. When the pirates attacked ...

- a) the captain tried to fight them.
- b) the ship caught fire.
- c) Tom went overboard.

3. After the first days the journey became...

- a) wonderful.
- b) exciting.
- c) boring.

6. The pirates wanted to kill Tom because ...

- a) he was a boy.
- b) he had seen their treasure.
- c) he was a passenger of the HMS Lightning.

● **3 Right or wrong? Tick (✓) the correct answer.**

1. Tom lived in the 17th century.

right **wrong**

2. He left London to work at a plantation in the Caribbean.

3. The storm lasted for three days.

4. During the attack Tom was hit on the head.

5. Tom went towards the pirates and their treasure.

6. One of the pirates threatened¹ him with his sword.

¹ to threaten = bedrohen

● **4 Who could have said it? Match the sentences with the names.**

- Tom Tom's mum captain of HMS Lightning captain of the pirates

1. "Kill everyone you find; nobody can know about our treasure!" _____
2. "I need to find help soon." _____
3. "The deck is too dangerous for passengers." _____
4. "What are they doing there?" _____
5. "Don't forget to send a letter as soon as you have arrived." _____

B Writing

A comment for the writing competition

● **1 You read about a writing competition on the internet. Read the statement on the next page and write a comment of about 120 words.**

These things should be in your text:


- your personal opinion (Do you agree with the statement?)
- at least two reasons for your opinion
- examples

https://www.teensandvalues.org/competition X

TEENS AND VALUES ... we care about what you think.

Take part in our writing competition and win fantastic prizes:
headphones, tablets, games ... and lots more.

All you need to do is to tell us your opinion of the following statement:



"Life for teenagers today is much harder than twenty years ago."

Send your text of about 120 words by September 21st, 2018 to opinion@teens-and-values.com

Write your text on an extra sheet of paper.

- **2** Find one more example for both sides which you did not use in your text.

Yes, today life is harder for teenagers.

No, today life is easier for teenagers.
