

The Play
GROUP 

RL Stevenson's
**TREASURE
ISLAND**



**TEACHERS
MATERIAL**

Dear Teachers!

This season the Play Group proudly presents *Treasure Island* a show inspired by Robert Louis Stevenson's classic novel. In the Play Group's colourful, fast-moving adventure thriller the audience are taken on the high seas to a desert island together with a deceiving captain, a cheeky parrot and gold hungry pirates in search of treasure. Stevenson's famous story is the perfect example of the eternal conflict between Good and Evil and Truth and Deception – always very current themes!

After the show, we encourage students to debate what they have just seen, to ask questions and to use English – without fear!



The Show



We love to get our spectators involved in the action, including some simple speaking roles. But please don't tell them before - it can make them nervous!

About this material

We make this material to help you prepare your students for the show, to enhance their understanding and enjoyment of English in the theatre, as well as consolidating language learning.

There are two parts: Teachers notes and the Students Activity sheets.

We suggest you download one copy of both. Then either print them out or browse on your computer so you can decide which activities are right for your students.



Short of time?

If time is short, begin with the summaries of the story (page 02) and the essential vocabulary of the show (page 03) of the students worksheets. Then decide if you have time for any other activities!

We look forward to seeing you soon!

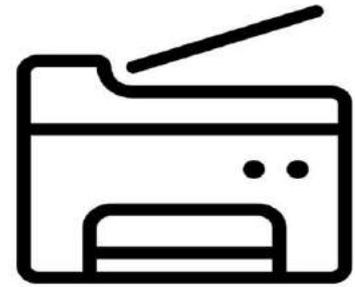
Best wishes,
Simon, Eddie, Francesco and the rest of the team

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Contents

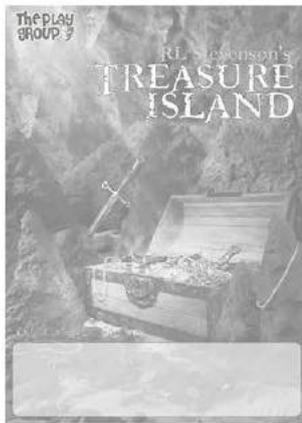
Generally, this teachers material begins with simple exercises and increases in complexity towards the end. But look through for yourself to decide what is best for your students.

- Activity 01 Make a poster
- Activity 02 Summary of the story
- Activity 03 Vocabulary of the show
- Activity 04 Picture story
- Activity 05 Make a mask
- Activity 06 Pirate song
- Activity 07 Nautical flags
- Activity 08 The skeleton
- Activity 09 Crossword and Word Grid
- Activity 10 Label a ship
- Activity 11 The life of RL Stevenson
- Activity 12 Modern Piracy
- Activity 13 Internet Piracy
- Activity 14 Pirate Speech
- Activity 15 Role Play



PHOTOCOPY PAGES

Activity 01 - Make a poster



Invite your students to make a poster for the show. Tell them that their work will be published on our website, with a fabulous prize for the best!

One possibility is to colour the poster and add details like the place and time of the show in the highlight box. Others can be found to download on our website.

When you have finished, photograph or scan the picture. Email the file to us at actors@theplaygroup.eu.

We look forward to your contributions.

NB: The finished posters can hang in the classroom or school to generate interest in the show!

Activity 02 - Summary of the story



p 02 of the students worksheets
1 each or 1 between 2.

Ask your students if they know the story of Treasure Island. There are many versions of the novel: books, comics and of course, movies. Ask your students if they have seen or read any. Read through the summaries with your class either in English or Italian. You might like to ask them questions afterwards. The versions provided - In Italian and English are - as usual - versions of the original story. The stage version will differ in many small ways, although we do respect the basis of the plot.

Activity 03 - Essential vocabulary



p 03 of the students worksheets
Ideally, one each!

These are some of the most important words in the show. There are nouns, adverbs and adjectives, and of course: verbs. The answers can be found upside-down in the treasure chest. Two answers are already given. Students should complete the exercise. IF you have time, check pronunciation with your class.

Activity 04 - Picture story



*p 04 of the students worksheets
1 each or 1 between 2.*

Ask your class to cut the pictures up and place them face up on the desk. Tell them you will read the story several times, including the numbers. The pictures are not in the right order, so students will have to re-order them to follow the story.

Before you begin, give students a few moments to look at the pictures. If necessary, remind them of essential vocabulary.

The first time you read the text below, students should just listen carefully.

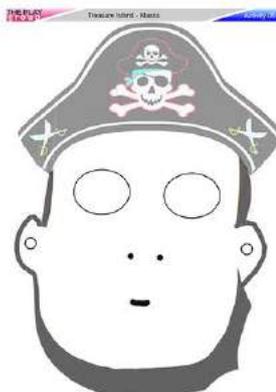
The second time, they should place the cards in the correct chronological order.

Read a third time and check through the pictures with your class.

Picture story - the text

- 1) Jim Hawkins lives with his mother in a pub in Cornwall. One of the guests is Billy Bones. Every day he eats, he drinks rum, he sings and he sleeps. He never pays Mrs Hawkins, so when he dies, Jim and his mother open his chest and find a bag of gold coins and a map of an island.
- 2) Mrs. Hawkins says goodbye to her son, Jim who sails to Treasure Island on a ship called the Hispaniola.
- 3) Long John Silver follows Jim and Ben Gunn. Long John Silver wants the treasure and attacks Jim.
- 4) Jim meets a man called Ben Gunn. Ben Gunn lives alone on the island.
- 5) After two weeks and three days the Hispaniola arrives in Treasure Island!
- 6) Jim goes to Bristol to buy a ship called the Hispaniola from Long John Silver.
- 7) On the ship Long John Silver speaks to some sailors in secret. He says he wants to kill Jim and take his treasure map! Jim hears this conversation and is shocked.
- 8) Ben Gunn shows Jim where the treasure is buried.
- 9) When the Hispaniola lands on the island Jim runs away from Long John Silver and the other sailors.

Activity 05 - Making a mask



*p 05 of the students worksheets. Or show them page 05a for more ideas!.
1 each or 1 between 2.*

Materials needed: cardboard, coloured pencils, markers or paints, scissors and about 60 cms of elastic or thin string.

1. Colour or paint the mask, then cut it out (or of course, students invent their own!).
2. Make holes in the eyes to see and holes in the ears to tie the elastic or string.
3. Why not invent great pirate names? Francesco the Fearless, Greenbeard, One-eyed Cristina etc!

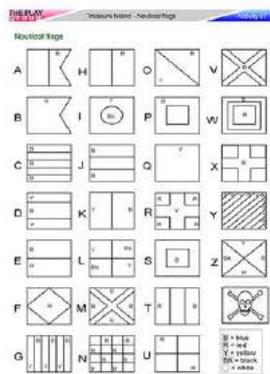
Activity 06 - Pirate song



p 06 of the students worksheets.
1 for a small group of 3 or 4 should suffice

Discuss what pirate songs were about... ie encouraging them during combat, to not be afraid during storms and to pull together when there was hard work to be done. Download or stream the YouTube links. *Fifteen men on a Dead Man's chest* will be used during the show. *The Drunken Sailor* is also very popular in Britain. Sometimes classes like to perform their pirate songs after the show... and the actors certainly appreciate it!

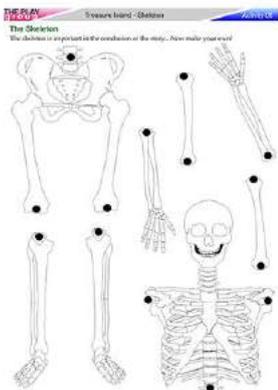
Activity 07 - nautical flags



p 07 of the students worksheets.
1 each or 1 between 2.

Before radio and telephones, flags were the best way of communicating quickly between ships, with a full alphabet. Discuss with students what message they want to send, then they can reproduce the flags on A4 sheets and hang them up or even bring to the show. For example: "TREASURE ISLAND", "HELLO PLAYGROUPE" or "WE ARE PIRATES". Or how about "WE HATE HOMEWORK!"

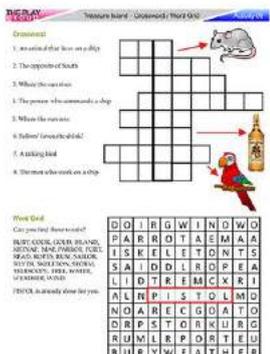
Activity 08 - Skeleton



p 08 of the students worksheets
Ideally, 1 each or 1 between 2.

Materials: scissors, two pieces of wood, paper clips (graffette), stiff paper or cardboard (optional) and some string or fishing line. Stick some cardboard or stiff paper to the back of page p 08. Cut out the parts of the skeleton. Join them together with paper clips and attach the string or fishing line to the hands and legs. Tie the other end of the line to a wooden cross that can be used to manipulate the paper skeleton puppet. This could be a good time to sing *Fifteen Men on a Dead Man's Chest?* :)

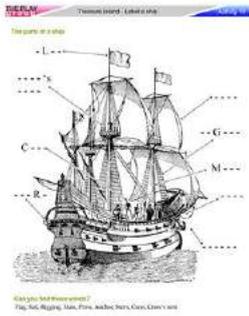
Activity 09 - Crossword and Word Grid



p 09 of the students worksheets.
1 between pairs or small groups

Here is a fun way to work on some of the important words in the show! Distribute to small groups of your students (who can work either individually or in pairs). Once completed the crossword spells the word "Treasure".

Activity 10 - Label a ship



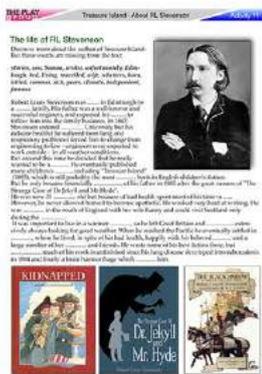
p 10 of the students worksheets (or display on your LIM).
1 for a small group of 3 or 4 should suffice

Write these words on the board (or LIM) and discuss their meanings in Italian:

Flag (bandiera) Sail (vela), Rigging (sartame), Mast (albero), Prow (prua), Anchor (ancora), Stern (poppa), Crew (equipaggio / ciurma), Crow's nest (coffa)

Then ask students to label the Hispaniola (our ship).

Activity 11 - The life of RL Stevenson



p 11 of the students worksheets.
1 between 2 or 3.

This is a medium-difficulty gap-fill (cloze) exercise on the life of the author, RL Stevenson, whose works became famous throughout the world.

Students should read the text and decide which words are missing. The answers are (in order): born, rich, son, Edinburgh, writer, stories, famous, independent, years, bed, living, summer, climate, travelled, Samoa, wife, family, unfortunately, killed

Activity 12- Modern Piracy



p 12 of the students worksheets
1 between pairs or small groups

Piracy is not just a thing of the past: in fact it is very much alive and thriving! This essay is more advanced English, so look first to see if this is right for your class.

Answers: Activity 1: 1-false, it is in East Africa. 2-True. 3-False, it started 20 years ago. 4-False, they demanded it in US dollars. 5-True. 6-True. 7-True. 8-False, it received aid to develop its fishing industry. 9- True. 10-True.

Activity 2: 1-b, 2-a, 3-a, 4-b, 5-b, 6-b, 7-a, 8-a, 9-a, 10-b

Activity 13- Internet piracy



p 13 of the students worksheets.
1 between pairs or small groups

This activity looks at a very common form of piracy – the illegal copying and sharing of software, programs, music and video. 90% of teenagers regularly copy and “share” creative works online. A discussion follows to give students the opportunity to express their views on what is right and wrong.

