

GETTING READY



*Mother took only enough gold to pay for what the captain owed us.
Then, as we heard others coming, we ran as fast as we could.*

Preview:

1. Read the name of the story.
2. Look at the picture carefully.
3. Read the sentences under the picture.
4. Read the first paragraph of the story.
5. Then answer the following question.

You learned from your preview that Jim Hawkins and his mother

- a. went to a birthday party.
- b. ran to town to get help.
- c. did not get along with each other.
- d. sold the Inn.

Turn to the Comprehension Check on page 16 for the right answer.

Now read the story.

Read to find out what is inside the captain's locked chest.

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It grew dark as my mother and I ran to town. We knew we would need help later that night. After telling our story about the captain, everyone backed away. They were afraid. One man gave my mother a gun. Then he sent a young boy to tell Dr. Livesay our story. Maybe the doctor would send someone to help us.

We hurried home. I quickly locked the door. Mother's eyes were upon the captain's body. She said, "We must get the key and open the chest." There was very little time left and my hands shook when I pulled the captain's shirt open. I found the key. I cut the string around his neck, and the key fell into my hand.

Inside the chest were new clothes, broken sea shells, and two guns. Mother moved some old papers and found a small bag of gold. We were counting the money, when the quiet was broken. We heard a noise outside. It was coming closer and closer to the Inn. Mother took just enough money to

pay for the captain's room. We left everything else. We hurried down the back stairs and ran.

From under the bridge, we watched. The men went wild and kicked down the door. "Find the chest," cried Pew, the blind man. We heard the sound of things breaking as they raced through the Inn. When they found the chest, someone shouted, "There is nothing left!"

"Where is that boy?" Pew shouted in a wild voice. "I should have pulled his eyes out myself."

I was so afraid that I, shook all over. My poor mother passed out.

The sound of horses racing across the bridge stopped them from finding us. They ran out the front door leaving Pew standing in the middle of the road.

"Mates," he called, "you won't leave old Pew here, will you Black Dog?"

No one answered him. I watched the blind man fall. When he stood up, he ran straight into the horses as they came across the bridge. That was the end of Pew.

I carried my mother back to the Inn. Later, when all was quiet, I rode with the men to Dr. Livesay's house.

"What were they after?" he asked. "Gold?"

"Maybe this," I answered. I reached into my sock and pulled out a paper I'd taken from the chest.

At last the doctor smiled, "It's a treasure map." The men jumped up and down and shouted at the same time.

"Give me two weeks and we'll have the best ship ever!" said Mr. Trelawney, a friend of the doctor.

We spent many days getting ready for the long trip to Treasure Island. After a long wait, Mr. Trelawney found a cook. His name was Long John Silver and he had one leg missing. (I didn't see this man until it was time for us to get on the ship.)

Finally, Dr. Livesay came for me. "Are we ready to go?" I asked.

"Tomorrow," he smiled.

"At last," I cried. I could hardly wait.

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COMPREHENSION CHECK

Choose the best answer.

1. Jim and his mother went back to the Inn to
 - a. have a party.
 - b. get the key and open the captain's locked chest.
 - c. clean it up.
 - d. put it up for sale.

2. All Mrs. Hawkins wanted from the chest was
 - a. enough money to pay for the captain's room.
 - b. the clothes.
 - c. the two guns.
 - d. some old pictures.

- ③ Jim and his mother ran from the house when they heard someone coming because
 - a. they had to catch a train.
 - b. they wanted to surprise them.
 - c. the Inn was a mess.
 - d. they knew they were in danger.

4. What happened to Pew, the blind man?
 - a. He found what he wanted.
 - b. He bought the Admiral Benbow Inn.
 - c. He was run over by horses.
 - d. He went to Dr. Livesay's house to stay.

5. Pew and his men were looking for
 - a. Captain Flint.
 - b. guns and horses.
 - c. money and a map.
 - d. food and drink.

6. Who was it that sent the men and horses to help Jim and his mother?
 - a. Pew
 - b. Dr. Livesay
 - c. Black Dog
 - d. Captain Bill

7. Dr. Livesay, Mr. Trelawney, and Jim find that the paper Jim had taken from the captain's chest was
 - a. a treasure map.
 - b. a bill.
 - c. a love letter.
 - d. a ticket.

8. The men decide to get a crew and a ship together to go find the treasure. Who turns out to be the cook on the ship?
 - a. Jim's mother
 - b. The man with one leg missing
 - c. Jim.
 - d. Dr. Livesay

9. Another name for this story could be
 - a. "Broken Sea Shells."
 - b. "Friends Forever."
 - c. "From Under the Bridge."
 - d. "The Chest."

10. This story is mainly about
 - a. people looking for a treasure map.
 - b. Dr. Livesay and his men.
 - c. Jim's mother.
 - d. Jim's father.

Preview Answer:

b. ran to town to get help.

Check your answers with the Comprehension Key on page 67.