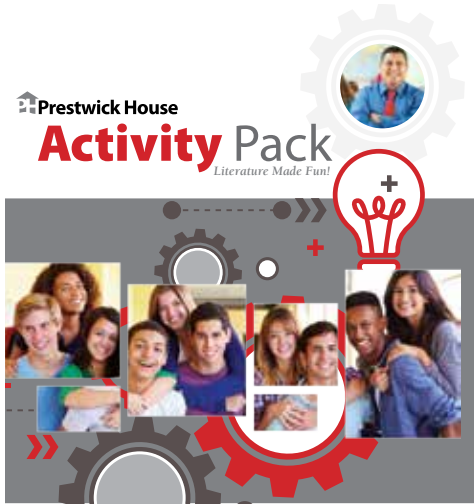




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Treasure Island
BY ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON


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Name: _____

Date: _____

Pre-Reading

Making Predictions

Objectives: Analyzing poetry
Making predictions about a novel

Activity

Most editions of *Treasure Island* open with the poem “To the Hesitating Purchaser.”

*If sailor tales to sailor tunes,
Storm and adventure, heat and cold,
If schooners, islands, and maroons
And Buccaneers and buried Gold,
And all the old romance, retold
Exactly in the ancient way,
Can please, as they pleased of old,
The wiser youngsters of to-day:*

*—So be it, and fall on! If not,
If studious youth no longer crave,
His ancient appetites forgot,
Kingston, or Ballantyne the brave,
Or Cooper of wood and wave;
So be it, also! And may I
And all my pirates share the grave
Where these and their creations lie!*

By including this poem as a preface to the story, Robert Louis Stevenson builds suspense and raises the reader's expectations.

Read the poem and look for suggestions of ideas that may appear in the novel. Then, create a list of five themes that you believe will surface in the story, as well as five events or actions that you think will occur.

In addition, if you would like to expand this activity, you could have the students write a similar poem in the style of Robert Louis Stevenson.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter IV

Speechwriting

Objectives: Forming a persuasive argument
Using style, diction, and literary devices to evoke emotion

Activity

The captain's summons is for ten o'clock. Even though the captain has passed away, Jim knows that the blind man and other pirates will come that night and, most likely, ransack the inn when they come to claim their former acquaintance.

With Jim's father dead, Dr. Livesey out of town, and only Jim and his mother left to defend the inn, Jim knows that protecting the Admiral Benbow is futile. He and his mother ride to a nearby hamlet to rally men to help them; however, the men are afraid of Captain Flint and his crew, and they are reluctant to leave their homes.

Write a speech for Jim to read to the men in the hamlet and persuade them to help. Your speech should

- evoke feelings of sympathy in the men for Jim and his mother.
- convince the men that fighting will ensure the safety of not just Jim and his mother, but the hamlet as well.
- inspire, motivate, and raise the courage of the men.

Name: _____

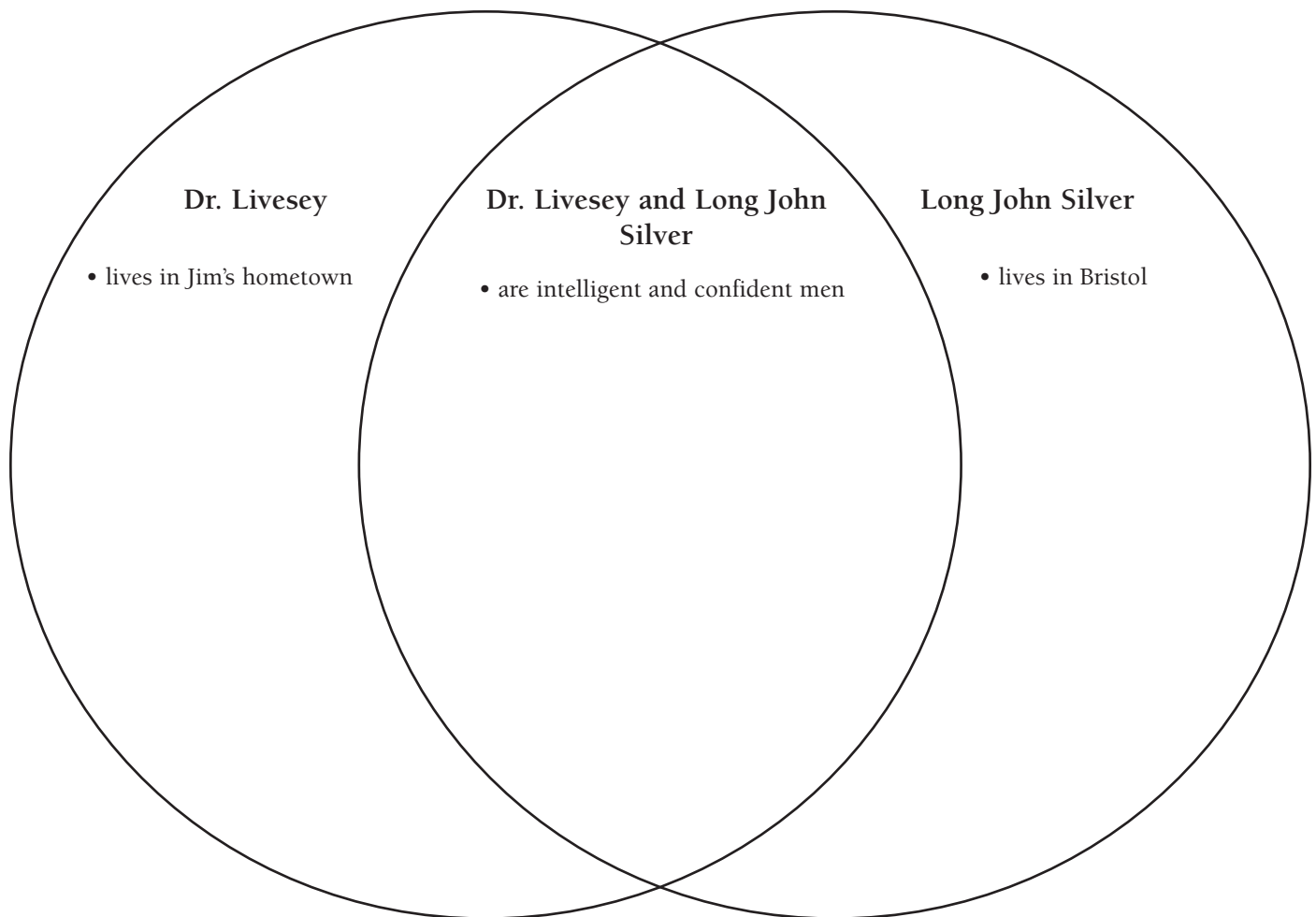
Date: _____

Chapters VII – VIII**Character Comparison****Objective:** Comparing two characters within the novel**Activity**

In Chapters VII – VIII, a new character is introduced: Long John Silver. Jim takes an immediate liking to him, and in a way, Silver becomes Jim's new companion and role model.

Silver and Dr. Livesey are both men whom Jim admires, and both have admirable qualities that are similar. However, their professions, experiences, and backgrounds are different.

In the following Venn Diagram, compare Dr. Livesey to Long John Silver. In the section of the diagram belonging to only Long John Silver or Dr. Livesey, write the differences between them. In the space shared by both characters, write their similarities.

VENN DIAGRAM

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter XIII

Setting

Objective: Understanding how setting affects mood

Activity

As the *Hispaniola* nears Treasure Island, Jim finds that his excitement has dissipated and been replaced by depression and anxiety. The island itself seems to emulate and, in effect, add to Jim's gloom.

Setting not only enhances the story by creating a realistic environment in which the action takes place, it also helps to create the mood. Vivid, sensory images evoke particular emotions in the reader, allowing him or her to experience what the character is feeling.

Re-read Chapter XIII, and create a list of sensory images in the scenery description that help create a mood of melancholy and despair. We have listed one for you as an example:

- Gray-colored woods covered a large part of the surface.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter XXVIII**Letter Writing**

Objectives: Writing through the voice of a character
Explaining a character's actions

Activity

In Chapter XXVIII, Long John Silver tells Jim that Captain Smollett, Dr. Livesey, and the rest of Jim's friends no longer want him in their faction. According to Silver, Dr. Livesey is now "dead agin [Jim]" and called him an "ungrateful scamp." Furthermore, Silver says that the doctor said, "... I don't know where [Jim] is, confound him, nor I don't much care. We're about sick of him."

While it seems that Jim suspects Silver isn't telling the entire truth, he is concerned that his friends were hurt by his desertion.

As Jim, write a letter of apology to Dr. Livesey. Explain your reasons for leaving the blockhouse, and inform him of what you have done since your departure that may redeem you. Letter of apology activity is on the next page.