

## *Treasure Island* Socratic Seminar Questions

Respond to AT LEAST FOUR (4) of the following questions in an original post on Edmodo. The post must include a minimum of two (2) in-text citations and a works cited and should include a literary term if the question alludes to one. Posts may be written in a more informal style that that used for compositions and reading logs; however, please remember your audience and that Mrs. Duckworth and Mrs. Friesz will be reading all posts.

THEN, you must respond to a minimum of four (4) posts from your classmates on different topics than those that you originally posted on. For example, if you originally posted on questions 1, 2, 3, and 4, you will need to respond to questions 5, 6, 7, and 8 (or so). Your responses do not need in-text citation or works cited, but MUST continue to maintain appropriate literary quality as would be expected from an AP student. Your responses should continue the discussion begun by your peers. In other words, a response such as, "Good answer, you go girl!" will not be accepted.

1. Jim is probably around 12 or 13 years of age, a naïve and impetuous boy. How does he change during the novel to achieve a level of maturity and perspective? Can you find some examples of how he vacillates between the worlds of childhood and adulthood?
2. Is Long John Silver thoroughly evil, a stock villain? Or is he something more complicated? Does he possess any semblance of nobility? Many readers have considered him the story's most compelling character. What do you think?
3. Both Captain Smollett and Long John Silver lead teams of men. How do their leadership abilities differ from one another? What do their styles suggest about their characters?
4. Talk about role models – one of the central ideas of the novel. Who best serves as an inspiration for Jim as a pattern for his life? What aspects of Dr. Livesey and Squire Trelawney does Jim admire? What about Long John Silver? Does he offer any kind of role model for Jim?
5. How might Ben Gunn stand as a cautionary example of someone too long separated from civilizing influences of society?
6. Talk about the presence of flags in the story. What is the symbolic significance to the story/plot?
7. Discuss the role of greed in the novel – a book about unfettered desire. How does greed motivate the different characters, and how does finding the treasure affect them? What is Jim's attitude toward the treasure at the end of the book?
8. Why does Jim wish Long John Silver happiness in the last paragraphs of the novel, and why is he happy that Silver got away? What is his moral reasoning at this point, or is there a moral compass to Jim's character?
9. Why would Stevenson reveal his characters' religious sides near the end of the adventure? What role has religion played in the novel up to that point? Think of both their public and private acts of piety and worship.

10. What types of conflicts (physical, moral, intellectual, or emotional) seem to be more significant in the novel, and how do the conflicts affect or change the characters?
11. One life-lesson the novel teaches, not necessarily on purpose, is that “appearances are deceiving.” However, we can't just *assume* that no one's real character is revealed by how he looks and what he does. How many examples can you find of deceptive appearances vs. examples where someone's appearance truly reveals his inner qualities?
12. A motif in the story is the color black. How many instances can you remember where the color black was mentioned? What symbolism do you think Stevenson meant to associate with the color? How does it affect the setting and the characters when it is used?

Grading Rubric:

- A Student has all four posts with two accurate in-text citations and an accurate works cited for each and has responded to posts of four DIFFERENT questions with meaningful responses (90-100).
- B Student is missing at least one part of the assignment (80-89).
- C Student is missing two parts of the assignment (70-79).
- D Student is missing three parts of the assignment (64-69).
- F Student is missing four or more parts of the assignment (number grade will change depending on how much of the assignment is provided).