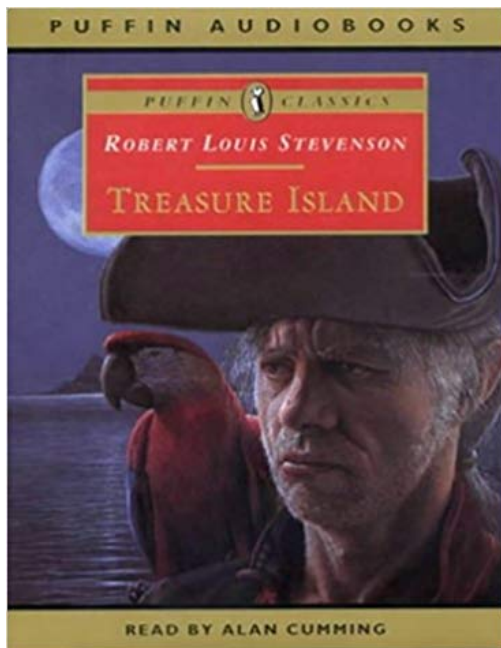


Treasure Island (Puffin Classics) by Alan Cumming, Robert Louis Stevenson



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"It is all as frightening and exciting when read for the umpteenth time in middle age as when first discovered in childhood."-A.N. Wilson
When young Jim Hawkins discovers a treasure map in a pirate's chest in his parents' inn, he is drawn into a world of danger and adventure. He joins the crew setting sail to the Caribbean to seek out the booty and over the course of the voyage confronts mutiny, murder and the charismatic and devious Long John Silver.



Reviews of the Treasure Island (Puffin Classics) by Alan Cumming, Robert Louis Stevenson

Brannylv

I would give this review zero stars if I could. This is not a legit book but rather some bound version of a combo typed/xerox copy of the original, made in the USA, San Bernardino, California, 25 June 2017, 3 days ago, upon my order apparently.

This was going to be a gift for a 9 year old looking to engage further in chapter reading. No longer.

I thought a rollicking pirate adventure, illustrated by N. C. Wyeth, might be fun. This poor replica is anything but fun...the cover is pixelated and the illustration plates are muddied grays, and I haven't even addressed how a 9-year old is going to try to read the disjointed copy spacing and chapter headings, as well as typos and misspellings. Please see photos.

On top of this my copy was bent and sticky, go figure packing crew.

100% dissatisfied long-term Amazon customer.

Oso

Treasure Island was written 130 years ago and it remains one of the great adventure tales of all time. I originally read it when I was about ten years old and, fifty years later, I recently re-read it in the Kindle edition. The fact that the book brings as much pleasure now as it did then is an indication of how good it really is. Stevenson truly hit the ball out of the park with this one.

Much has been remarked in many of these critiques about the outdated language Stevenson used. In that regard, I have to say that the Kindle edition that I downloaded lacks one thing that was included in my old printed edition, which was published by MacMillan way back in 1924. The old edition has a set of notes following the text, explaining a lot of the nautical terms and old-fashioned jargon. It even includes the complete lyrics to "A Bottle of Rum". I never found those notes necessary but they might prove useful to some of the younger readers, to whom such language might be unfamiliar. Personally, I think the language is part of what has given this tale it's lasting appeal. In addition, I don't know whether 18th Century pirates really spoke the way Stevenson has them speak in Treasure Island, but there is no doubt that it is the way they will forever be remembered, "...and ye may lay to that, Matey"!

Hidden Winter

I just finished reading this terrific story on Kindle (ASIN: B00LP34EKI). Since Amazon lumps together all reviews for similarly titled products I've included the ASIN number so you know which version of this book I'm referring to. There are 10 illustrations and photos at the very end of the book. Only three are about this story with the rest being various photos of the author as a child, a young man, etc. You can do a lot better just by doing an image search "Treasure Island". I won't rehash the story here since it's quite well known by everyone already or at least the framework of the story is.

Some of the nautical terms and pirate jargon in the story were unfamiliar to me and I found the CliffNotes Treasure Island Glossary to be very useful in understanding them. It defines terms like aloft and aloft; assizes; dead-eye; my cock, as in rooster and meaning a fine young man (that one tripped me up for a few seconds) and many others. Amazon won't let me post a link to it so just do a search for "Full Glossary for Treasure Island - CliffsNotes". It'll probably be the first hit in the list and it's free.

There are many images on the Web for Treasure Island. I did a Search for 'Treasure Island Map' and I found one that helped in getting a better idea of where action was taking place. I hope you enjoy the story and if you have young children why not read it aloud with them.

By the way, if you want to see the film I highly recommend you watch the 1950 Disney version starring Robert Newton as Long John Silver. One RottenTomatoes critic said this; "Newton's Long John Silver is the ultimate buccaneer, a one-legged, squinty-eyed blackguard so piratical he even concludes a prayer with a hammy 'Ahhhhrrrrmen...'" And Silver could also be the most charming, silver-tongued devil around when it suited him.

Enjoy
Jugami

My recent read of *The Brethren Prince: Piracy, Revenge, and the Culture Clash of the Old Caribbean* got me thinking of *Treasure Island*, which I had read 45+ years ago, as a boy. I decided it was time to give the book a second look. I enjoyed it. 'Twas easy to see, written as it was, from young Jim Hawkin's perspective, how this was a book tailored to boys. Of course, Jim sure had a lot of good luck, to make it through the entire (mis)adventure. Some of that luck, and a few actions of characters, were far-fetched enough that I can not award a full five stars for this literary classic.

I remembered little of this story, from my earlier read. The old style language would have been pretty difficult for a typical, young baby boomer -- and, I expect I had gone through some segments with only a general idea of what was happening. Perhaps my book had had a bit of glossary, as another recent reader recalled from his childhood reading. It would be a good book to read along with a young person, to explain terms and quaint language, and to look up items, together.

As a viewer of *Black Sails*, I noted that three of the characters in the series were lifted from *Treasure Island*, as a bit of Googling confirmed that, indeed, they are fictional: Billy Bones, John Silver, Captain Flint.

Taun

Still a classic adventure with great writing and memorable characters. I feared that I would be disappointed re-reading this book as an adult and that my fond memories would be destroyed-as they were when I re-read *Swiss Family Robinson*. *Swiss Family Robinson* can only be enjoyed by children, I learned, because adults see immediately how ridiculous it is. *Treasure Island*, however, is a masterpiece. As a child, I did not appreciate the characterization of Long John Silver. I remembered him only as a "bad pirate," but he is so much more: devious and clever--and likable! I also, as an adult, recognized how much of our pirate folklore comes from this tale. I encourage adults to give this "treasure" another read. You'll have a new appreciation for this truly classic work.

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