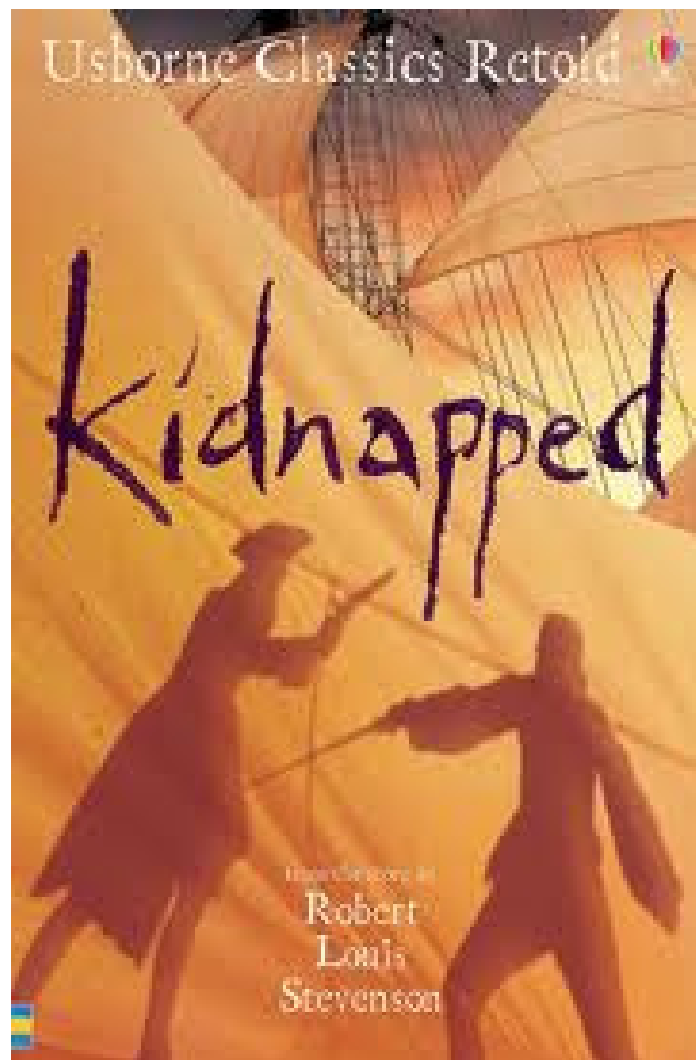


STUDY GUIDE FOR KIDNAPPED

By Robert Louis Stevenson



Work done by: _____

Mark: _____

BEFORE READING

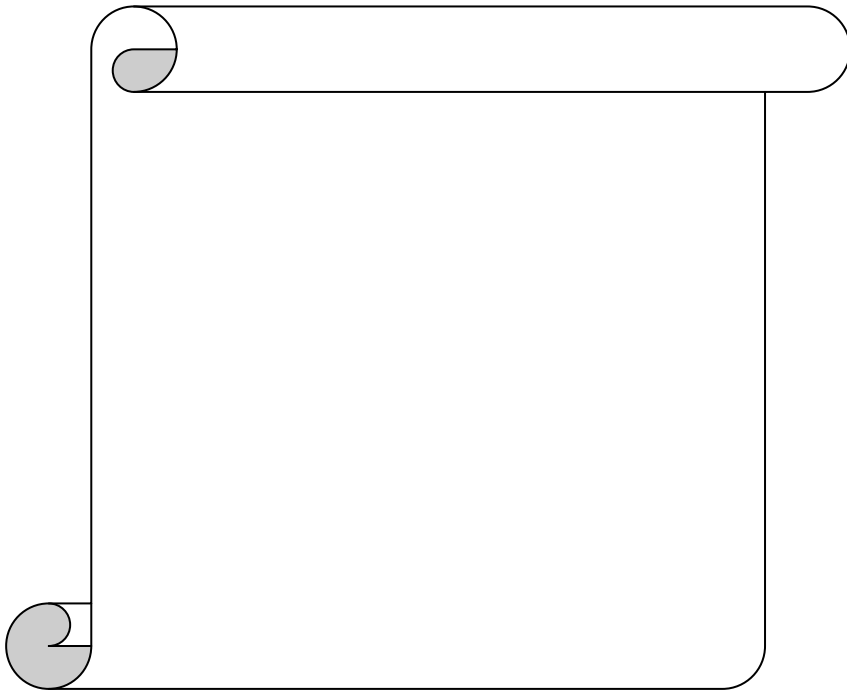
Before you start reading is worth learning about R.L. Stevenson and from where he gets the inspiration to write his novels.

- **Read from the following site facts about Stevenson's life and draw a time line with the main points in his life**

<http://www.stevenson-house.co.uk/robert-louis-stevenson.html>

- **Go to the following site to find out when and where he starts writing Kidnapped and why its writing was interrupted.**

<http://digital.nls.uk/rlstevenson/index.html>



- **In the following site you will find the places Stevenson or Davie Balford went to in Kidnapped. Design a leaflet for tourists to do Stevenson's Way.**

<http://www.stevensonway.org.uk/>

Now we will watch a short video clip from a production of "Kidnapped".

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/masterpiece/kidnapped/index.html>

The letter of Inheritance

David Balfour, now an orphan of 16, leaves his home at Essendean in the Borders in early June 1751 with a letter for his Uncle Ebenezer- his father's brother. His uncle lives in the house where Alexander Balfour grew up- the House of Shaws by Cramond near Edinburgh. The letter is part of a will.

David is sent on his way by the kindly Minister, Mr Campbell, who gives him some presents.

Once David is in Cramond he asks the way to the House of Shaws but receives many strange looks. He finds himself at nightfall at a derelict house and is greeted by a blunderbuss at an upstairs window.

Activity 1: This novel is set in Scotland. Note down everything you read that indicates this and how it is described.

Activity 2: Write a few sentences describing the sort of life Davis is led to expect when he reaches the House of Shaws?

Understanding

- **Brainstorm what questions David might want to ask his uncle.**
In pairs role play the conversation. Ebenezer can invent the answers.

Activity 3: Mention of the House of Shaw; seemed to provoke a response in lots of different people when David reaches Cramond near Edinburgh.



How did the carter respond?

Why do you think the man told him to stay away from the house?

-
-
-
-

Describe the woman's reaction

What evidence can you find that the house is doomed and David unwelcomed?

Discuss

Discuss what you think is in the letter from David's father to his uncle.

- ✓
- ✓
- ✓

First Impression

The description Davie offers us of his Uncle Ebenezer when he first meets him is particularly powerful. A person's appearance offers an insight into the personality of the individual.



Activity 4: Write the letter that Davie might have secretly sent Mr Campbell telling him how he is getting on.

You may want to include:

- *What Ebenezer looks like*
- *What the house looks like*
- *What kind of treatment he has received so far*
- *Anything else you think could be interesting or useful for Mar Campbell to know*

In the dark Tower

Ebenezer tries to kill David during a thunderstorm by sending him five storeys of the house by an outside stair to a fictitious "chest" to fetch some papers. David survives and Ebenezer almost dies of a stroke.

Ransome, cabin boy on the Covenant Brig, brings a message to Ebenezer from captain Hoseason inviting him to order goods from overseas before they sail that night. Davie agrees to accompany his uncle to the Hawes Inn at Queen's Ferry because he will be safe amongst other people and his uncle promises to take him to his lawyer Mr Rankeillor – and elderly man who knew David's father.

David foolishly leaves Hoseason and his uncle alone. He discovers from the landlord that Ebenezer is said to have killed his older brother, Alexander, to gain the House of Shaws, now David's rightful inheritance. Trusting Hoseason, David is kidnapped and is bound for the Carolinas as a slave.

- Why do you think Ebenezer told Davie not to tell anybody about it yet?

- What does he discover when he opened some of the books? What does that mean?

David is ordered to go up the outside stair to collect a chest for his uncle.

Activity 5: Fill in the details that make this part so exciting!

- a) Ebenezer had been giving his nephew verylooks.
- b) He gives his nephew an odd account of thepounds which Davie disbelieves.
- c) He does not give Davie any when climbing the dark staircase.
- d) The staircase has no
- e) Davie can feel the stairs getting
- f) The weather outside is
- g) Davie start to go up on his
- h) Davie is surrounded by
- i) When Davie reached the top he found

Discuss

Discuss with your partner what you felt in this part of the story. Was it what you had expected?

- What does he learn about his father and his uncle from the landlord of the Hawes Inn?
-

- What does this now mean for David?
-
-

- What do we discover Ebenezer and Captain Hoseason discussed while David was "fool enough" to leave them alone?
-
-
-

- Why does David trust Captain Hoseason?
-
-

Galley Slave

David regains consciousness but finds himself far away in the Covenant. He learns that Mr Shaun can be violent when drunk, especially towards Mr Ransome; and Mr Riach can be unkind when sober.

To David's horror Mr Shaun kills Mr Ransome in a drunken fury and David takes Ransome's place, serving the Captain in the Round House, an area some six feet above the deck. All the weapons and gunpowder are stored in this room. The Captain orders that no-one is ever to know the truth of Ransome's death. David is quite well treated but cannot forget what happened.

After 10 stormy days, the Covenant runs down a boat in heavy fog and the only survivor is an extraordinary passenger, Alan Breck Stewart, a local Jacobite follower of Bonny Prince Charlie. He is a rebel returning to France to his Appin chief in exile and is on the run from King George and his red-coated soldiers. Alan will pay 60 guineas if he is taken to Linnhe Loch in his own

Appin country, and the Captain agrees. David overhears a plot to overthrow Alan Breck, warns the Jacobite and stands by him. David's job is to keep the firearms overloaded.

Discuss

Imagine what kind of work David is going to do in the roundhouse.

Language

His skin was "as white as fresh snow" is an example of a simile in this chapter (p.49) to describe Ransome's dead face. It helps us form a more vivid image in our minds. The room was "as hot as an oven" (p. 40).

Make up effective similes of your own for each of these sentences:

- a) *David thought the sunset was as*
- b) *The swell of the waves seemed as.....*
- c) *Mr Riach, who was as angry as.....glared at Mr Shaun.*
- d) *The murderer lay on his bunk and whimpered like*
- e) *The oatmeal porridge David served Captain Hoseason was as*

Alan Breck Stewart is a most unusual character.

Match each of the adjectives on the left hand side column to one of the statements in the right hand side column.

- | | | |
|------------|---|--|
| impetuous | → | a) Alan Breck had leaped up and caught hold of the brig's bowsprit |
| Nimble | → | b) He looked as cool and as undaunted as me |
| Immodest | | c) Here was a man I would rather called my friend than my enemy |
| Loyal | | d) He had a hat with feathers, a red waistcoatand a blue coat with silver buttons |
| Flamboyant | | e) They would die for me like dogs |
| Sarcastic | | f) And he lay quickly his hands on his pistols |
| Brave | | g) I am one of those gentleman that was in trouble about the years 45 and 46 |

Dangerous	h) It belongs to my chieftain
Confident	i) And you, by your long face, should be a Whig?
clam	j) It doesn't set my genius, which is all for my upper guard

- What story did David tell Alan? Discuss in groups and write it

Battle Stations

After a fierce battle, Alan Breck and David successfully hold the Round House against all the other 15 crew members. Mr Shaun and five more are either killed or badly injured.

Alan proudly gives David one of the silver buttons of his jacket as a keepsake and David is told he can always show it if he needs help as it will be recognize. The Captain and Mr Riach call a truce.

Alan tells David he returns often to Scotland because he misses his friends and to collect the income for his exiled chief of the Appin clan- Ardshield.- forced to flee with his family after their defeat at Culloden in 1746. The loyal tenants pay two rents: one to King George whom they hate and one to their beloved Ardshield forced to forfeit his estate. James of the Glens- otherwise known as James Stewart- is Ardshield's half-brother and he, as agent, collects the rent. Alan hates the King's factor, Colin Campbell of Glenure, otherwise known as the Red Fox. His job is to prevent rent being carried to Ardshield and he is doing all in his power to strip the Stewarts and other sympathizers of their land rights. Alan is set on revenge. He would love to see, Colin Campbell, his enemy, dead.

- **The sooner we begin, the sooner you will feel this steel in your belly. What's the name of this literary figure? And what does it mean?**

Make up your own examples:

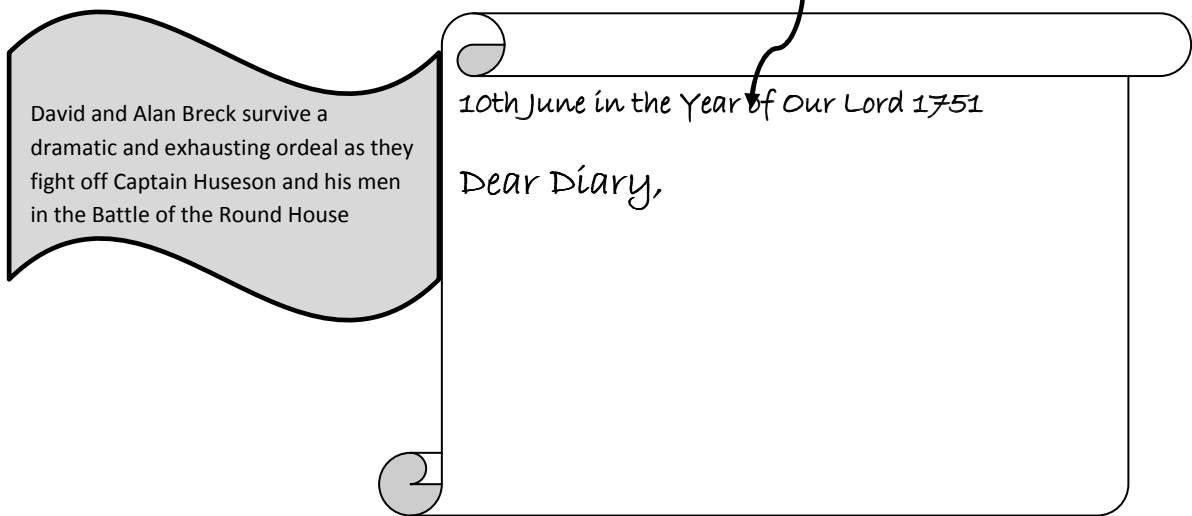
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Creative writing

After the siege of the Round-House David feels proud and horrified and exhausted.

Imagine you are David and write your diary entry as you sit up on your three-hour watch.

Start on an empty sheet of paper with the following words:



The Torran Rocks

In terrible weather, the Covenant hits a reef by the isle of Erraid off Mull ad David swims ashore.

Castaway

After four days, David – lonely, scared and ill- finds he can just walk off the island of Erraid over to Mull at low tide. He discovers he has lost all the golden guineas he has started with.

During the 100 hours that David is on the island of Erraid, he goes through a wide range of emotions.

- Identify the situation when he feels like this:
 - a) David feels afraid when he
 - b) David feels lonely when he

- c) David feels helpful when he
- d) David feels ill when he
- e) David feels angry when he
- f) David feels stupid when he

The Boy with the Silver Button

David meets an old gentleman who recognizes him as the boy with the silver button and tells him Alan Breck has instructed him to go over by boat from Torosay to Morven on the mainland. The journey of 100 miles across Mull takes him four days and he meets various unscrupulous people.

It takes David four days to walk the 100 miles from Erraid to Torosay on the east coast and then across Morven, and he meets various people on the way.

➤ Match these characters with their description

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 1) Duncan Mackleigh | a) Tries to cheat David by refusing to take him further without development |
| 2) Maclean | b) The blind catechist carries a pistol and questions David cunningly |
| 3) The old gentleman | c) Gives David his route across Morven all the way to Aucharn in Duron |
| 4) Hector Maclean | d) Has been told to watch out for and help the boy with the silver button |
| 5) The guide | e) Tells David of Alan's fine courage and helps him cross over to Appin |
| 6) Neil Roy Macrob | f) Is the landlord at Torosay on Mull overlooking Morven |
| 7) Henderland | g) Is the rich man of Mull who changes one of David's golden guineas |

I meet the Red Fox

The death of Colin Campbell or Colin of Glenure- otherwise known as Red Fox because of his red hair- is a well-known event in history. The other men were his lawyer, a servant and a sheriff’s officer.

- Write a dramatic headline and then a newspaper report describing what happened.



David agrees to go with Alan to the Lowlands once he is convinced that his friend played no part in the murder of the Red Fox.

- In your own words, make a list of the main hardships David will have to endure on their flight through the heather

Hardships:

.....

.....

.....

.....

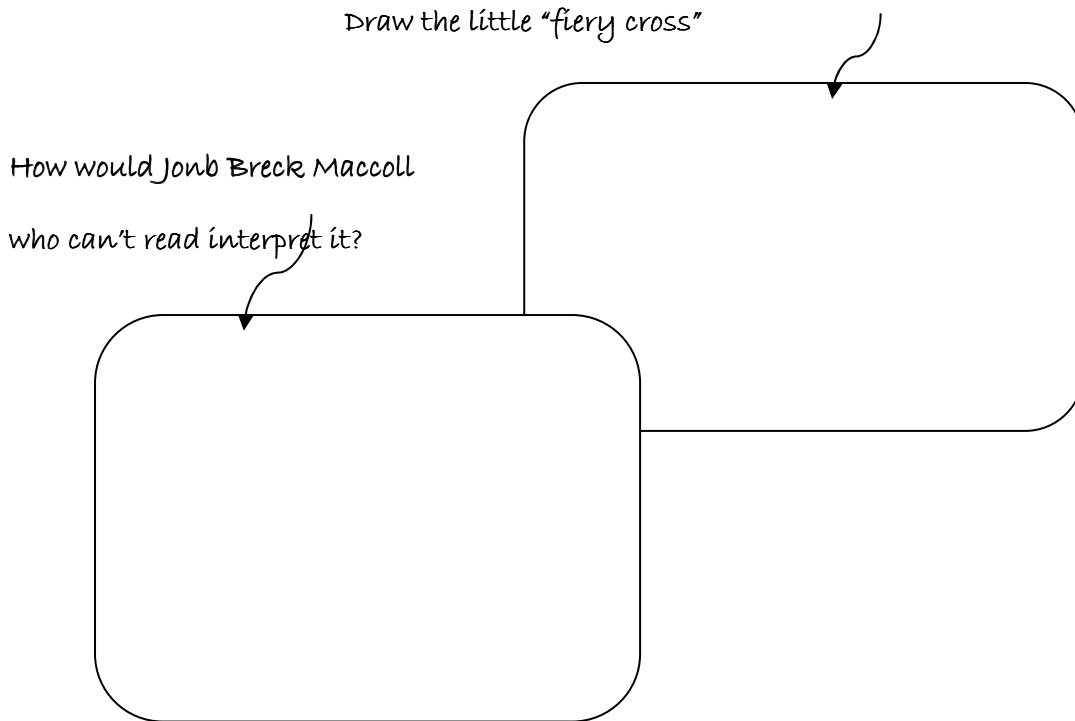
Wanted Dead or Alive

- List the different ways Stevenson creates a sense of dramatic activity in the following:

Page 109 "The two men fell into hushed conversation.....,their eyes wide with fear"

1.
2.
3.

- 4.
- 5.



❖ Complete the Wanted Posters that you will find at the end of the document

The Chase on the Moor

Describe the chase

A Pipe Contest

❖ Is the pipe played in some parts of your country? Where?

❖ Stick here other things you associate with Scotland



To Queensferry Town

- What moving story did Alan tell the girl to convince her to help them get over the river Forth?

.....

.....

.....

Creative writing

Write the conversation Mr Campbell had with Mr Rankeillor on June 27th when he came to his office demanding to know where David and Ebenezer's claim that he had helped David financially to go to Leyden to continue his education and how David wanted nothing to do with his past.

The Beggar Returns

We are told Uncle Ebenezer just sat on the top doorstep and stared as if turned to stone when his lawyer and his nephew step out of the shadows.

What do you think he is thinking?

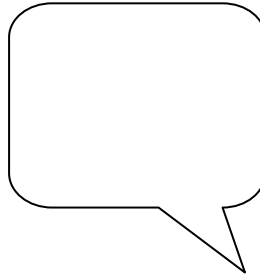
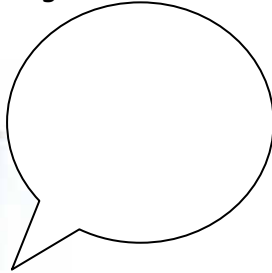


UNCLE SAT ON THE DOORSTEP WITH THE BLENDEDNESS IN HIS HANDS."

The Parting Time

David and Alan are near to tears when they have to say goodbye as they look down over Edinburgh and go their separate ways.

- Write down one thing they may tease the other about given what they have gone through together and how well they both now know each other.



AFTER READING THE BOOK

THEMES

After reading the book, discuss which of these you think are the themes:

- Friendship
- Growing up
- Survival
- Escape
- Learning to be yourself

- ✓ Can you identify some more? Remember to give examples and reasons for everything you say

GLOSSARY OF KIDNAPPED

Bunk:

Choke:

Curse:

Deck:

Evict:

Forecastle:

Fort:

Gale:

Hamlet:

Laird:

Moor:

Outlaw:

Porridge:

Porthole:

Round house:

Shipwreck:

Siege:

Skiff:

Slabs:

Sleepy village:

Uneasy: