

This excerpt from the play Treasure Island is adapted from Robert Louis Stevenson's novel of the same name. The setting for the play's first scene is the Admiral Benbow, an inn where Jim Hawkins works and Captain Bones is staying. Read the excerpt and answer the questions that follow.

from **Treasure Island**

by Timothy Mason

ACT I

SCENE I

Night, the wind, the sea. The weathered signboard, "Admiral Benbow," creaking on its hinges above the tavern door. The inn is empty but for Jim Hawkins polishing glasses behind the bar, and its warm and flickering light makes it feel cozy and safe compared to the windswept cobble-stoned street outside.

- 5 VOICE OF JIM HAWKINS: Although it's been years, I remember that night as if it were yesterday. The wind was up—and the sea was high—and it was bitterly cold for November. But my mother's inn, the Admiral Benbow, had quite settled down for the evening. Our only lodger, Captain Bones, seemed to be quiet for once, and kept to his room. I had nearly given up hope we'd have any visitors at all when—
- 10 without warning—my great adventure began. Of course, I—Jim Hawkins—had no notion I was starting out on my journey to Treasure Island.

- (We hear the tapping of a stick on the stones, and from the shadows see a hunched figure, wrapped in a huge tattered sea-cloak and hood, slowly drawing near to the tavern, making his way with a stick. He taps, walks, stops, and listens. He*
- 15 *sniffs and cocks his blind head, as though he were smelling something out—and then starts again. Inside, Jim notices the tapping, looks up and listens. Blind Pew stops still. Jim goes back to polishing the glasses. Then he hears the tapping a second time—Blind Pew has reached the tavern door—and Jim leaves the bar, glass and cloth in hand, and walks to the door. Just as he opens the door, Pew*
- 20 *ducks into a shadow and Billy Bones roars from upstairs.)*

BONES: Hawkins!

(Jim drops the glass and it shatters on the floor.)

JIM: Oh, bother the man!

BONES: Jim Hawkins!

- 25 JIM: Yessir, Cap'm Bones, sir. Straightaway, sir!

(We hear a thin, high wail from the street which, if we knew it, serves Blind Pew for laughter. Jim hears it and turns back to the door.)

BONES: Hawkins! Will you not stand to!

- JIM: *(Turning back into the tavern.)* Aye, sir. Coming, sir! *(Regarding the broken*
- 30 *glass on the floor.)* Never mind the mess, Jim.

(Jim runs up the staircase and out of sight. The wind rises as Pew opens the tavern door a crack. Wisps of fog crawl in along the floor.)

- PEW: So it's "Captain" Bones, is it? We'll give you "Captain" my mate—aye, we'll give you that and more.
- 35 *(High-pitched wail agatn. Billy Bones appears on the staircase and clambers down into the taproom, followed by Jim Hawkins.)*
- BONES: Discipline, Jim!
(The tavern door shuts quickly and quietly. Pew feels his way on, into the darkness.)
- 40 BONES: Discipline! Now, if you had sailed along of Bones, you wouldn't o' stood there to be spoke to twice—not you. That was never the way with Cap'm Bones, nor the way of sich as sailed wif him. And you, wif yer paar Daddy dead and done wif, you got to laarn yer propers, don't you Jim? Fetch me a noggin o' rum, boy.
- 45 JIM: Yessir, Cap'm. Aye, sir.
(Jim fills a noggin of rum from the keg behind the bar. Bones suddenly stops dead still, facing the street door. Jim comes around to the Captain with the rum.)
- JIM: Here it be, Cap'm.
(Bones does not respond.)
- 50 JIM: That'll be tuppence, Cap'm.
(Bones does not move.)
- JIM: Cap'm Bones, sir?
- BONES: *(Slowly, after a pause.)* What's here?
- JIM: Sir?
- 55 BONES: What smells? I got a quare feelin' an' I don't like it. Somethin' rotten is here...or was. Quick, Jim! Step to the door and put yer head out!
(Jim hesitates.)
- BONES: Do as yer told, boy!
(Jim runs to the door, opens it and looks out. The sound of the wind rises.)
- 60 BONES: Sing out if there's ought amiss, Jim!
(The wind. Jim finally closes the door.)
- JIM: Nothin', Cap'm.
- BONES: *(Furtive whisper.)* Are ye cartin', Jim? Not a soul?
- JIM: Only Emlyn Jenkins, and he's making his way here to the Admiral Benbow,
- 65 like as not.
- BONES: None other, then? Not a man—listen to me, Jim—not a man wif no eyes in his head?
- JIM: No eyes?
(Jim opens the door again and looks out. The wind.)
- 70 JIM: No, sir. Bless my soul, sir, there ain't.
- BONES: Not even...Jim!
(Jim turns back inside, closing the door.)
- BONES: Not even...a seafarin' man wif only one leg, Jim? There weren't none o' those out there, was there?
- 75 *(Jim laughs.)*

JIM: Oh, Cap'm! Beggin' your pardon, Cap'm, but you're a sight! One-legged men and men without no eyes, sir? I think you'll be wantin' your rum now, sir...
(*Bones slowly begins to laugh.*)

BONES: That's right, Jim. Ha haaaa! Sharp as a handspike, ain't you, and only a yard
80 long!
(*Claps Jim on the back and they both laugh.*)

BONES: Jim knows there's nought to be afeard of, don't he? Anyways, I was just tryin' you out, lad—seein' what you was made on. Ha haaaa! Only...see my mark, Jim? (*Bones points to the long scar which runs down the side of his face.*)
85 Not very pretty, is it. The hand what put it there don't move no more, Jim. And when there's evil lurkin' about, I feel it right here, Jim...(Indicating his scar.) My mark tells me.

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- 13 What do lines 5–11 show?
- A. Jim is arriving at the inn.
 - B. Jim is preparing for a trip.
 - C. Jim is recalling a past experience.
 - D. Jim is retelling a story he has heard.

- 14 Read the sentences from lines 33 and 34 in the box below.

PEW: So it's "*Captain*" Bones, is it?
We'll give you "*Captain*" my mate—
aye, we'll give you that and more.

What is the purpose of the quotation marks in the sentences?

- A. to show that Pew is afraid of Bones
- B. to indicate the respect Pew has for Bones
- C. to show that Pew is not used to the language of the sea
- D. to indicate that Pew does not believe Bones is a real captain

15 What do lines 63–74 show about Bones?

- A. He is cruel to Jim.
- B. He has led an easy life.
- C. He hopes to find his friends.
- D. He lives in fear of a particular person.

16 Who should perform the action described in the stage direction in line 86?

- A. the director
- B. the narrator
- C. the actor playing Jim
- D. the actor playing Bones

Question 17 is an open-response question.

- Read the question carefully.
- Explain your answer.
- Add supporting details.
- Double-check your work.

Write your answer to question 17 in the space provided in your Student Answer Booklet.

17 Based on the excerpt, describe the relationship between Bones and Jim. Support your answer with important and specific details from the scene.