

Book review- Treasure Island

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Author-Robert Louis Stevenson

First published in 1883, Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island* is one of the Classic adventure stories in English, published first in 1883. The novel transcends its time and genre and remains today and engaging portrayal of personality and conflict beautifully told by the author.

Set in the mid 1700s, first along the coast of Western England and then in the seaport of Bristol, the novel takes its reader to the high Seas and finally to remote and secret island on a quest for pirated Treasure. The novel tells the story of Jim, a young boy watches over and inn in an English seaside town with his mother and his gravely ill father. When a new guest came to the inn, and in a way be friends Jim, the latter gets hold of a map that leads to a Treasure. It is later revealed that many people were after the map, and with that, starts the adventure of Jim.

It is a well written plot. The Adventures of Jim Hawkins are filled with suspense which makes for an interesting read. Written specifically for children, this is one of the best books in the genre. It appeals especially to boys but can be read by girls, too.

One of the best thing about the novel is that all its characters are not stereotyped and unrealistic, but are so skillfully portrayed that they live for us in the reader's imagination. Characters like Long John Silver, the pirates of Pirates, Jim, the protagonist, amongst others Stay With the Reader even after they have finished reading the novel.

One of the reasons for reading is perhaps to learn how to write. Stevenson, in this regard, is a master craftsman. His prose is classic, clear, and rhythmical. Through the reading of the novel, the children are being exposed to fine language along with having great time.

A word of caution, however, for *Treasure Island* would be that unlike other children's stories written, it includes some characters who are not examples of virtue but on the contrary lead sinful and loathsome lives. However, when one looks at the plot of the novel, this could still be termed normal since they are pirates and it is what one expects of them. These characters are the villains of the story and evil ways are not condoned in any way, which sort of makes the aforementioned criticism not much to the point.

In conclusion, *Treasure Island* is a well-written novel by Robert Louis Stevenson that it caters not only to the young readers, but to the grown-ups as well. I enjoyed reading this book as it throws light to the lives of people associated to sea and ships, making it an enjoyable read and yet it conveys a deeper meaning of people in general and their relationships with each other and the importance of virtues in one's life.