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# Robert Louis Stevenson's Treasure Island: How Captain Long John Silver has influenced the figure of the pirate

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# **Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island* : How Captain Long John Silver has influenced the figure of the pirate**

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## Introduction

The following pages intend to give a deep look at piracy by looking at the sources of inspiration and the legacy of the most famous pirate of all: Long John Silver. At the beginning of the first chapter, there will be a description of the places in which pirates operated: the Sea. Sea has many meanings. It could provoke serenity, a sense of freedom, and peace. On the other hand, it is a place of unknown, a place of fear and anxiety. Pirates were sailors so it is interesting to focus the attention on the birth of navigation. There will be also an analysis of the sense of the beach, the shore, and the sea itself. What represented maritime places? After having described the most important aspects of navigation, this thesis will focus its attention on piracy and pirates. Piracy flourished during the 16<sup>th</sup> century but it was widespread mostly in England during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The piracy was so popular that the 18<sup>th</sup> century became “The Golden Age of Piracy”. Many pirates will be described during this chapter and they became famous and did something glorious. During this period the queen of England was Elizabeth the first who operated with the Sea Dogs. They were essentially a group of the Royal Navy, authorized to fight for the British Empire. There will be a focus on many important members of the Sea Dogs like Francis Drake, who was the first Corsair who circumnavigated the globe, or Henry Morgan and John Hawkins. There were not only men on the ship, many women were part of the crew. There are not many documents about them but some women became famous for their bravery and ideals. There will be a special focus on Mary Read, Anne Bonny, and Grace O’Malley. The first two operated almost together, they met the same people, and they belonged to different words but their destinies were intertwined. The third one, Grace operated in Ireland and her story is quite peculiar. She was a pirate who became a queen’s ally. From fighting for herself to fighting for the same enemies. This chapter works as an introduction to the author Robert Louis Stevenson and his *Treasure Island*.

Robert Louis Stevenson is the heart of the second chapter. There will be a description of his childhood and adolescence. The important figure of his nurse Alison Cunningham, Cummy who will help Stevenson to develop his literary formation. He was always surrounded by the sea. His father wanted another type of education for his son. He hoped for an engineering career for him but instead, Stevenson chose to study law without doing the profession. The author met Fanny who became his wife. The woman had a previous marriage and a son, Lloyd Osborne. For Stevenson’s illness, the family was forced to move often. He wrote the first chapters like a game; he drew an island map. He began to give names to the places and after a while, he began to think about an adventurous story: a story about the sea, a story about pirates, treasure hunters. This was the

beginning of one of his masterpieces *Treasure Island*. In this chapter, the characters of the story begins to have a shape. There will be some people who inspired Stevenson's characters. Habits, costumes, and the typical figure of the pirate will be described. This chapter underlines the birth of *Treasure Island*. After that, there will be a description of the most important pirates of the book with a specific focus on Long John Silver.

In the last chapter, this thesis will begin with a description of the adaptation, prequel, and sequel. It is significant to underline the importance of the genre of the adventure novel to fully understand it. Three works will be in the third and last chapter: an adaptation, a prequel, and a sequel. Stevenson inspired many generations. Those who read *Treasure Island* are suddenly transported to another world: a world of adventures and challenges. During the years people took the book, rearranged it, changed it, invented new stories, and added details. In the collective imaginary Stevenson's novel is the pirate book par excellence. *Treasure Planet* is an animated film from Walt Disney Studios and an adaptation of the novel. It is set in the future, but the characters are almost the same; it is quite the same story with another key to understanding. The second work that will be analyzed is a prequel, another type of media. *Black Sails* is a TV series that explores Captain's Flint and Long John Silver's life from the beginning. It gives a reason of Silver's behaviour and actions and the ending of the show fits perfectly with the beginning of *Treasure Island*. The last work of this essay is focused on a sequel which is the Björg novel called "*The Last Adventure of Long John Silver*". It gives another perspective of this character. Many years have passed since Silver's escape and now, he wants to tell Jim how he lived his life and how is living now. In this novel, there is Silver's point of view with his ideals and way of life.

## **Chapter one: Navigation and piracy**

### **1.1 The Importance of Navigation**

Men have learned to sail since dawn. Some species antecedents, *Homo sapiens*, were able to use primitive rafts to cross rivers and narrow sea basins. They could build Cayuco, a sort of canoe derived from tree trunks. According to the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, navigation is the skill or the process of planning a route for a ship or other vehicle and taking it there. (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary).

There are two significant areas in which navigation found its roots: Mediterranean Sea and Indian and Pacific Ocean. Egyptians learned how to sail the Nile 4000 years before Christ using little boats composed of papyrus and then wooden boats; with the passing of time, these boats developed many skills. The ability of the Phoenicians to navigate was higher than that of the Egyptians. They learned to build ships with cargo hold, which allowed the carriage of goods, and they also had warships with wings. Thanks to their ability, they conquered many colonies; one of the most important was Carthage, which became a naval power. Greeks inherited the capacity of navigation from the Phoenicians, and they developed another type of ship, which was the triremes which were vessels that could navigate faster, and they were easier to handle. Subsequently, Romans also used these types of ships. For using triremes, it was necessary the participation of more than 170 men, and the space was not appropriate for soldiers; other ships were then developed to allow soldiers to work in habitable places, the quinqueremes which had more space and viability.

Mediterranean people found their way around thanks to the observation of celestial bodies, so they navigated only in the Mediterranean Sea, and almost no one surpassed the Pillars of Hercules, the Strait of Gibraltar. Some fearless people went into unknown seas. Pilates of Marsiglia reached Great Britain and arrived in a new place called Thule, maybe on the Island or in Norway. Normans and Vikings were the great sailors arriving on Canada's shores during the Middle Ages. Their most important ship was the Drakkar, which could carry more than 30 men. During the XII and XIII centuries, two essential inventions came out: the compass and the gunpowder. The first one allowed oceanic navigation, permitting geographic discovery, and the second one was used in wars and battles. However, in XI, Caravella, another type of ship, made it possible long-distance journeys. Progress was necessary and helpful for the development of navigation; however, the XVII changed

the navigation mode, introducing steam engines and substituting wood with metal.

During the navigation period, the discovery of oceans was very relevant. The biggest ocean was called the “South Seas,” and it wets the shores of Asia, Australia, and South America. Europeans discovered this ocean in 1520 thanks to the navigator Ferdinando Magellan, who gave it its iconic name, “Pacific,” due to the calmness of the water. Its discovery was not foreseen because Magellan intended to find a western route to the spice islands across the Atlantic Ocean. His fleet entered an unfamiliar ocean: the Pacific Ocean.

The term “Atlantic” instead was documented for the first time in the VI century B.C. by a Greek poet: “Altantikoi Pelagei” or “the sea of Atlas.” According to Greek mythology, Atlas was a titan, and he was considered the first to have studied the science of astronomy. It is narrated he was the first to represent the world as a sphere, and for this reason, it was said that he carried the sky upon his shoulders. There was a belief that this mass of water was a unique ocean that surrounded a unique earth. Atlantic represented a barrier for European people because they considered it strange and dangerous because of its lack of islands, which made the stationing of navigators. The Atlantic Ocean and Pacific Ocean are connected by two channels. The first one is the Drake Channel, which separates South America from Antarctica. Its name derives from Francis Drake, corsair and English politician of the 14th century who discovered this passage. The other connection is through the Panama Channel, which is artificial and unites the two Americas. This ocean is an energetic resource.

The Indian Ocean is the minor of these three water masses. Its name is due to the explorers who called it “Indian,” any marine place discovered in South Asia. This ocean was witness to many conflicts because of its location; it touches Asian, African, and European shores. It is exploited for its petroleum, mineral resources, and food. Although the Arctic and Antarctic Oceans were usually considered as two big seas, nowadays they have become two different oceans with their specific particularities. (Teti, 2003) While the other oceans are defined by the continents that fence them in, the Southern Ocean is defined by a current. (Gibbens, 2021)The Antarctic Circumpolar Current (ACC) transports more water than any other ocean current. This ocean drives a global circulation system known as the conveyor belt, which transports heat around the planet.

Especially in the Indian and Atlantic Ocean, during the Golden Age of piracy, there were ruthless people who destroyed and terrorized shipping lanes: they were called pirates. (Minster, 2024)

Navigation was very important for pirates. It involved calculations based on the speed of the vessels. They had to be readers and accultured because they had to record the travels of the ships.

Despite this the navigators should be careful of the climate changes, tides and above all, the wind. The wind could move the ship to his liking. In long travels, the blowing of the wind could lengthen the time leaving pirates in dangers. A ship could not go backward so the navigator should be careful near the coast. Obviously during that time there was not the possibility to control every cliff or rocks creating the risk of collision. Leaving a ship near the shore was dangerous also for another reason. It limited the operational area allowing the opponents to attack. Making mistakes during the navigations could be fatal. (Captain Cutlass and The Sheppey pirates, s.d.). The night was perfect to find the coordination of the places.

The vast expanse of the night sky transformed into a celestial map. In the northern Hemisphere, the North Star, a consistent and reliable beacon provided guidance. Similarly, in the southern Oceans sailors relied on the Southern Cross. The angular measurements between these constant stars and the horizon enabled pirates to ascertain their latitude and adjust their course. (Wilczynski, s.d.)

## **1.2 Spaces of pirates: beach, shoreline, and ship's meaning**

The shore is an indistinct and vague element, an intermediate space. It is a place where not much happens. Similarly, marine people are limited characters without rules. It has the characteristic of being the space in which the most contradictions of natural elements converge here: the Sea and the Earth. Beaches have the peculiarity of conserving their symbolic characteristics as pure and intact regardless of their geographical location. The one who sees and experiences the beach gives this latter his symbolic valence through a personal point of view. The observer is fundamental for its imaginative knowledge.

The bourgeoisie in the 17th century used beaches as “non-work time.” Sandy beach was where rich people can walk and chill out. Another social class has a fascination for the beach: the proletariat. The shoreline also holds significant meaning for the figure of the pirate. It is a place where buccaneers could find freedom and opportunity. Often, pirates, criminals and outcasts were researched, so they viewed the shoreline as a rescue place. It provided strategic advantage because shoreline became a hiding place for their ships and a base for launching attacks on vessels.

The shoreline offered access to fresh water, food, and supplies essential for survival during long sea journeys. The shoreline became a hidden place where pirates could hide their richness and treasures. The beach became place of contact and confinement at the same time. The first one is a place where

there is a strong social interaction between individuals belonging to the same social status. The beach, as a confined area, has many symbolic meanings. The marine environment is seen as a limit assigned by nature and, at the same time, from a human point of view, it is seen as a chaotic dimension where pirates and marine monsters live. They represent dangers for the civilisation.

The beach, the border between the Sea and Earth, absorbs many characteristics. It becomes a space of fear, danger, and unknown. The beach has a symbolic meaning, which is the capacity to express a deep relation between humans and space because it borders the notorious world of Earth and the unknown sea world. For pirates, the beach holds practical and symbolic meanings. Living in the sea was very dangerous and exhausting, leading them to the end of their strength, so it was necessary to rest and take a break. The beach represented a place where a pirate could enjoy the freedom and tranquillity this paradise had to offer. Pirates often used the beach strategically to refuel ships with water and provisions. They would also use the opportunity to repair and maintain their vessels. The beach is not a definite and clear space; it is an element that constantly changes; it could be a place of dichotomy: a place of exploitation or devastation and loss, depending on vision. Pirates often patrol beaches searching for shipwrecks, hoping to salvage valuable cargo or rescue survivors. The beach allowed their wealth and reputation. The classic period ignores the charm of the sea and the landscape. The beach symbolizes the freedom and adventure pirates were fascinated by them. Some pirates used beaches as secreted bases to safely hide their ships or themselves from authority or rivals, giving them a sense of security. Tides create a change between sand and sea; it is a space neither entirely marine nor entirely terrestrial. (Mack, 2011). Pirates operated often in Port Royal and thanks to its temperate climate, corsairs and buccaneers settled them for months. They drank and slept in taverns and doing so enriched the island. People of Port Royal wanted pirates on their island to avoid Spanish and English attacks. This was useful also for pirates because island was perfect for settle and control who approached the coast. Pirate's life was peaceful on the island at the end of 16<sup>th</sup> century.

Wine and women drained their wealth to such a degree that, in a little time, some of them became reduced to beggary. They have been known to spend 2 or 3,000 pieces of eight in one night; and one gave a strumpet 500 to see her naked. They used to buy a pipe of wine, place it in the street, and oblige everyone that passed to drink.

Analysing the importance of the ship as a place it is important to underline that a ship is considered as place without a place, closed but open to the infinity of the sea. (Mack, 2011) Probably, ships are the first cosmopolitan place; crews were composed by many people of different



ages and experiences of other social classes and they spoke many different languages. They were united by a desire to work. During the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the crew was a small floating community; it provided shelter and a sense of belonging, offering protection, accommodation, and a shared place. In this period ships were the primary mode of transportation, allowing people to sail the seas and hide in remote locations. They were almost men, but they could also be mercenaries or patriots. The ship also represented a symbol of freedom and independence, allowing people to live outside the laws and regulations of traditional society and promoting a sense of liberty and adventure. Many were replaced during the navigation, and many others travelled for a specific purpose. “Motley crew” (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary) is a heterogeneous group related to different characters and ethnicities. Sailors should survive under freighting conditions. There is a dichotomy between long and short sea voyages in terms of experiences, but sailors were united below the same aim: to complete the journey and receive money. The ship symbolized power and wealth, a valuable price that could produce riches through plundering and looting. Capturing enemy ships allowed pirates to acquire wealth in the form of money, jewellery, and valuable cargo, which was also the first source of livelihood and a base for their operations.

There is an association between the ship as a place and a place of worship. In English, the term “nave” has two meanings: the first one is “ship” – from Latin “Navis” – from which derived many similar terms like navigation, navy, and naval; the other one is the architectonic term “nave” which means the middle or the body of a church extending from the transepts to the principal entrances. A church is a limited area with a specific hierarchy with specific rules, a specific vocabulary, and a specific society and congregation, just like on a ship. A ship at the mercy of a furious sea is often a metaphor used during sermons; the storm is a symbol of chaos and atheism, and the calm instead can be found in faith. The mast is compared to a cross, and the sea is a recurring theme in religious writings. The transition from life to death could be considered as a journey. In many cultures, ships are physically or metaphorically used to transport the body from one state to another, and islands must function as graveyards. A "pirate" ship is not a specific type of vessel but a wide range of ships, from canoes to large frigates, can be classified as pirate ships based on their activities. Pirates often made use of whatever boats were available to them, including very small ones. (Mack, 2011) When pirates acquired a new ship, they typically made modifications to improve its performance. They would install as many cannons as possible—usually at least six—to maintain a strong offensive capability without compromising speed. They also converted cargo spaces into living or sleeping areas because pirate ships generally have more crew members and carried less cargo. (Minster, 2024)

A pirate ship required three essential qualities: seaworthiness, speed, and strong armament.

Seaworthiness was crucial in the Caribbean for the hurricanes, and pirates often had to face storms at sea because many ports were off-limits. Speed was very important for escaping from naval forces. Additionally, being well-armed was necessary to obtain victory in battles. (Mack, 2011). Nobody made ships for pirates so they had to capture them.

Some pirates were crew members on board naval or merchant vessels who took over by mutiny: George Lowther and Henry Avery were two well-known pirate captains who did so. Most pirates simply traded ships when they captured one that was more seaworthy than the one they had been using. (Minster, 2024)

The pirate ship is a very important element in Robert Louis Stevenson's masterpiece "*Treasure Island*". The Hispaniola is a vessel weighing "two hundred tons," 150 feet, like many modern yachts. Technically, it is identified as a three-masted schooner.

### **1.3 The Golden Age of Piracy**

Although piracy was widely practiced since ancient times, it reached its peak during the period between 1650 and 1720; these years are known as 'the Golden Age of piracy'. At the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, in 1492 Christopher Columbus discovered new lands that were later called America. Columbus worked for Spain and for this reason, these new lands became territory of Spain. They were rich in gold, silver, and gems. (The Golden age of Piracy, s.d.)

During the 16<sup>th</sup> century Spain and Portugal became the most important powers in Europe; they colonized new lands and opened trade routes. For more than a century they maintained supremacy but in the 1650s, after the end of the wars of religion, other European countries like Britain, France and Netherland began to acquire more power. (Beyer, 2023) Spain's European rivals especially Great Britain and France spent the next years in creating numerous alliances and both robbed the Spanish ships directly or through the letters of marque to private ships called privateers. (The Golden age of Piracy, s.d.)

A privateer was a pirate with papers. As the name suggests, privateers were private individuals commissioned by governments". They sailed in own armed ships and robbed vessels. The most famous privateer was admiral Francis Drake who had been granted by Elisabeth I in 1572. (Pirates, Privateers, Corsairs, Buccaneers: What's the difference?, s.d.) "Privateering and the letters of marque declined with the: Paris Declaration respecting Maritime Law of 1856 which banned this practice. (Letter of marque , s.d.)

A letter of marque is a government license authorizing the bearer to engage in privateering. The letter of marque was a certificate drawn up with legal expressions and finely decorated. The pirate captain had to deliver the stolen treasures to a tribunal court called Admiralty Court; a part of the loot went to the sovereign. (Cordingly, 2006)

It is important to clarify the difference between the term pirate and corsair. A corsair was a privateer or a ship that was authorized by a government to attack enemy ships during wartime while pirate was a person who steals and attacked ships without any authorization. (Cordingly, 2006)

In the 17<sup>th</sup> century the centre of piracy were the Caribbean islands of Hispaniola and Tortuga. Here lived buccaneers who originally were hunters. Their name derives from boucans which was a wooden hut used for smoking meat. Later the governors of Caribbean islands paid the buccaneers to attack the Spanish ships. (Who were the real pirates of the Caribbean?, s.d.) The pirates that operate in the Mediterranean Sea were called corsairs. Both buccaneers and corsairs were pirates. Pirate is anyone who steals and pounds at sea. (Cordingly, 2006)

The expansion of European trade in the Americas led to an increase in shipping routes and valuable cargo, which attracted pirates looking for quick wealth. freely. (Cordingly, 2006)

The pirate ships had a distinguishing sign which was the flag. The black flag with a white skull, also known as the Jolly Roger, is an iconic symbol associated with piracy. It was used by pirates in the 18th and 19th centuries to strike fear into their victims and assert their dominance on the high seas. The origin of the Jolly Roger goes back to the early 18th century when pirate captain Edward Teach, better known as Blackbeard, first flew a flag with a skeleton holding an hourglass. This flag was intended to convey the message that death was imminent unless the victim surrendered without a fight. Over time, the design evolved to include skull and crossbones, with some other different elements such as swords, hearts, or even skeletons engaged in various activities. The black color of the flag symbolized death and terror while the white skull and bones represented the pirates themselves. The flag served several purposes for pirates. Firstly, it was a form of psychological warfare, instilling fear in the minds of the adversaries. Additionally, the flag had a practical function of helping pirates establishing their identity and intimidating enemies. Pirates used often false flags to deceive their victims and get closer to them before revealing their true intentions. The black flag acted as a quick and unmistakable way to identify oneself as a pirate. The Jolly Roger became increasingly popular among pirates during the "Golden Age of Piracy" in the early 18th century. Notorious pirates such as Blackbeard, Calico Jack Rackham, and Bartholomew Roberts were

known for flying flags adorned with skulls and bones. The flag came to symbolize rebellion against authority and represented the romanticized image of the pirate, with its subsequent adoption in popular culture and folklore. While the Jolly Roger eventually faded from use as piracy declined and piracy laws were enforced more strictly, its image has endured as a symbol of piracy and adventure. Today, it continues to be associated with the idea of freedom, rebellion, and the image of pirates that has captivated people's imagination for centuries. (Cordingly, 2006)

Under the black flag, pirates operated in an environment characterized by torture, violence, and marooning, employing these brutal tactics to maintain control, intimidate enemies, and punish traitors. Pirate ships operated under a system of self-governance, but this system had its flaws. Many individuals, including skilled workers like carpenters and navigators, were often coerced into piracy, although some claimed this as a defence. Others chose the pirate life in pursuit of quick wealth. Successful pirates could enjoy significant plunder for a year and, if lucky, retire comfortably for an extended period. The rules governing pirate life were organized to uphold law and order and maintain organization among the crew. Goods and wages were evenly distributed to foster loyalty, as many pirates had joined through mutiny, making fairness crucial for captains to retain their authority. Captains risked mutinies if they were perceived to cheat or withhold wages. Health and safety were emphasized, with regulations in place for weapon maintenance and preventing accidents involving gunpowder. Pirates were compensated for serious injuries, and food distribution was closely monitored. Some captains, like Bartholomew Roberts, enforced strict rules against drinking and gambling to minimize mistakes and conflicts among the crew. Some rules were legally binding, ensuring that if one partner died, the other one inherited his wealth or returned it to the deceased's family, as few pirates retired. The exact nature of these unions—romantic or platonic—is uncertain, but they involved a deep trust between partners. In pirate culture, the most serious offenses included stealing, fighting, and the accidental or intentional killing of crew members. To maintain fairness and prevent the abuse of power, punishments were decided unanimously by the crew through a Common Council. Marooning was considered the harshest punishment, leaving the offender with limited supplies and a firearm. Killing a crew member was highly condemned and generally avoided if not necessary. Common punishments included floggings and whippings, but in severe cases, keelhauling was employed. This brutal method involved dragging the offender under the ship, often leading to severe injuries, or drowning, with survivors frequently facing long-term disabilities or a high risk of death. (Irwin, 2023)

On the ship the pirate's code was the following:

1. The good of all, to vote a retrenchment.
2. Every man to be called fairly in turn, by list, on board of prizes because, (over and above their proper share) they were on these occasions allowed a shift of clothes: but if they defrauded the company to the value of a dollar in plate, jewels, or money, marooning was their punishment. If the robbery was only betwixt one another, they contented themselves with slitting the ears and nose of him that was guilty, and set him on shore, not in an uninhabited place, but somewhere, where he was sure to encounter hardships.
3. No person to game at cards or dice for money.
4. The lights and candles to be put out at eight o'clock at night: if any of the crew, after that hour remained inclined for drinking, they were to do it on the open deck.
5. To keep their piece, pistols, and cutlass clean and fit for service.
6. No boy or woman to be allowed amongst them. If any man were to be found seducing any of the latter sex, and carried her to sea, disguised, he was to suffer death; (so that when any fell into their hands, as it chanced in the Onslow, they put a sentinel immediately over her to prevent ill consequences from so dangerous an instrument of division and quarrel; but then here lies the roguery; they contend who shall be sentinel, which happens generally to one of the greatest bullies, who, to secure the lady's virtue, will let none lie with her but himself.)
7. To desert the ship or their quarters in battle, was punished with death or marooning.
8. No striking one another on board, but every man's quarrels to be ended on shore, at sword and pistol. (The quartermaster of the ship, when the parties will not come to any reconciliation, accompanies them on shore with what assistance he thinks proper, and turns the disputant back-to-back, at so many paces distance; at the word of command, they turn and fire immediately, (or else the piece is knocked out of their hands). If both miss, they come to their cutlasses, and then he is declared the victor who draws the first blood.)
9. No man to talk of breaking up their way of living, till each had shared one thousand pounds. If to this, any man should lose a limb, or become a cripple in their service, he was to have eight hundred dollars, out of the public stock, and for lesser hurts, proportionately.
10. The Captain and Quartermaster to receive two shares of a prize: the master, boatswain, and gunner, one share and a half, and other officers one and quarter.
11. The musicians to have rest on the Sabbath Day, but the other six days and nights, none without special favour. (Pirate Code of Conduct and Pirate Rules, s.d.)

Pirate crews were composed of an heterogeneous group of people including European sailors, former privateers, escaped slaves, and indigenous people. They operated from bases such as Nassau

in the Bahamas and Tortuga in present-day Haiti, where they formed pirate republics with their own democratic governing systems. Some people were responsible of the security of the reign and in charge to defeat pirates, but someone made a change of course. Captain Kidd was commissioned by the British government to protect merchant ships from pirates in the Indian Ocean and the Red Sea. However, due to financial strain and mounting pressure, he resorted to piracy himself. Kidd sailed to the Caribbean and plundered several vessels, becoming one of the most feared pirates of his time. There is a legend surrounding Kidd's alleged buried treasure. According to the myth, Kidd buried his wealth on one of the islands in the Americas before he was captured and handed over to British authorities. There were many failed attempts of various treasure hunters to locate Kidd's hidden fortunes. This mystery highlights the enduring fascination society has with buried treasure stories, especially those connected to famous pirates like Captain Kidd. The legend of Kidd's buried treasure has captured the imagination of many, even though there is no concrete evidence to support its existence. (Cordingly, 2006)

Most pirates were very young sailors. The average age was 27 years because they had to be strong and in good health. Most English pirates came from port cities, especially from London. Many were black and often were slaves who escaped from West Indian plantations and generally they were used as slaves on the ships. (Cordingly, 2006)

### **1.3 Sea Dogs**

The sea dogs were privateers who, with the consent of Elisabeth I of England, attacked and plundered Spanish colonies and treasure ships in the second half of the 16th century. The name sea dog was used in a derogatory sense by the Spanish authorities. Elisabeth I and her government could not trade legitimately with the Spanish colonies because Philip II of Spain had established a monopoly; the king did not want his rivals to trade with his colonies. The immense Spanish empire in the American colonies represented a great source of richness. The Spanish robbed gemstones, gold, silver from the territories they had conquered and sent them back to Europe with their treasure ships. Philip II had also the Manilla Galleons coming from Asia which were loaded with spices and porcelain. Sea dogs attacked these ships and for a few decades they caused big problems in the seas.

By plundering Philip's treasure ships England increased its wealth while Spain would get poorer. Philip was forced to grant freedom of trade in West Atlantic. Many of Elisabeth' sea dogs came from Devon and often they ere related by marriage or by blood. (Cartwright, 2020)

Sir Henry Morgan was born in 1635 in Galles from a family with military traditions. Young Morgan became a soldier and in 1654 he joined the expedition led by general Venables and admiral Penn for the conquest of Hispaniola. An army of almost 7000 men landed in Santo Domingo but the expedition had to withdraw due to Spanish resistance and tropical diseases. Having failed their mission Penn and Venables decided to attack Jamaica: this time they were successful, and Morgan gained fame and honour. When the leader of corsairs Edward Mansfield was sentenced to death in Havana, Morgan took his place at the age of 31. Morgan utilized fast sailing ships and strong naval tactics to overwhelm larger Spanish forces through surprise attacks and intimidation and Morgan established himself as one of the most successful English privateers. In 1668 he conquered Portobello in Panama and Morgan was welcomed as a hero at Port Royal, an important pirate centre in Jamaica. In the same year he sailed for Isla Vaca, on the south-western coast of Hispaniola with the royal ship Oxford. Unfortunately, the ship caught fire: Morgan was one of the ten survivors. Some of Morgan's most daring raids included leading over 1000 men on canoes across Lake Maracaibo in a surprise attack in 1669. In 1671 he conquered Panama, considered one of the most profitable raids in Caribbean history. This news was well received in Jamaica but obviously not in Spain. This was a time of peace between England and Spain and the English government had not officially authorized Morgan to attack Panama. For this reason, the Spanish wanted England to take action against Morgan: he was arrested and taken to London where he remained for two years without going to prison. In 1674 the governor of Jamaica was worried about a possible French attack on the island. Morgan was sent there as Lieutenant Governor and before his departure from London was knighted by Charles II. Morgan lived in Jamaica and living out his days as a wealthy plantation owner, having established himself as one of the most successful English pirates and privateers of the 17th century Caribbean and living out his days as a wealthy plantation owner. When he died, he was greeted with 30 cannon shots and celebrated with a state funeral. (Cordingly, 2006)

Sir Francis Drake was born in Crowndale in Devon in 1540 and he was one of the most successful sea dogs of all times. In 1563 he decided to follow his cousin John Hawkins in his raids at sea. They attacked Portuguese towns and ships on the coast of West Africa. In 1568 Drake took part in the battle of Sain Juan de Ulua and returned to England with gold and silver and in 1570 and 1571 he made two to the West Indies where he attacked Spanish treasure ships. In 1573 he captured an important Spanish ship. During this expedition he became the first Englishman to see the Pacific Ocean climbing a tree in the central mountains of Panama.

Drake's successes were noticed by Elisabeth I and the Queen ordered him to start an expedition against the Spanish along the Pacific coasts of America. He sailed in 1577 aboard the ship Pelican with other four ships. Drake reached Brasil but during the trip he accused his co-commander Thomas Doughty of witchcraft and mutiny. Doughty was beheaded. The voyage continued towards the Magellan Strait reaching the Pacific Ocean in 1578 but violent storms destroyed two ships. With only one ship Drake sailed up the Pacific coast of South America raiding and assaulting ships. In 1579 he landed on the coast of California and claimed the land for the English crown. He called it Nova Albion which is the Latin name for New Britain. From here Drake reached the Moluccas, a group of islands in modern-day Indonesia. In 1580 he rounded The Cape of Good Hope. During the expedition the ship Golden Hint was the first one to sail in the Pacific Ocean and Drake was the first Englishman to circumnavigate the globe. Seven Months after his return to England. Elisabeth I knighted Drake aboard the Golden Hint and he became Mayor of Plymouth. The war with Spain was imminent and Drake conquered two Spanish ports. In 1588 Drake participated in the defeat of the Spanish Armada together with John Hawkins and Martin Frobisher. He died on dysentery in 1596 and was buried at sea. (The History Press, 2017)

Walter Raleigh was born in 1554 in Devon and was an English adventurer and writer. He studied at Oriel College, Oxford and at Middle Temple Law College. In 1580 he fought against the Irish rebels in Munster. From this reason he became one the Queen's favourite and began to acquire properties and influential positions. He played an important role weakening Spain and he advised the Queen on military and naval matters, becoming an influential figure in the ongoing conflict with Spain. He became lieutenant of Cornwall, vice admiral of Devon and sat in Parliament. His marriage to Elisabeth, daughter of Sir Trockmorton was kept as secret for the jealous queen. In 1592 the birth of his son betrayed him and he and his wife were imprisoned in the Tower of London. He bought his freedom with a privateering voyage in which he had invested. Raleigh was not very popular for his pride and unorthodox thought. A Jesuit pamphlet accused him of atheism. He was interested in sceptical philosophy but also in chemistry and mathematics. Between 1584 and 1589 he tried to establish a colony near Roanoke Island (in present North Carolina) and called it Virginia, but he never went there. In 1595 he lends an expedition in the heart of Spain's colonial empire. He described this expedition in his book: "The discovery of Guiana" (1596). However, after Elizabeth's death he fell from favour under the new King James I. In 1603 he was accused of plotting to dethrone the king and was imprisoned in the Tower of London. In 1616 he was put to death.



He played an important role weakening Spain. Walter Raleigh combined the roles of explorer, writer, soldier and was an iconic figure of the Elizabethan era. (Sir Walter Raleigh, s.d.)

John Hawkins was born in Plymouth in a family of sailors and, thanks to his commercial travels, he became one of the richest men in England. His first journey was towards Guinea where he loaded 300 slaves onto his three ships. The slaves were sold to plantation owners of Hispaniola. After this expedition he organised other three slave trading voyages between 1562 and 1567 transporting captives from West Africa to the Caribbean and Spanish colonies, laying foundations for the transatlantic slave trade. Hawkins' voyages were the first major English operations in this commerce and helped establish triangular trade routes between England, West Africa, and the Americas. He taught the other English merchants and mariners how to make profits with trading along the African and American coasts and with the slave trade, Hawkins also conducted privateering raids against Spanish ships and ports, making him an enemy of Spain.

He participated in the defence of England against the Spanish Armada in 1588 and served as treasurer and admiral for later English efforts against Spain. Hawkins played a pivotal role in developing England's naval power and commercial interests in Africa, America, and rivalry with Spain in the 16th century. (Cordingly, 2006)

### **1.5 Blackbeard, life on a ship and pirate trials**

Edward Teach was considered one of the most ruthless captains. He began his life at sea as privateer during the war of Spanish succession (1701-1713) In this period he plundered Spanish ships in the West Indies for the English Crown. Around 1716 Captain Hornigold placed Teach in command of a captured ship; after a year he took control of a ship named Concord. He renamed this ship Queen Anne' Revenge. Teach sailed to the Caribbean and took possession of many ships. Queen Anne's Revenge had a crew of 300 members, and he outfitted it with a powerful arsenal of weapons In 1718 he scuttled the ship near Charleston in North Carolina and moved his crew in a smallest ship named the Adventure. In 1996 the remains of Queen Anne's Revenge were found in North Carolina. Teach was commonly known as Blackbeard due to his thick black beard reaching his waist which he often adorned with slow-burning fuses to create a fearsome appearance. He is remembered for his terrible aspect and cruelty; he gained a reputation for his ferocity. He would often strategically use intimidation and psychological warfare to subdue his enemies without excessive violence. However, he was not hesitant to resort to brutality when he thought it was necessary. His flag was adorned with a skeleton stubbing a heart. Blackbeard's pirate career came to

an end in 1718 when he was ambushed by a Royal Navy force led by Lieutenant Robert Maynard. The two parties engaged in a brutal battle, during which Blackbeard sustained multiple gunshots and stab wounds before eventually being killed. His head was severed and hung from the bowsprit as proof of his death. (Who was Blackbeard?, s.d.) Blackbeard gained new notoriety in the mid-20th century, and he represents the typical film pirate. He met Jack Sparrow in the 2011 *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides*. This figure enriches a character who has become a legend. (Lawer, 2018)

Torture, violence, and marooning were prevalent practices among pirates who sailed under the black flag. Pirates were known for their brutal tactics and willingness to resort to extreme measures to maintain dominance and instil fear. Torture methods included keelhauling, where a person was tied to a rope and dragged along the ship's bottom, often resulting in severe injury or death. Other forms of torture included flogging, whipping, burning, and even mutilation. Violence was a constant feature of pirate life, as pirates frequently engaged in intense battles and raids to seize valuable cargo and capture other ships. These conflicts often resulted in the injury or death of crew members and captives, as pirates fought ruthlessly to achieve their goals. Pirates would often use firearms, cutlasses, and other weapons to overpower their adversaries. Marooning, a particularly cruel punishment, involved stranding an individual on a deserted island or uninhabited coast, usually without any provisions. This practice was reserved for those who had committed serious crimes or were viewed as a threat to the crew's cohesion and success. Marooning effectively sentenced individuals to a slow and lonely death, as they lacked the necessary resources to survive. (Cordingly, 2006)

Pirates were hanged at Execution Dock on the north bank of the Thames. Today in that place there is a pub named Captain Kidd. The gallows were placed during the low tide and after being hanged the high tide wet the dead bodies. It was a common custom to leave the bodies for three high tides. After this, there were three options for the body. The first one was to leave the body to the doctor who dissected it. The second one was to hang the body and the third one was to bury it in a mass grave. There was a peculiar episode, William Duell was condemned to death by hanging. After his "death" he was sent to the doctor for being dissected but the lucky man was alive. Authorities believed that one hanging was enough and decided to exile him in a work camp. The processes were very fast, two or three days for giving a judgment. The heavy punishments worked as a deterrent for everybody who wanted to become pirate. One of the reasons why the process was fast was for the absence of arguments for the defence. Many sailors were ignorant, and they could not defend their self. They were not many witnesses and authorities sentencing soon. The execution

of Capitan Kidd was quite peculiar. First of all he remained in prison for two years which was a long time considering the other processes of pirates. Kidd was considered a good sailor but arrogant and violent, described as “ very lusty man, fighting with his men on any occasion, often calling for his pistols and threatening anyone who durst speak anything contrary to his mind to knock out their brains, causing them to dread him”. During his trial, Kidd was accused for murder and piracy. Before becoming a pirate, Kidd had a verbal fight with his gunner. It was the 30<sup>th</sup> October 1697, Kid threw at him an iron bucket broking his head. He died under deck. Kidd tried to justify himself saying that he was been provoked by his gunner but nobody believed him. The judgment was the following:

But to theft, you have added a greater sin, which is murder. How many you may have killed of those that resisted you in the committing of your former piracies, I know not. But this we all know, that besides the wounded, you killed no less than eighteen persons out of those that were sent by lawful authority to suppress you. (Cordingly, Under the Black Flag, 2006)

## **1.6 Female pirates**

Female pirates were a unique group of individuals who played a significant role in maritime history. Piracy has been always associated with men but there were many women with different stories and religions who participated in this dangerous profession. Everyone had a fascinating story. One of the most renowned female pirates was Anne Bonny who operated in the Caribbean during the early 18th century. Anne Bonny disguised herself as a man and became a skilled pirate known for her fierce and daring nature. Women’s life was not simple, they were seen as bad luck or a distraction for pirate’s crew. However, their skill and courage often earned the respect of men. The exact number of female pirates is difficult to determine but their impact on maritime history cannot be ignored. They challenged traditional gender roles, navigating in male-dominated world, and becoming skilled sailors, fighters, and leaders. Their stories serve as a testament to the resilience and determination of women throughout history. Their tales continue to inspire people today and they give another aspect of maritime history. As written before, women were not common on ships. Generally, they did not sail but they were just tolerated passengers; otherwise they would have been considered transgressive. They wore big clothes and often had long hair. There was a case in which a black woman, "William" Brown, took the form of a Royal Navy sailor. Her job was difficult; she was a rigger who climbed up on the ship to reach the higher sails. Unmasked in 1815, she was prised for her good work. Her life was an inspiration for folk tales. A captain, Charles Johnson, perhaps Daniel Defoe's pseudonym, wrote a series of stories in 1794 named "*A General History of the Pirates,*" which was a collection of twenty pirate biographies that

included four illustrations: two of male pirates and two of women pirates: Mary Read and Anne Bonny became known and celebrated in many seafaring songs which are still sung in many English pubs. More than two thousand women were on ships, but only these two became notorious when they went to trial. Normally, women could stay on a ship until the departure announcement. (Mack, 2011) Ann Bonny and Mary Read were convicted of Piracy on Nov.28th. 1720 at a Court of Vice Admiralty held at St.Jago de la Vega on the Island of Jamaica. (Defoe, 2021)

Mary's disguise was born by her mother's idea. Mary was an illegitimate daughter, and her mother, after her son and husband's death, decided to dress up Mary in men's clothes to obtain help from her mother-in-law. Mary was proud and independent, exploiting her camouflage to enlist on a warship and becoming a soldier fighting in Flanders. In the army, she met a man and fell in love with him, revealing her secret. Mary married him, but he died. On a trip to the West Indies, her ship was attacked by pirates, and at that moment, she decided to join the buccaneers. As a woman, Mary Read was glad to be a pirate. During the boarding, she demonstrated great force and courage, getting respect from the other ship members, including that of Anne Bonny, the pirate described before. Both used men's clothes only during acts of piracy. In 1720, their ship was captured by a warship.

You Mary Read, and Anne Bonny alias Bonn, are to go from hence to the place from whence you came, and from thence to the place of execution; where you shall be severally hanged by the neck till you are severally dead. And God of his infinite mercy be merciful to both of your souls (Cordingly, Under the Black Flag, 1996)

Mary Read and Anne Bonny declared to be pregnant during the trial, and they were not sentenced to death. Mary Read died the following year, in 1721, in prison, maybe for childbirth or maybe for illness. She gave birth to a little boy who was adopted.

DATE OF TRIAL	PIRATES ON TRIAL	LOCATION OF TRIAL AND EXECUTION	NUMBER HANGED	NOTES
1720, Nov. 28	Mary Read and Anne Bonny	Spanish Town, Jamaica	—	Both reprieved on being found to be pregnant

(Cordingly, 2006)

Anne Bonny was born in Ireland indicatively between 1697 and 1705. She was William Cognac's illegitimate daughter. He was a lawyer, and her mother was his housekeeper. Having discovered the

truth, he moved to Charleston with Anne, where he bought plantations. Anne grew up as a tomboy with short red hair and a dirty face. She was brave, and when she was 18 years old, she killed a pretender because he was insistent. Anne got engaged with a sailor, James Bonny, who was not well regarded by the father, so she married him for sale and burned her father's plantations. She fled with James on a ship, but discovering that James was dishonest, she left him. Afterward, she fell in love with a pirate, John Rackham, known as "Calico Jack" because he had many colourful clothes. In 1718, after a rebellion, he was elected Captain. It seemed that Calico Jack treated his victims and prisoners with regard without using torture and homicide. Calico Jack met Anne Bonny in New Providence after leaving the Piracy for a while. Ann became pregnant, and after giving birth, she joined the crew dressed like a man. She was considered dangerous and reckless, and it looked like she was responsible for the transport of explosives. She met Mary Read on a merchant vessel that Calico Jack had sacked, and they soon became friends. Like Mary Read, she was captured and had a trial, but unlike Mary, there are speculations about her end. "She was continued in Prison, to the Time of her lying in, and afterward reprieved from Time to Time; but what is become of her since we cannot tell; only this we know, that she was not executed" (Cordingly, 2006)

Other sources claimed that her father brought her back to South Carolina, where she gave birth to John Rackman's second child. After a year, she married a young man, Joseph Burleigh, with whom she had 15 children. She died as a respected woman at the age of 80 on 22 April 1782. There are many legends about women on ships, but fewer documents confirm this reality. People know the two women mentioned before because of the trial documents; many other figures are just known in stories passed down from generation to generation. (Cordingly, 2006)

Grace O'Malley was born in Connaught, Ireland, in 1530. Her father controlled the area near Clew Bay. O-Malley's family were owner of many castles in Beclare and on Clare Island and a few utilised for fishing and for commerce. Since she was a little girl, Grace learned how to navigate and sail; her nickname was Granuille, bold girl because she always cut her hair short to be similar to boys. When she was sixteen, she married Donald O'Flaherty and she moved to his castle Bunowen. There are not many documentations about Grace's life during that period. It seems that she had three children and, after her husband's murder, she decided to go back to her father. She became chief of her father's fleet and from this moment on she was considered brave and full of audacity. In 1566 she married Richard Burke and moved in the county of Mayo where she lived for 37 years. During that time, her fleet was composed by more than 20 ships. Ireland was part of the British empire, and it was under the reign of Elizabeth the first, but it is important to underline that Ireland's provinces were controlled by an aristocrat nominated by the queen. In Ireland there were many rebellions and

they felt suppressed by the English government. Grace, on the other hand, plundered many ships for her personal gain attracting the attention of her business. For this reason, Sir Edward Fitton, governor was sent to do an expedition against her. Fitton was forced to retreat but in 1577 Grace was captured and imprisoned in Limerick prison for 18 months. When her husband died in 1583 Grace became vulnerable to the attacks provoked by her enemies. It was public opinion that a woman without dowry should not control any land. The successor of Fitton, Sir Richard Bingham considered Grace as a rebellious woman and was very hostile against her. At that point, she decided to write a letter to the queen in which she explained her situation. She wrote to the queen her situation and asked for help. In exchange for her request, she declared she would “invade with sword and fire all your highness enemies, wheresoever they are of shall be” (Cordingly, 2006). Meanwhile Grace’s son was arrested by Bingham for inciting rebellion, and, for this reason, Grace decided to speak with her majesty personally. There is not any type of documentation that describe the meeting between the queen and the pirate. There are just ballads invented by Irish people

“’Twas not her garb that caught the gazer’s eye

Tho’ strange, ’twas rich, and after its fashion, good

But the wild grandeur of her mien erect and high

Before the English Queen she dauntless stood

And non her bearing there could scorn s rude

She seemed well used to power, as one that hath

Dominion over men of savage mood

And dared the tempest in its midnight wrath

And thro’ opposing billows cleft her fearless path. (Cordingly, 2006)

It is only known that it was on September 1573 at Greenwich Palace. The conversation was in English because the queen did not speak Irish and Grace did not speak Latin. (Grace O'Malley: The pirate Queen of Irland, s.d.)

After this, the queen forced Bingham to give her maintenance for the rest of her living. Her son was released, and Sir Conner's Clifford became the governor and let Grace to sail the seas. Grace's son Tibbot continued to fight Queen's enemies after Grace's death in 1603. Grace is nowadays considered an outgoing kind of person.

The analysis of pirate's navigation, the places in which pirates used to pass their time, their tradition and cultures with the addition of some pirates' and female pirates' description are necessary as an introduction to understand and immerse themselves in Stevenson's world.

## **Chapter 2 : *Treasure Island***

### **2.1 Robert Louis Stevenson**

The following chapter will explore the early life, childhood and adolescence of the author Robert Louis Stevenson. Thanks to a look into his past, it is possible to describe how his writing skills are developed during his lifetime. After that the chapter will focus on *Treasure Island*, one of his most important works. There will be a description of pirates in Stevenson's work with a particular analysis of the pirate Long John Silver who is the focus of this thesis. Long John Silver has inspired many stories. There are prequel, adaptations and sequel of him.

Robert Louis Stevenson lived during the Victorian Era, a time period known for its strict social conventions, rapid industrialization and vast colonial expansion by the British Empire. Stevenson's writing often reflected the themes and concerns of the time such as the exploration of good versus evil, the nature of human morality and the impact of societal pressures on individual. Victorian literature is characterized by its meticulous attention to detail, complex characterization, and often sentimental tone. Victorian literature refers to the literary works produced during the reign of Queen Victoria in England, 1837-1901. The literature of this period also frequently addresses issues of social injustice, poverty, and the impact of rapid industrialization on society. Therefore, it was a period of great social, political and economic change in Britain. Stevenson's writing reflects the Victorian fascination with the supernatural and mysterious. Stevenson was considered a late Victorian (Bezrucka, 2016)

In his time, he was a popular author and associated with many of the most notable writers of the late Victorian period, although the elitism of some contemporary literary critics sought to bury him with the Romantics until his reputation was rescued in the twentieth century, as a skilful storyteller of the gothic and fantastic. (Robert Louis Stevenson : master of gothic)

His gothic stories such as “*Kidnapped*” and “*Treasure Island*” are filled with adventure, suspense and moral ambiguity which were popular themes in Victorian literature. An important theme in *Treasure Island* is the battle between good and bad. The novel is filled with morally ambiguous characters such as Long John Silver who straddle the line between hero and villain. This adds depth and complexity to the story and raises questions about the nature of morality and choices we make. There is also the theme of friendship: Jim forms a bond between him and Long John Silver despite knowing he is dishonest and untrustworthy. The relationship challenges Jim’s beliefs and forces him to question his own values and principles. These two novels also resonated with Victorian audiences who were fascinated by tales of exploration, colonialism and the exotic unknown. The themes of the novels were friendship, loyalty and courage, values typical of the time. This period was characterized by some literary movements and styles including Romanticism, Realism and the Gothic. There are a lot of some prominent authors including Charles Dickens, Thomas Hardy, George Eliot, Oscar Wilde, Charlotte Bronte, Emily Bronte and many others. While *Treasure Island* was published in 1883 during the Victorian era, it is not typically classified as a Victorian novel because it does not focus on the social issues and moral dilemmas commonly addressed in Victorian literature. Additionally, the novel is primarily aimed at a younger audience and lacks the complex character development and psychological insight that are characteristic of many Victorian novels. Overall, *Treasure Island* is more closely associated with the adventure genre than the literary conventions of Victorian literature. His work often explores also the tension of society and the desire for individual freedom and self-expression. His most famous novel, “*Strange case of Dr. Jekyll and My Hide*” is a classic tale of the duality of human nature and the struggle between good and evil. This novella reflects the Victorian’s Era preoccupation with moral decadence and the fear of hidden, uncontrollable impulses with individuals. (Victorian Literature). Stevenson was writing at a time when Darwin's ideas were gaining widespread recognition and were having a significant impact on the intellectual and cultural landscape. However, it is not clear to what extent Stevenson was directly inspired by Darwin or his theories in his own work. Stevenson's interests and influences were diverse, and he drew on a wide range of sources for inspiration in his writing. (Lo strano caso del dottor Jekyll e Mr Hide di Stevenson)

Stevenson was against the idea of becoming engineer he instead has attended the University in Law and he became lawyer but he never did that profession. His father and grandfather lived by religious principles because they were part of a Presbyterian family but Stevenson, at the age of seventeen, as he grew older, began to question the traditional religious beliefs and up to proclaimed himself an atheist. That idea was probably influenced by Charles Darwin who with his theories



challenged prevailing beliefs about the natural world and the origins of human beings and sparked heated debates about science, religion and society. About religion, Darwin's theory evolution does not necessarily deny the existence of a higher power or a creator but it explains the mechanisms through which life forms have evolved over time (Lo strano caso del dottor Jekyll e Mr Hide di Stevenson) On the contrary many other Victorians were uncomfortable with the idea that humans might have evolved from lower life forms. However, Darwin was not an atheist and did not see his theory as a battle against the religion, he just expressed his doubts about traditional religious dogma. Overall, Darwin's theory of evolution was a product of the Victorian age due to the great curiosity and exploration of the time. His work changed the typical religious belief and paved the way for a new scientific discovery. Stevenson studied the psychology of human being exploring themes as sin, morality and redemption reflecting his own struggles with his religious upbringing. (S.Stevens)

Stevenson did not reject spirituality praising and emphasizing the importance of kindness, generosity and compassion. In 1887, after his father's death, Stevenson travelled a lot and he settle in Upolu in the Samoa's islands where he died at the age of 44 on the 3th December 1894, probably form a cerebral hemorrhage. His body is on the mount Vaea and on his gravestone there is an epitaph which quotes:

Under the wide and starry sky, Dig the grave and me lie. Glad did I live and gladly die. And I laid me down with a will. This be the verse you grave for me. Here he lies where he longed to be. Home is the sailor, home from the sea and the hunter home from the hill. (Adlington, 1963)

The literary formation of Robert Louis Stevenson found its roots in his childhood. From his early life his imagination was accompanied by his experiences. His health problems were probably inherited and he was forced to travel a lot in order to find better climates for his condition. He travelled in Germany, Italy, Switzerland and Belgium and he was impressed by the differences of culture and landscapes. That was part of his inspiration: journeys, adventures, hidden places and unknown. When he was two years old was entrusted to the nurse Alison Cunningham, nicknamed Cummy who was essential in Stevenson's literary development. She knew many stories, she talked about witches, fairies and she told them to the little Robert. This latter was fashioned by these stories and was inspired by them. At the age of 9 he began school but he preferred the long walks with Cummy who, without knowing it, was helping him in his education and formation. (Stevenson, L'isola del teosoro, 2021)

## 2.2 The birth of *Treasure Island*

*Treasure Island* is considered a classic novel; it falls under the genre of adventure fiction, specifically pirate fiction. This genre is typically involving stories of daring sea voyages, treasure hunts and conflicts between pirates and other characters. In many of his works including *Treasure Island* Stevenson used the first-person point of view. As written previously, Stevenson was fascinated by the psychology of the characters so he decided to create a round character with his deep feelings analyzing the choices and emotions of the protagonist offering to the reader a rich and more complex narration. It is also possible that this choice helped the author to express his own opinion and personal reflections through the character's eyes. The idea was the creation to a connection between the protagonist and the reader. *Treasure Island* can be considered a Bildungsroman which is literally a novel of education but is also referred to a "coming of age" story. "The age" can be metaphorical and generally describes the growth of a young person who is searching for his place in the world. We can find these elements in *Treasure Island*, for example Jim never leave his home until he is force to do it and he has learned about greed and sailing and has made his family rich. (*Treasure Island : Der Bildungsroman*)

Some critics have noticed that Stevenson did not integrate the woman figure into his works. Despite the few women in his works, the feminine figure who are exist play important role in the story. They served as reminders of the world outside of the male-dominated pirate ship adding depth and dimension to the narrative. The most notable female character is Jim Hawkin's mother who is depicted as a caring and hardworking woman. She is show as a strong figure in Jim's life as she is the one who encourages him to be brave and adventurous *Treasure Island* was a boy's novel because it dealt with treasure, pirates, a boy hero and a map. The only female character was Jim's mother. (McDonagh, 2014)

Stevenson in his "My first book" explained his choice: "It was to be a story for boys; no need of psychology or fine writing; and I had a boy at hand to be a touchstone. Women were excluded" (Stevenson, *Treasure Island*, 1999)

When he began writing the book *Treasure Island*, Robert Louis Stevenson was thirty years old. It was considered his first success as a novelist. The first fifteen chapters were written in Breamar, on the Scottish mountains, between August and September 1881. In the cottage of Miss McGregor, Stevenson spent his time with five other people: his parents, his American wife Fanny, and his stepson Lloyd Osbourne. This latter was distracted by drowning with his watercolors, and during a gloomy afternoon, Stevenson joined him in his activity. The novelist began drawing a map of a mysterious island where places and names appeared in his fantasy. In an essay, Stevenson

Revealed that during his drawing, he suddenly thought about some characters like Trelawney and a chef with a wooden leg and a chorus that played "yo-ho and a bottle of rum." After three days, Stevenson had completed three chapters and had adopted various suggestions; Lloyd did not want women in the story, and his father suggested some ideas. Everybody was enthusiastic except for his wife, Fanny. During the following two weeks, Dr Alexander Japp, Stevenson's friend, read his novel and was amazed by his work. Dr. Japp took the first chapters to the editor of the magazine "Young Folks." He agreed to publish his novel weekly, but after fifteen chapters, Stevenson lost his creativity and ceased his masterpiece. Stevenson suffered from a chronic bronchial disease, which forced him to find places with a suitable climate to prevent bleeding and coughs that attacked his life. In Scotland, the climate was treacherous, and in October, he went with Fanny and Lloyd to Davos, Switzerland, where they spent the winter. Here, Stevenson's creativity reemerged, and he finished *Treasure Island*. Between 1881 and 1882, the novel's episodes came out without great acclamation, but when it came out as a book in 1883, it was an immediate success. A lot of critics and novelists approved and praised his *Treasure Island*. Stevenson's novel was born as a children's book, but like *Alice in Wonderland* and *Robinson Crusoe*, it was appreciated also by adults. The story was adapted for the stage, and every year in London and other cities, many famous actors hold auditions to get hired in the opera. (Cordingly, 1996)

Many sources inspired Stevenson's mind. The impulse for his masterpiece was the drawing with his stepson, but the novelist benefited from other of his memories. He was inspired by Daniel Defoe, Washington Irving, Edgar Allan Poe, and other historical figures. The most important figure in the novel is Long John Silver, the most iconic pirate in the history of literature. Pirate par excellence, Silver is tall and strong and alternates good actions, brutality, and cruelty under the circumstances. He lost his left leg due to a cannon shot when he was a helmsman on Captain Flint's ship. Silver walks thanks to a crutch. There is a similarity between Long John Silver and Stevenson's friend William Ernest Henley, a poet and writer who remained imprinted in the minds of the people who knew him. Henley was the son of a bookseller in Gloucester, and he was affected by tubercular arthritis from a young age. He became cripple, and his feet had been removed. Henley subsequently decided to consult Professor Lister, a medical excellence, in Edinburgh, and during his stay, someone introduced him to the author. (Cordingly, 1996)

And then I had an idea for John Silver from which I promised myself funds of entertainment: to take and admired friend of mine ... to deprive him of all his finer qualities and higher graces of temperament, to leave him with nothing but his strength, his courage, his quickness and his magnificent geniality, and to try to express these in terms of the culture of a raw tarpaulin.

Such psychical surgery is, I think, a common way of “making character” , perhaps it is, indeed, the only way. (Stevenson, *Treasure Island*, 1999, p. 193-194)

After the publication of *Treasure Island*, Stevenson wrote a letter to Henley acknowledging that he directly inspired pirate John Long Silver. Stevenson explained that Silver held some qualities of Henley, like strength and friendship, but he exaggerated the features of the typical gruff man of the sea. What is extraordinary in Stevenson's novel is the exceptional details in describing the pirates and the sailors. Stevenson did not use only the typical nautical language persuasively; he understood the laws and government of ships.

Stevenson's knowledge of piracy could be also found in his childhood. As previously written, his father and grandfather were engineers and workers of lighthouses, and they controlled the island and shores in the surroundings. Two years before writing *Treasure Island*, Stevenson crossed the Atlantic Ocean, and after becoming an affirmed novelist, he traveled between the Pacific islands. Some things became mainstream, like the cross on the map. On the contrary, some elements were not far away from reality. Wooden legs and parrots were standard on ships during that period. The Greenwich Hospital boasted many wounded sailors who were seriously injured on boats. The treatment of these patients was coarse and shallow. Captain Skyrim, master of Bartholomew Robert's vessel, was hit in the leg during the battle with the ship of the Queen Swallow. Israel Hynde, Botswain of Ranger, Robert's boat, left his arm in the same attack. William Phillips was hit on his left foot, and nobody on board the vessel had the surgical abilities to help him. The carpenter was chosen to take a saw and do the job. Miraculously, Philip survived this operation. In the Royal Navy, it was a habit to choose the chef among the disabled men, and that is the reason why Stevenson chose John Long Silver as the chef. Even Thomas Rowlandson, a famous painter during the Georgian emperor, represented the chef with a wooden leg. (Cordingly, 1996) After researches and studies he was inspired by the typical novels about pirates and put some habits into his masterpiece.

Alcohol and pirate go hand in hand in many popular culture depictions. Rum was a popular drink among sailors and pirates during the age of exploration and piracy, as it was readily available, cheap, and had a long shelf life. They drank everything they found.

One exception to the “drinking what was available” rule was punch. Being a mixture of non-alcoholic ingredients including fruit juices, water, sugar and spices with whichever local alcohol can be procured... while punch was best made with all the ingredients, not all of them were needed or used as we have seen. (Booze, sailors, pirates and health in the golden age of piracy )

Navy sailors drank in other way. It was a common use to give to the them a small beer on day or eventually a quarter o wine or, in some places, a brandy. In West Indies the navy sailors had an half-pint rum. The situation of the officers of the ship was different; they had access to the best quality of alcohol including liquors. Alcohol also played a role in the economy of the Caribbean during the golden age of piracy, as it was one of the region's major exports. Pirates would often raid ships carrying rum as part of their plunder, further solidifying the association between rum and piracy. (Booze, sailors, pirates and health in the golden age of piracy )Today, the connection between rum and pirates remains strong in popular culture, with many movies, books, and other forms of media depicting pirates enjoying a drink of rum in a tavern or on their ship. This association has helped to cement rum as a quintessential pirate drink in the minds of many people. In addition to rum, they had also alcoholic drink like the Grog. It was rum, sugar and nutmeg. It was invented in 1720 by Edward Vernon “old Grog” in order to conserve better water. The drink widespread on pirate’s ship. (Grog) In Stevenson’s novel there is a reference to this beverage; he wrote a chorus that appeared for the first time in chapter one and in two other chapters:

“fifteen men on the dead man’s chest - ... yo – ho- ho and a bottle of rum! Drink and the devil had done for the rest - ...Yo -ho-ho and a bottle of rum” (Stevenson, *Treasure Island*, 1999)

Pirates and weapons have long been associated with one another. Pirates often used a variety of weapons to carry out their raids and defend themselves against rival pirates, merchant ships, and navies. Some common weapons used by pirates included cutlasses, boarding axes, pistols, muskets, and cannons. Cutlasses were one of the most iconic weapons used by pirates. These curved swords were effective for close combat and could easily hack through ropes and wood. Boarding axes were also popular among pirates, as they could be used to cut through doors and hatchways during boarding actions. Pistols and muskets were commonly carried by pirates for ranged combat. These firearms were crucial for attacking ships from a distance or defending against enemy boarding parties. Pirates would often carry multiple pistols and muskets to ensure they had enough firepower during a battle. Cannons were used by larger pirate ships to engage in ship-to-ship combat. These powerful weapons could cause significant damage to an enemy ship and were a key factor in determining the outcome of a battle. Pirates would often use a combination of cannons, small arms, and boarding weapons to overwhelm their opponents and secure victory. (Hoeskra, 2023) Overall, pirates were skilled in using a variety of weapons to achieve their goals. Their ruthless tactics and arsenal of weapons made them a formidable force on the high seas.

In the chapter XXI named “ The Attack” Stevenson wrote:

There was a round score of muskets for the seven of us; the firewood had been built into four pilates – tables- you might say – one about the middle of each side, and on each of these tables some ammunition and four loaded muskets were laid ready to the hand of the defenders. In the middle, the cutlasses lay ranged. (Stevenson, *Treasure Island*, 1999 p-109)

The association between Silver and the parrot dates back to *Treasure Island*. Long John Silver keeps his parrot in a cage on the *Hispaniola*, but the parrot was always on his shoulder when he walked on the dry land. It is called Captain Flint, and it is said that he was 200 years old and had been in Madagascar and Portobello. “It may be, two hundred years old, Hawkings – they lives forever mostly; and if anybody’s seen more wickedness, it must be the devil himself” (Stevenson, *Treasure Island*, 1999) . From Stevenson’s novel the literary and pop-culture conception of pirates has involved the parrot. The presence of the parrot was true during the Golden Age of Piracy. (Nosowitz, 2015)

Pirates had their own way of saying things and making speeches besides having a proper look. The skin was tanned and filled with scars and wounds due to the hard work handling the ship's equipment. The ship's movement on waves and during storms punished pirates' gait and balance, making them hunchbacked. Another essential aspect to observe was the clothing. During that period, typical men wore long jackets and waistcoats, knickerbockers, and long socks; the distinctive pirate clothing was a short blue jacket with a plaid shirt often accompanied by a colorful foulard around the neck. Many pirates adapted the style to their convenience and order to be comfortable. Captains copied the typical uniform of Navy officials to look like gentlemen. Other pirates mixed colors and precious fabrics stolen during assaults on other ships. (Cordingly, *Under the Black Flag*, 1996)

The head of the ship was elected to vote by the crew, and if he did not satisfy the equipment, they were replaced. They had to be brave and bold, prepared to navigate, and keep together many men with different ideas and ways to act. As aforementioned, on ships, there were other cultures and social classes; many pirates were slaves and rebels who faced the problems of the vessel with violence and fights. Many pirates were 20 years old. The average age in the 18th century in piracy was 27 years old. Age was crucial in addressing the difficulties in the ocean and the capacity to overcome climate change. Necessary were also physical prowess, agility, resistance, and adaptability. The life of a pirate was constantly tested. (Cordingly, *Under the Black Flag*, 1996)

### **2.3 Analysis of pirates in the novel *Treasure Island***

The choice of Stevenson's point of view gives the reader all the perspective of Jim. It gives the possibility to put ourselves in Jim's shoes. (What Is First Person Point of View in Writing? How to Write in First Person Narrative Voice With Examples, 2021) The character of Treasure Island is shaped by the internal and external factors, he is humble, loyal and brave. His character is influenced during the development of his story; he adapts himself to his surroundings becoming more problem-solving and self-confident.

It is observable that people in this book are very deeply described. Billy Bones is a pirate and former first mate of the ship, Captain Flint, who buried the treasure on Treasure Island. Billy Bones is described as a grizzled old sailor with a parrot on his shoulder and a wooden leg, which he received after a mutiny on his ship. He is paranoid, constantly looking over his shoulder and fearing that his former shipmates will come after him to steal the treasure map he possesses. Billy Bones is a complex character, with a strong sense of loyalty to his comrades but also a selfish streak that leads him to make questionable decisions.

I remember him as if it were yesterday, as he came plodding to the inn door, his sea-chest following behind him in a hand-barrow; a tall, strong heavy, nut-brown man; his tarry pigtail falling over the shoulders of his soiled blue coat; his hands ragged and scarred, with black, broken nails; and the sabre cut across one cheek, a dirty, livid white (Stevenson, *Treasure Island*, 1999)

Ultimately, he meets a tragic end at the hands of the villainous pirate, Blind Pew, who searches for the treasure map and causes chaos in his last days. Billy Bones is a memorable character in the novel, known for his iconic pirate appearance and his central role in the story's plot. Billy Bones is notable for singing the dead man's chest song. He appeared for the first time in the Benbow. He is a drunk man who swears and screams terrifying the customers. Jim is frightened by him

How that personage haunted my dreams, I need scarcely tell you. On stormy nights, when the wind shook the four corners of the house, and the surf roared along the cove and up the cliffs, I would see him in a thousand forms, and with a thousand diabolical expressions. Now the leg would be cut off at the knee, now at the hip, now he was a monstrous kind of a creature who had never had but one leg, and that in the middle of his body. To see him leap and run and pursue me over hedge and ditch was the worst of nightmares. (Stevenson, *Treasure Island*, 1999)

One day a horrible figure named Pew arrived to the Benbow to talk to Billy Bones. After a discussion, Billy Bones had another stroke and died. Jim, unaware of dangers, found the map of the treasure and pirates burned the Benbow leaving Jim and his mother in sadness. Jim lost his livelihood. He is a courageous and brave man who flew away from Pew and his band and began a journey without knowing his destiny. Jim is a great worker and a good observatory. (Stevenson, *Treasure Island*, 1999)

Pew is a blind and beggarly pirate who serves as a messenger for Long John Silver. He is described as having a hunched back, a wooden leg, and a crutch. Despite his physical disabilities, Pew is cunning and ruthless, and he is feared by many on the island. He plays a crucial role in the story by delivering the Black Spot to Billy Bones, which sets off a chain of events leading to the search for Captain Flint's treasure. Pew ultimately meets a grim fate when he is trampled to death by horses while trying to flee from justice. He delivered the black spot to Billy Bones, setting off a chain of events that lead to the discovery of the treasure map. The black post is given to Flint's old crew members who he distrusts, as a sign that their death has been ordered.

“He was plainly blind, for he tapped before him with a stick and wore a great green shade over his eyes and nose; and he was hunched, as if with age and weakness, and wore a huge old tattered sea-cloak with a hood that made him appear positively deformed.” (Stevenson, *Treasure Island*, 1999)

Captain Alexander Smollett is a seasoned and experienced sea captain with a stern demeanor and a commanding presence. He is a skilled navigator and leader, known for his strict adherence to discipline and order on his ship. Smollett is a man of few words, but when he speaks, his crew listens intently, as his authority is unquestioned. Despite his tough exterior, Smollett has a sense of fairness and loyalty towards his crew, and he is willing to go to great lengths to protect them from danger. He is a fearless and resourceful leader, able to make quick decisions under pressure and lead his crew through even the most treacherous of circumstances. (Stevenson, *Treasure Island*, 1999)

Benn Gunn a former pirate who was marooned on Treasure Island years ago and ends up helping Jim Hawkins and the other protagonists find the buried treasure. Benn Gunn is described as a wild-looking and eccentric man, with shaggy hair and a scruffy appearance. Despite his rough exterior, he proves to be a loyal and resourceful ally to the main characters. The story of Ben Gunn is peculiar. He met for the first Jim Hawkins on the island. Gunn was abandoned by his companions after his failure in the search of the treasure. After three years of isolation, he became an hermit



and he fed himself with berries and persimmons. When he met Jim he found a way to return to the civilization. When he was young, Robert Louis Stevenson passed many summers in the thermal city of Bridge of Allan, it seems plausible that the writer was inspired by cave in which he spent time, transforming this place in the refuge of Ben Gunn. (Stevenson, *Treasure Island*, 1999)

Captain Flint is a very important character in the novel. He is the one who buried the treasure, represented the dark side of piracy. He is a complex and enigmatic figure and his actions set the stage for the story events. Flint is just nominated during the novel but his name became a legend. He is known for his violent and unpredictable nature, as well as his ruthlessness in dealing with anyone who crosses him. Despite his reputation as a merciless pirate. “Heard of him, you say! He was the bloodthirstiest buccaneer that sailed, Blackbeard was a child to Flint” (Stevenson, *Treasure Island*, 1999, p. 182) Flint is also shown to be a skilled strategist and leader, able to plan and execute daring raids and attacks on ships: “the devil himself would have been feared to go to sea with them” (Stevenson, *Treasure Island*, 1999, p. 58) Flint's legacy and treasure serve as the central focus of the novel, driving the actions of the characters as they seek to uncover the buried fortune. His presence looms over the story, casting a shadow of fear and mystery that influences the decisions of the other characters. Benn Gunn who was on the same ship told Jim the following words:

I were in Flint's ship when he buried the treasure; he and six along-six strong seamen. They was ashore night on a week, and us standing off and on in the old Walrus. One fine day up went the signal, and here come Flint by himself in a little boat, and his head done up in a blue scarf. The sun was getting up, and mortal white he looked about the cutwater. But there he was, you mind, and all the six all dead- dead and buried. How he done it, not a man aboard us could make out. (Stevenson, *Treasure Island*, 1999, p. 82-83)

Israel Hands is a ruthless and experienced pirate who serves as the boatswain on Captain Flint's ship, the Walrus. He is an important character and he will be killed by Jim Hawking at the end of the novel. Hands is known for his deceitful nature, often using manipulation and violence to get what he wants. At the beginning Jim thought Hands could be a trusted man “And the coxswain, Israel Hands, was a careful, wily, old, experienced seaman who could be trusted at a pinch with almost anything” (Stevenson, *Treasure Island*, 1999, p. 53) He is a skilled sailor and fighter, respected and feared by the crew of the Walrus. Throughout the novel, Hands is portrayed as a loyal but crew member. Hands was a great friend of Silver who had a special respect of. Hands is also depicted as a complex character with a sense of honor and loyalty to those he respect. Overall,

Israel Hands is a compelling and memorable character in "Treasure Island," adding depth and complexity to the story of adventure and betrayal on the high seas. (Stevenson, Treasure Island, 1999)

The journey of Jim started with Doctor Livesey who was the doctor of the family. He appeared in the first chapter of the novel and he took care of Jim's father and Billy Bones. He became the narrator for three chapters and that because it was necessary to find a method to present what happens to the other members of the loyal party, who are in the process of abandoning their ship for safety ashore. For this reason Stevenson introduced Doctor Livesey like a second narrator.

First, since Jim's document is an official record, it requires an authoritative first-person account of how the loyal party abandoned the ship and moved to the stockade. Having Jim repeat another's account would not do. Second, interrupting Jim's narration makes more credible his change in the latter sections of the book. In the early chapters he is a lucky boy who is on the spot through no particular doing of his own; whereas in the late chapters, having taken charge, he makes his own luck and forces the development of events. Third, there is always the possibility that changing narrators was simply the easiest course for RLS, ill and in the process of moving from Scotland to Switzerland. Using an adult voice for several chapters surely helped Louis avoid increasing fatigue; and, perhaps, it made easier the regaining of a proper boyish voice after settling at Davos. (Hardesty, 1986)

Livesey was the perfect choice because he is the voice of reason and education. He could see many possibilities to overcome obstacles and he was also intellectually able to match Silver. The Doctor's narration is less moralistic, less rhetorical and less didactic. (Hardesty, 1986, p. 7) During the novel the Doctor is described differently. In the first chapter the reader understands the character of him. At the beginning Livesey is described as the doctor. In the second chapter he was called to control Billy Bones' health and he demonstrated kindness and efficiency demonstrating also a great medical capacity. After that the reader found Livesey's person during chapter six in his private home and the reader understands also that he had a lot of navigation skills due to his experiences on board. (Hardesty, 1986)

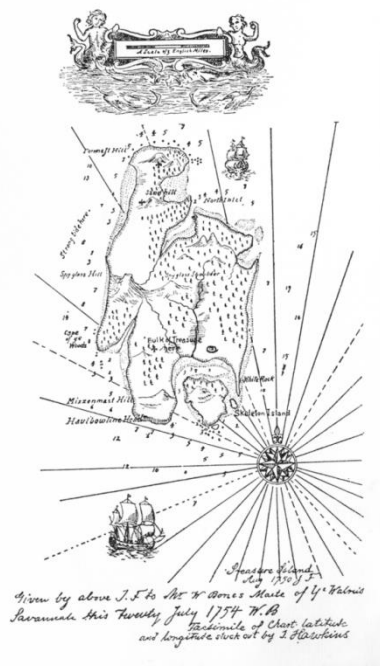
In Stevenson's book the place in which the treasure is buried is particular.

On one of these occasions, I made the map an island; it was elaborately and (I thought) beautifully colored; the shape of it took my fancy beyond expression; it contained harbors that

pleased me like sonnets; and with the unconsciousness of the predestined, I ticketed my performance “Treasure Island” (Stevenson, Treasure Island, 1999, p. 19)

Skeleton Island is a mysterious and secluded island located in the middle of the vast ocean. The island is shrouded in secrecy and its location is known to only a few brave adventurers who dare to explore its desolated and mysterious territory. It is characterized by rugged cliffs, dense jungles, and hidden caves that are rumored to hold untold riches. This place is also home to several dangerous creatures, including venomous snakes, giant spiders, and fierce wild boars, making it a treacherous place for anyone who dares to hunt for the legendary treasure. Despite the dangers, many fortune seekers have tried to uncover the treasure hidden the skeleton Island, but most have failed to return. Those who do manage to find the treasure are said to have their wildest dreams come true, but at a great cost. It is a place of mystery, danger, and untold riches, making it a coveted destination for those seeking adventure and fortune. But only the bravest and most resourceful adventurers will be able to uncover the secret of the legendary treasure hidden on this enigmatic island. The skeleton which indicated the directions was a derivation of the Edgar Allan Poe’s stories. It is important to underline that Stevenson invented the map and the secret places and only after doing that he wrote the story. Places are part of the inspiration of the author.

Somewhat in this way, as I pored upon my map of “Treasure Island”, the future characters of the book began to appear there visibly among imaginary woods; and their brown faces and bright



weapons peeped out upon me from unexpected quarters, as they passed to and fro, fighting, and

hunting treasure, on these few square inches of a flat projection. (Stevenson, *Treasure Island*, 1999, p. 193)

## **2.4 Analysis of the character Long John Silver in *Treasure Island***

Long John Silver is one of the most famous fictional pirates in literature, known for his cunning nature, charismatic personality, and iconic appearance. Silver is a complex character, with both charming and menacing qualities. He is a former pirate captain and the ship's cook, known for his distinctive appearance. Regardless of his physical disabilities, as mentioned above, he had a wooden leg, Silver is incredibly agile and manipulative, always staying one step ahead of his adversaries. One of Silver's most defining traits is his ability to captivate and manipulate those around him. He is a master of deception and manipulation, able to change allegiances at the drop of a hat to further his own interests. Silver is also portrayed as a shrewd and resourceful individual, with a deep sense of loyalty to those he considers friends. Throughout "*Treasure Island*," Long John Silver is a formidable adversary to the novel's protagonist, Jim Hawkins, and his band of companions. He is cunning and ruthless, willing to resort to any means necessary to secure the coveted treasure of Captain Flint. Silver's motives are complex, and he is ultimately revealed to be a more nuanced character than initially believed. Robert Louis Stevenson wrote :” rather [admired] that smooth and formidable adventurer. (Stevenson, *Treasure Island*, 1999)

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But mark you here; I'm an easy man- I'm quite the gentlemen, says you; but this time it's serious. Dooty is dooty mates. I give my vote- death. When I'm in Parlyment, and riding in my coach, I don't want non of these sea-lawyers in the cabin a – coming home, unlooked for, like the devil at prayers. Wait is what I say; but when the time comes, why let her rip! (Stevenson, *Treasure Island*, 1999)

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The first appearance of Long John Silver did not scare the young Jim Hawking.

Now, to tell you the truth, from the very first mention of Long John in Trelawney’s letter, I had taken a fear in my mind that he might prove to be the very one-legged sailor whom I had watched for so long at the old “Benbow”. But one look at the man before me was enough. I had seen the captain, and Black Dog, and the blind man Pew and I thought I knew what a bucaneer was like – a very different creature, according to men from this clean and pleasant-tempered landlord. (Stevenson, Treasure Island, 1999)

Long John Silver helped suddenly Jim and, using his capacity of eloquence, was capable to obtain Jim’s trust.

Long John Silver's popularity is a testament to his multi-faceted character. He has been portrayed in many adaptations of "Treasure Island," from films to television series to stage productions, and continues to captivate audiences with his complex personality. Silver remains one of literature's most iconic pirates, a figure who embodies both the allure and danger of the high seas.

Silver is a very complex character. At the story begins Jim had a terrified encounter with Blind Pew, a man whose aspect drove the young boy crazy.

Pew is cruel and without any compassion but he is afraid of someone. That someone is Captain Long John Silver whose appearance did not fear anybody. As described before, his aspect gave Jim a sense of security instead of frightening him. Silver was also the one who feared Captain Flint who, was described as devilish. The question is:

How could such a monster appear as the jovial innkeeper, with a face “as big as a ham, plain and pale, but intelligent and smiling” (Stevenson, Treasure Island, 1999), which is how Jim first encounters him? His charm is immense: within an hour of that meeting, and despite recognising one of the pirate gang in his grog shop, Jim comes to see Silver as “one of the best of possible shipmates”. What makes John Silver such a wonderful villain is that Jim’s first befuddled judgement

of him is in important ways quite right. Silver would be a wonderful man to sail with, so long as you served his purposes. (Treasure Island : Character Analysis Long John Silver)

Because Silver was brave, he was able to convince anyone just with his use of language. He can act with a reason and he is an intriguer. “It even if he hidden a brutal and ruthless ability to destroy anyone” (Motion, 2014)

He can speak respectfully with pirates and crew members and he did not drink. In the novel Long John Silver is described as a tall and lanky man, with a nice appearance.

As I was waiting, a man came out of a side room, and, at a glance, I was sure he must be Long John. His left leg was cut off close by the hip, and under the left schoulder he carried a crutch, which he managed with wonderful dexterity, hopping about upon it like a bird. He was very tall and strong, with a face as big as ham / plain and pale, but intelligent and smiling. Indeed, he seemed in the most cheerful spirits, whistling as he moved about among the tables, with a merry word or a slap on the shoulder for the more favored of his guests. (Stevenson, Treasure Island, 1999)

In the novel Long John Silver is the most powerful and round character. He represents a dichotomy: he is attractive and repellent by turns, frightening at times and at other times nearly sympathetic. (Treasure Island : Character Analysis Long John Silver). Stevenson pushed us to empathize with Silver even if he is a negative model.

“His age, appearance and something of his story are present in the novel. He is the only pirate who is deeply described” (Treasure Island : Character Analysis Long John Silver). This is the reason why the reader can imagine Silver in his past and also in his future becoming the most important character in Stevenson’s novel. Indeed the first title of Treasure Island was “The Sea cook”

On a chill September morning, by the cheek of a brisk fire, and the rain drumming on the window, I began the “Sea Cook” for that was the original title” cit 194

He could hide his motives but not his personalities. He has supreme control of himself, physically and mentally. Even his brutality is controlled.

The relationship between Silver and Jim is difficult to understand. Silver is capable to convince everybody to believe in his words. Probably Silver had an affection for the young boy, he would ignore him instead. (Treasure Island : Character Analysis Long John Silver)

Jim had a bad surprise. That episode destabilised him. Jim found Israel Hands ready to kill him with a knife on the Hispaniola. There was a fight between them and Jim, after having called upon him not to go forward, was forced to kill him.

I scarce can say it was my own volition, and I am sure it was without a conscious aim – both my pistols went off, and both escaped out of my hands. They did not fall alone; with a choked cry, the coxswain loosed his grasp upon the shrouds, and plunged head first into the water. (Stevenson, *Treasure Island*, 1999)

When Jim admitted to him that he had hidden the ship and he killed Hands, Silver believed him and stayed on his side. Silver's affection is clear in some of his words. "I've always liked you, I have, for a lad of spirit and the picture of my own self when I was young and handsome" (Stevenson, *Treasure Island*, 1999)

But the day after Silver was ready to kill Jim in order to obtain what he wanted. Silver is a complex character with bad and good intentions; it is difficult to understand him. Stevenson's "Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde" is an example that there are at least two sides to every person and this aspect appeared also in Silver's character. "Real people are self-contradictory, although the basis of the contradiction may be a deeper consistency". The reader knows Silver's age and understands he wants to live an happy retirement without problems or obstacles. His aim was that so he did everything to gain this. (*Treasure Island : Character Analysis Long John Silver*)

Long John Silver and Jim have a complicated and ever-evolving relationship throughout the novel. Jim's father was ill at the beginning of the story and Jim had not time to mourn him. When he went on the ship he began a father-son relationship with the most complex character of the novel. However, as the story progresses, Jim becomes suspicious of Silver's true intentions and recognizes him as the merciless he truly is. On the other hand, Jim is fascinated by Silver's charisma and intelligence, leading to a conflicted alliance between the two characters. While Silver manipulates and deceives Jim, there are moments of genuine intimacy and mutual respect between them. It is seen in the following example

I like that boy, now; I never seen a better boy than that. He's more a man than any pair of rats you in this here house, and what I say is this: let me see him that'll lay a hand on him – that's what I say, and you may lay to it. (Stevenson, *Treasure Island*, 1999)

In the end, Silver's betrayal and attempt to harm Jim solidifies their adversarial relationship, but Jim triumphs over Silver and prevails in the battle for the treasure. Overall, the relationship between Long John Silver and Jim is complex, fraught with deception and betrayal, but also contains elements of mutual admiration and respect. Their interactions drive much of the tension and excitement in the novel as they navigate the dangerous world of pirates and treasure hunting. "It's no exaggeration to say that this operates as the secret engine of the book" (Motion, 2014)

The character of Long John Silver became very popular for many reasons and inspired many works. In 1995 the Swedish author Björn Larsson published a book about Long John Silver, a manuscript in which the pirate told the reader his story from the beginning of his choice to become a pirate until his last days of life. This is the first book Larsson has wrote and in this chapter this thesis will explore the first part of Silver's life. In the last chapter it will be analyzed the second part of the book as sequel of "*Treasure Island*". The narrator is the pirate himself; he is portrayed as a complex and morally ambiguous character who is torn between his loyalty to his pirate crew and his own personal demons. In the novel of Larsson John Long Silver was born in 1685 and when he wrote his story he was 57 years old. He was in Bristol and said that everyman in Bristol, sooner or later, sailed in the sea. His father was a drunker and not useful for the society. One day he fell in the sea because he took the wrong direction, the left instead the right. He was found two days later in a terrible condition. Silver was relieved for his departure. Silver's mother was Scottish and silver's father was Irish, they sent him in a school in order to learn Latin. For this reason Silver became a cultural man. Scotland had many doctors but Silver did not want to became one of it; his chooses were priest or lawyer. Both professions could be perfect for John because he would feel free to lie to anyone with his eloquence. Soon he realized that the two professions were not funny in anyway and he loved to change his reality. Silver had a deeply imaginations and played by his rules. He changed the verse of the Bible at school and the university rector Nutsford kicked him away. It was the first and the last time Silver was really feared. He witnessed Flin't anger and he saw many dead body but Nutsford was worse because he fought for his ideals and for the salvation of the soul. After this episode Silver decided to go to Glasgow for sailing. On the ship, he thought, everyone has his own commandments. When he was waiting in a tavern he met an old Captain whose name was Barlow. He was fascinated by his stories. Barlow explained to Silver that the hands were important. Every sailor had scars and signs on his hands so, for this reason, Silver decided to hide his hands because when he wanted to stay on mainland, he wanted to be free. At the age of 15 Silver became a member of Wilkinson's crew. He remained on that ship, The Lady Mary for ten years. The captain was a tyrant and ruthless but surely he was good in navigation. 4-6. From this



moment on Silver made a lot of adventures, he became Long John Silver and tried to find the ghostly figure of Captain Flint. At the beginning Flint was just a name in the air until Silver's crew found him in the sea. (Larsson, 1999) and soon he gained his respect and trust. He became quartermaster thanks to his sailors ability. At the end of the novel Silver was alone waiting for being captured. He wrote Jim his "longbook" trying to convince the boy he was not only the ruthless pirate everybody was afraid of but he had also a past. In the second part of the novel "The Last adventure of Long John Silver" Jim found out that Silver was still alive and sent him his last words. (Larsson, 2024)

He was involved in pirates' and battles including a capture of a Spanish treasure ship. In one of his battle he lost his leg. He was strategic and defeated the enemies. Silver's story is more fascinated and complex than the fictional portrayal of Treasure Island. As aforesaid the book is an historical fiction novel; however, the presence of real-life pirates like Blackbeard and Calico Jack. In terms of leadership John Silver shared similarities with the pirate Blackbeard who had a fearless personality and was known for his cruelty in battles.

### **Chapter 3 : Adaptation, prequel and sequel of *Treasure Island***

#### **3.1 The literary genre: the adventure novel and the pirate novel**

The adventure genre was born during the 18th century and describes the stories of characters who face many adventures and deal with a lot of vicissitudes. This literary genre came out for the first time in England and Ireland. Perfect examples are *Robinson Crusoe* written by Daniel Defoe in 1719 and *Gulliver's Travels* written by Jonathan Swift in 1726. Travel is the principal characteristic of this genre together with unexpected dangers and adventures. This genre is compelling and allows the reader to get ready for a plot twist. The characters are described accurately with physical and psychological details with their peculiar characteristics such as weaknesses, strength, and courage. They are round characters. The reader can identify with the protagonist of the story and follows his adventures and travels. In this genre there are many dialogues and descriptions. The structure is based on four moments: the quiet life is overturned by a complication, something unexpected happens in the protagonist's life and then there is the development of the story in which our hero faces hard situations. These last are challenging for the psychology of the character who finds himself. The ending is often a happy ending in which the character reaches his moral growth. (Wordpress, s.d.)

In the adventure novel, the main character had to face many dangerous challenges and generally the protagonist lost his sense of control. To overcome many obstacles and survive the character must act. The emphasis in the action is bound to the adventure genre; unexpected and surprised situations are the focus of this type of novel. Exotic places create in readers a visual impact, the reader wants to be part of the story for its emotional and adventurous challenges. (Rizzo, 2009)

Treasure Island, which was already discussed in chapter 2, is one of the most known novels of Robert Louis Stevenson. At the beginning the novel was considered as a short story with child-like elements and as written in chapter two of this thesis, it came out on *Young Folks*, a newspaper aimed directly at young people. Stevenson used a pseudonym Captain George North, but the novel was not successful. For this reason, the author decided to review his work to involve more adults as readers. He changed the structure of the text, from a short story to a novel. As known, Stevenson was inspired by Edgar Allan Poe, Washington Irving and Defoe but it was Captain Charles Johnson, the author of “General History of the Robbers” who helped him to imagine the physiognomy of his pirates.

To fully appreciate the text, it is important to focus on the typical components of the novel. First, the autobiographic memory. Jim tells the story from his point of view for almost all the chapters. The narration is linear and conscious. His memories are vivid and his stories about his past adventures are well-structured. Another typical element of the novel is the family as minor element, almost like an obstacle. His detachment from his mother and his father, from his old life and inn are necessary for the intertwined adventure and helped Jim to grow up. He learned to find his own destiny and not to trust everybody but to think with his own mind. The temporal-space element represents another essential element for the narration. Jim’s adventures began in a hostile and unknown place nowhere near his familiar and safe home. (Rizzo, 2009)

Pirate romance is influenced by Historical Romance and Adventure Romance. The pirate novel describes a journey not only across the ocean but also “through the tumultuous waters of the human heart”. Its central themes are loyalty, betrayal and request for freedom and love. The Golden age of piracy offers insights of many pirate novels. “This genre blends the gritty realism of historical settings with the exhilarating unpredictability of adventure, creating a backdrop where passionate romances flourish under the star and amidst the raging storms” (Morrow, 2024). In pirate novels we find typical characters; the most important is the captain who is a rebellious character with a troubled past but searching for redemption; the Fierce Independent who is generally a heroin wanting to change the gender norms and the Noble Adversary who follows a code of honour and courage. These characters generally respect each other. “The loyal crewmate provides comedic

relief or sage advice”. (Morrow, 2024)The pirate novel itself has a variety of subgenres. The first one is the historical pirate romance which is connected to the past and often explores with a romantic gaze the lives of real pirates. Another subgenre is the supernatural pirate romance which describes ghostly ships, ghostly sailors, and other fantastic elements in the life of pirates. These stories generally analyse topics such as redemption and eternal love. Here the supernatural forces guide the destiny of the characters. Important are also the adventure pirate romance which focuses on the journey in literary and metaphorical sense and the comedy pirate romance where humour and comedy are very important in the plot and characterisation of the characters. Typical of the pirate novel is the use of nautical terms and of expressions of pirate language which gives the narrative more richness. The locations are exotic and introduce the readers to different cultures and histories. There are different endings in pirate novels, but they generally fall into two main categories: the happily ever after (H.E.A) or the “happy for now” (H.F.N) ending. “H.E.A ending sees our daring pirates and their loves overcoming all odds to settle down in enduring love. On the other hand, H.F.N endings might leave the couple together and happy but with their future adventures hinted at, leaving room for sequels or the reader’s imagination”. (Morrow, 2024)

### **3.2 Adaptation of Treasure Island: Treasure planet**

In her book *Adaptation and Appropriation*, Julie Sanders explores these two terms. According to the author there is a comprehensive exploration of how literary texts have been adapted, re-imagined, and de-contextualized throughout history. Sanders explained that “adaptation can be a transposition practice, casting a specific genre into another generic mode, an act of revision in itself”. (Sanders, 2005 p.18) Often there is a revised point of view adding some sort of information, motivation or giving voice to some marginal character. The adaptation aims to simplify the text for the audience. Sanders examines the concept of adaptation as a form of creative interpretation in which the original work is both preserved and transformed in new ways. Some adaptations contain further layers of transposition relocating their sources into something new changing periods or places. “The full impact of the film adaptation depends upon the audience’s awareness of an explicit relationship to a source text” (Sanders, 2005)

Sanders emphasizes the importance of understanding adaptation as a dynamic and creative process which can enhance our appreciation of the original text while also allowing for new and innovative interpretations. She argues that adaptation is not a form of plagiarism or dilution of the original work, but rather a form of engagement with it that can bring new insights and perspectives. She discusses various strategies that adaptors use to translate texts from one medium to another

such as film adaptations of literature or stage adaptations of novels. The author examines how adaptors challenges of transferring narratives, characters, and themes from one form to another, highlighting how they must engage creatively with the source material to produce a successful adaptation. (Sanders, 2005)

In this thesis there will be an adaptation of Stevenson's *Treasure Island* which is *Treasure Planet*. It is a 2002 animated Disney film that sets the classic tale of *Treasure Island* in the future, and it is placed in space. The main character is Jim Hawking, a rebellious teenager who gets always in trouble. He lives with his mother Sarah who is the owner of a guest- house on the planet Montessor. Jim's father abandoned his family, and the boy grows up without a father figure. Since he was a boy, he was passionate by the pirates' stories, and he admires the figure of Nathaniel Flint and his treasure. One day he meets Billy Bones, an alien pirate who gives Jim a mysterious globe and warns him to hide it from the "cyborg". Billy quotes: "He'll be comin' soon... Can't let them find this." Jim asked: " Who is coming" and Billy whispered " The cyborg... beware the cyborg". And he died.

Jim touches the globe and he figures out that this mysterious object is a map of all the planets especially *Treasure planet*. Doctor Doppler, a family friend, and the lender of the trip convinces Sarah to give Jim the opportunity to make this journey to redeem his name. The ship is the *R.L.S Legacy* and the captain is the brilliant Amelia with her vice Arrow. Jim becomes the hub of the chef John Silver who is a cyborg. Silver has an assistant named Morph who is a little pink shapeshifter. Jim is considered just as an unable boy from the whole crew and from a shady alien named Scroop. During an explosion of a supernova which risks destroying the ship, Jim must fix the ships' tops and he does his work perfectly. Arrow is safe but Scroop cuts the top on which the vice was clinging killing him. For everybody this accident is Jim's fault. The only person who believes in Jim's innocence is Silver and he tries to console him.

Now, you listen to me, James Hawking. You got the makings of greatness in ya, but you gotta take the helm and chart your course. Stick to it, no matter the squalls, and when the time comes you get the chance to test the cut of your sails and show what you're made of. Well, I hope I'm there catching some of the light coming off ya that day.

After this discourse, Jim and Silver hug each other. Both are exited and it is clear that they begin to love each other. He says to his little friend Morphy: "Getting in too deep here, Morphy. Next thing ya know, they'll be saying I've gone soft".

Silver is worried about the affection he feels towards the boy because he has a secret dishonest intent. The real reason why Silver is on the ship is a personal one; he wants to reach Treasure Planet to get rich. Silver is the captain in disguise of many of the members of the crew including Scroop. The next day Silver meets the members of his crew below deck, and he gets angry with Scroop for Arrow's death. He says that they should keep their hands down in order not to be discovered. The group led by Silver wants to mutiny and take control of the ship. Scroop accuses Silver of feeling tenderness for Jim because the day before Scroop heard the conversation between Jim and the cook. This letter answers: "I care about one thing, and one thing only! Flint's trove. You think I'd risk it all for the sake of some nose-wiping whelp?... I cozied up to that kid to keep him off our scent". No one knows that Jim is listening to the conversation. They return on the deck, but Silver realizes he has left his telescope below deck and meets Jim understanding that the boy heard everything. Jim decides to hit Silver and runs away alerting Amelia and Doctor Doppler about the imminent mutiny. Jim reaches the globe and escapes with his two friends on a lifeboat and reaches a planet, but Amelia gets hurt. The three discover that the globe is not the real map which is Morph himself, but the cyborgs continue to think that the map is in Jim's hands. On this planet Jim meets B.E.N a robot that claims to have worked with Captain Flint. They want the map so, during the night, they go on the ship but Jim encounters Scroop and fights with him; he gets the better and runs away. Returning to the planet Jim finds that Silver holds his friends as hostages. Silver orders Jim to discover the Treasure Planet. The boy finds out that the globe works as a key to reach Flint's planet. They arrive on Treasure Planet and a big skeleton, probably Captain Flint's skeleton, is sitting in front of gold. There is a trap waiting for them and, as soon as they touch the gold the gold begins to disappear, and the planet begins to implode. John Silver tries to get as much gold as possible, but Jim is in danger; he is falling down a cliff and the cyborg, despite his uncertainty and hesitation, saves the boy. At the end of the movie, Silver tries to escape from getting tried and Jim pretends not to have seen him leaving the cyborg free. Before this episode Silver shows once again his affection for the boy, he leaves him his "assistant" Morph, and says: "What say you ship out with us, lad? You and me, Hawking and Silver, full of ourselves and no ties to anyone" Jim replies: "You know, when I got on this boat, I would've taken you up on that offer in a second, but, uh, I met this old cyborg, and he taught me that I could chart my course. That is what I am going to do" "Look at ya, glowing like a solar fire. You're something special, Jim. You're gonna rattle the stars, you are". (John, 2002)

This is a demonstration of a father-son relationship; Silver gives the boy diamonds and gold to help his mother's inn. In the final scene, when Jim finds his destiny, Long John Silver appears like a star shaped in the sky. He follows Jim's success and development from far away. In Treasure Planet John

Silver and Jim Hawkins share a complex relationship. At first Silver appears as a mentor figure to Jim teaching him how to navigate and he shows Jim life of pirates. However, as the story progresses, it becomes clear that Silver has personal further reasons and he is using Jim to achieve his own goals. “Silver has a genuine love for the boy, he can’t even lie to himself about liking the boy. It’s a bold authorial decision to change Silver from an irredeemable antagonist into an anti-hero. (Junrau, 2011)

Treasure Planet is a forgotten movie with relevant lesson where Jim embodies the perfect teenager who tries to make his mother proud and to find his place in the world. Silver also represents a father figure. As written before, Jim’s father decides to abandon him creating a sense of insecurity and worthlessness in Jim’s mind. (Panas, 2019)

If we compare Treasure Planet with Stevenson’s Treasure Island we can notice many differences both in plot and characters.

In the novel Jim’s father died at the beginning of the story while in the movie Jim’s father abandoned him when he was very young. Both works share an absent father. (Panas, 2019) Jim in Treasure Island is naïve and childish and does not fully understand the consequences of his actions; in Treasure Planet instead he knows his skills and his potential. He is reserved and reckless and reflects the model of the typical boy of today. Although they are different in appearance and character both Jim faces a growth journey. The settings are completely different in the two works; in Treasure Island the treasure is in a hidden island in the middle of sea, in Treasure Planet it is somewhere in space. Despite the differences on the surface, Treasure Planet and Treasure Island focus both on a coming-of-age theme in an unknown setting. Treasure Planet is an excellent reflection of Treasure Island for today’s culture. The heart remains the same in both stories, even as the details are updated in Treasure Planet to accurately communicate that heart. (2017) Disney was not the only film production that deals with Stevenson’s novel. The first production was a silent movie which came out in 1908: *The Story of Treasure Island*. The film follows the story of the young Jim Hawkins who discovers a treasure map in the chest of a dead pirate. Along with his friends and the crew of the ship *Hispaniola* Jim sets off on a dangerous journey to find the buried treasure on the mysterious Treasure Island.

### 3.3 Treasure Island's prequel: *Black Sails*

A prequel is: “a book or a film about events that happened before those in a popular book or film that has already appeared”. (Dictionary) Prequels underline our favourite characters. They are more uncommon than sequels and they become popular during 90s as a form of storytelling. Prequels allow authors to make developments and new storylines from works just known and that happens because “society loves origins”. For the audience it is very interesting to understand and investigate a character's past: “the prequel offers the pleasure of familiar characters and settings while further exploring the narrative world of the existing text and possibly deepening the audience's connection with central characters”. The difficulty of creating a prequel is that the audience already knows the ending of the character. According to the Sander's book prequel has a role to play at different times in the adaptive mode. (A long time ago...why prequels are taking us back to the future in popular film, 2019)

*Black Sails* is considered a prequel to Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*. It is a television series ideated by Johnathan E. Steinberg and Robert Levine. The first episode came out on the 25th of January 2014 and tells the story of Captain Flint. Since the first episode the watcher can understand that there are different types of characters many of which were invented by Robert Louis Stevenson such as Captain Flint, Long John Silver, and Billy Bones. Other characters are inspired by real pirates who lived during the Golden Age of piracy like Anne Bonny and Jack Rackham who are already mentioned in chapter one. According to the Guardian, these pirates are also fictional because they create the characters based on stories from 300 years ago. The show reclaimed the bad reputation of the pirates during that era; they are described as murderers and thieves; the authors tried to recreate and imagine the situation in which the pirates were. (O'Neill, 2015)

Flint is a round character, a man obsessed with a ship called *Urca de Lima* which is full of galleons and gold. *Urca de Lima* was a real wooden ship that sank in Florida in 1715 during a hurricane. The vessel was travelling from Havana in Cuba to Spain with many products taken in Mexico like vanilla, chocolate, and incense. In 1928 the ship was rediscovered, and it was considered one of the first Underwater archaeological Preserve. (Florida's Underwater Archeological Preserves, s.d.) *Urca de Lima* is probably a substitution for the treasure in Stevenson's novel. During the first season the spectator cannot understand the reason behind Flint's obsession. In the first episode of the show there is an attack of a pirate ship against a merchant ship. Here there is a man who rips out the page of a book in which there is the coordination of *Urca de*

Lima. After doing this the mysterious man, who the audience understands is the ship cook hides at the below desk. Here he meets a man who does not want to fight in the battle, and he called him “coward”. Suddenly the coward sees that the cook is hiding something in his jacket and there is a clash between them. The attack on the ship is awarded by the pirates. The crew finds the cook dead and near the corpse the so-called coward is alive. To save himself the man lies saying that he is the cook of the ship, and his name is John Silver. From now on the figure of Silver is quite different from that of Stevenson’s masterpiece. First of all his name is John Silver without the appellation Long. Secondly, he does not have a parrot as a companion and he has both legs. Currently Silver is the only person who knows the coordination of Urca De Lima. (O’Neill, 2015)

When the pirates board the merchant ship looking for the map, they frisk the whole crew except for John Silver who pretended to be the cook. Immediately Captain Flint understands that Silver is the one who has the map. Silver escapes and reaches an island named Nassau, in New Providence. Nassau was an English colony stormed by pirates. In the movie the smuggling is controlled by Richard Guthrie and his daughter Eleanor who seems to have a love affair with another ruthless pirate whose name is Chris Vane. From the beginning, understandably, there are two big sides lead by Flint and Vane. Captain Flint commands the ship Walrus together with his boatswain Billy Bones and, later, John Silver; the other ship, Ranger, has Charles Vane as a captain, the quartermaster Jack Rackham and the terrible Anne Bonny is part of this crew. Another pirate who truly existed appears in the first episode of the third season of the TV series. His name is Edward Thatch or Teach, better known as Blackbeard. It seems he was a British privateer during the War of Spanish Succession in which he plundered Spanish ships for the English government. He turned to piracy under the instruction of Captain Benjamin Hornigold and soon he became captain. There are fewer documents about him; perhaps he was born in Bristol and operated in Charleston and in the Caribbean seas. His aspect was frightening. Blackbeard is often depicted as a tall, intimidating figure with a thick, black beard, which he would famously light fuses in during battles to create a fearsome image. His appearance was enhanced by his choice of clothing frequently wearing a wide-brimmed hat, long coat, and various pieces of weaponry. He cultivated a reputation for brutality and fearlessness. He was known for his cunning tactics and ruthlessness in battle often employing psychological strategies to intimidate his enemies. His crew would spread tales of his ferocity and supernatural powers to enhance his fearsome reputation. Blackbeard operated various ships but is best known for commanding the Queen Anne's Revenge, a former French slave ship he captured and outfitted for piracy. His exploits included raiding merchant ships and blockading ports drawing considerable attention from colonial authorities. Blackbeard's life came to a dramatic end in a fierce



battle with British naval forces led by Lieutenant Robert Maynard in 1718. After his death, he became a legendary figure, symbolizing the Golden Age of Piracy. His story has inspired numerous works of fiction, films, and folklore, solidifying his place in popular culture as an iconic pirate. (Britannica, 2024)

Another realistic aspect in *Black Sails* is the relationship between Jack Rackham and Anne Bonny; they have a love affair both in the show and in real life during the Golden Age of piracy. Anne is against injustice, and she helps a prostitute who is constantly raped by a member of her captain Charles Vane. She decides to kill eight members of her crew stabbing them brutally. At the beginning of the show, she appears as a mysterious woman; she does not speak with anyone; she is just gazing and observing the situations that happen on Nassau Island. She seems also vindictive, brutal, and ready to fight against violence. Behind her sturdy temperament a big pain is hidden. When the prostitute thanks her for saving her reputation and life Anne explains that she does not act like that for her and goes away. Soon Anne reveals to her friend and lover Max that she was married many years before. She was only 13 years old when she married, and she was continuously beaten by his husband. She was mistreated and repeatedly abused. Anne was forced to work for his man but, one day, while she was beaten by him, a man who saw all decided to act and cut her husband's throat. That man was Jack Rackham; he saved her from her torturer. From that moment she followed him and protected him; they began a relationship, and she always admired his courage. This episode has formed Anne's character and choices in life making her also a sort of feminist who fights for rights. (E.Steinberg, 2014-2017)

Flint is a very enigmatic character. At the beginning of the show, he does not care about anyone except for a woman whose name is Miranda Benblow. During an attack on another ship that was needed for taking possession of cannons and weapons, Billy Bones finds a letter written by Miranda; she begged the English government to grant clemency to Captain Flint and to forgive him for his betrayal. Flint finds out that Billy Bones has figured out something about his past and he throws him into the sea. After this episode there is a discussion between Miranda and Flint about that letter. Flint is disappointed by Miranda's behaviour because from the content of the letter it seems that Flint is guilty and that he needs the government's forgiveness. On the contrary the captain believes that it is the government that must apologize. In a flashback, it is shown that Captain Flint was Lieutenant James McGraw, the son of a carpenter; he did not have a specific education, but he had a great sense of duty and honour. He met the governor Lord Thomas Hamilton with whom he had a conversation about releasing Nassau, already a pirate lair. The idea of Hamilton was deeply honoured and avant-garde; he wanted to give jobs to the pirates of Nassau,

redeem them, and forgive them. James McGraw alias Captain Flint was interested in this mission, but he also had a love affair with the Governate who is married to Miranda Hamilton, known with the name of Miranda Benblow. After being caught by the father's governor, Flint is expelled by the Royal Navy and is intimidated to leave London with Miranda Hamilton before nightfall. For his homosexual relationship with Flint Thomas Hamilton was locked up in a mental hospital.

During the first season, the character of Captain Flint is pragmatic. The spectator does not know the reasons behind his actions. There are always rumours about him and his private life, the crew speak often about his cruelty. On one occasion he attacks a ship and, after conquering it, despite the pleas of the two owners, he massacres them brutally. In the second season, after many episodes, it is discovered that the daughter of a governor named Peter Ash is being held hostage by a crew of pirates. Flint wants to take her to her father and tries to redeem the name of pirates in Nassau avoiding a direct fight with the crown of England. The only person who knows the relationship between James and Thomas was Peter Ash who, to become Governate, warned Thomas' father about the homosexual relationship of his son. During that period being homosexual was seen as a sin and punishable by death. (E.Steinberg, 2014-2017)

At the end of the second season, Flint explains to Miranda the reason why he chose the name Captain Flint. He tells her that his grandfather was a fisherman and worked as a hub on the pirate ship which was off the coast of Massachusetts. During the night, when he was on guard duty in Boston, he saw a man who got off the sea and came on the ship. His grandfather observed him with curiosity and the foreigner asked for a glass of rum and told him his name was Flint. After having drunk the first glass of rum he asked for another one and the grandfather went below deck to satisfy the thirst of the unlikely visitor. When he came back the foreigner was gone. It was as if the sea had evoked and resumed that figure. Flint did not like his real name and so, when he met a pirate named Gates, he told him that his name was Flint. He was creating a character who did not respect the real James; he wanted to resume his name to the sea. He impersonates someone who repels himself. Before figuring out the betrayal of Peter Ash, Miranda and Flint try to speak with the governor about freeing Nassau forgiving the pirates on the island and redeeming them. This was the principal idea of Thomas Hamilton. Miranda is killed by a man of Peter Ash and Flint is sentenced to death. He manages to escape, thanks also to the help of another captain, and from that moment on he fights against the English government; he becomes merciless. He starts killing all the judges who sentence to death pirates and burned and destroyed every city in which pirates are considered crown traitors. His name terrifies every person nearby and his ruthlessness increases. (E.Steinberg, 2014-2017)

According to the author of the article of the Guardian, Captain Flint takes no joy in piracy. At the beginning of the show, it was understandable to think that he was moved by a simple hunger for notoriety and riches and his behaviour was just part of being a pirate. It seemed that Miranda and Flint had an affair with the tacit approval of Thomas, but it was more complex, as mentioned before, the two men had a relationship. Flint's sexuality was not a big deal, there were a lot of same-sex relationships among seafaring folk; the shock is that Flint was not even a pirate, and he did what he did for political reasons over the simple gain. (O'Neill, 2015)

In Stevenson's masterpiece *Billy Bones* appears in the first chapter of the book. He wants to be called captain and, after his death, Jim finds the map to the Treasure Island where Captain Flint has hidden a treasure many years before. In the book Captain Flint is just nominated and described as a terrible and ruthless pirate. In *Black Sails* he seems to have reasons that justify his attitudes. A dichotomy between the book and the TV series is the relationship between Billy Bones and Flint. In the novel Billy Bones is the boatswain of the captain and they probably had a solid relationship of trust, meanwhile in the TV series, Billy Bones is the boatswain too, but the captain tries to kill him by throwing him into the ocean because Flint did not trust enough Billy and he made him shut up, forever. In the second episode of the second season, Billy is found alive plotting revenge against his ex-captain. (Steinberg, 2014-2017)

Analysing other relationships, it is necessary to dwell on that between John Silver and Captain Flint. In the book Silver was the only one who was feared even by Flint but there is not a deep description about the relationship between them. The only thing known is that Silver was part of the crew as quartermaster of Flint. In the TV series, as previously written, John Silver stole the page in which there was the coordination of *Urca the Lima*. After discovering his theft, Silver memorized the page and burned it to save his life. He wrote just a part of the coordination and promised to write the last part only if he would receive a part of the treasure and his salvation. Doing so Flint is forced to take him on his ship. In the show Silver is very keen and intelligent, he overhears conversations between some members of the crew, and he creates conflicts between them. Despite this, he constantly tries to save Flint's reputation. He saves Flint many times without knowing the reasons and tries to become his friend. It seems that he is the only character who tries to understand Flint's actions. Silver is also very funny and with a great sense of humour. During the seasons the relationship between grows especially being also swinging. Toby Stephens who plays Captain Flint explained that the thing that surprised him the most was the democratic situation on buccaneers' ships. "most of them had been working on merchant ships or naval ships, they have been pressed into service, they were treated poorly, punished brutally and when they were giving

that freedom by pirates they became masters of their destiny” (Toby Stephens, 2014). They could vote, one vote one man. They could vote for the captain or the quartermaster. They start deciding for themselves. Toby Stephens and Luke Arnold who plays John Silver explained in the same interview that both characters are incredibly complex. At the beginning of the first season, the watcher could not understand the reasons behind Flint-s actions. He is just a violent pirate who wants to obtain what he wants without any type of remorse. In the second season, when the relationship between Flint and Hamilton comes out the watcher can put himself in Flint’s shoes understanding why he behaves in that way. (E.Steinberg, 2014-2017)

With the succession of the episodes, John Silver became more like the John Silver of the book. At the beginning of the show the two Silvers were a little bit different, but it is necessary to underline that the TV series Black Sails was invented as a prequel to Treasure Island by Stevenson. For this reason, the creators tried to form the figure to be similar for as we know him today. At the end of the second season of the show, Silver is captured and tortured because he does not want to betray his crew and friends. His persecutor struck his leg many times with an axe. The crew save him but a pirate decides to cut his leg to save his life. After this episode, John Silver begins to walk with his famous wooden leg. The character of John Silver develops during the episodes; he starts becoming a legend, someone who scares everyone. In the last episode of season three, Billy Bones decides to write a letter for the English government in Nassau. In doing so he wants to create a man that England fears. Flint is a character known by the authorities and Silver has demonstrated great determination and eloquence demonstrating his innate capacity as a leader. Nassau needs a king who guides the revolution of pirates against England. The letter is firm by Long John Silver, king of pirates. Flint and Long John Silver are not only pirates who drew ships for themselves; they are part of something bigger. They are the symbol of the resistance in Nassau. As written before, Flint has lost everyone for something in which he believed. His initial idea was to forgive and educate pirates to be part of society but, in his two tentative, he lost everyone. Flint wants revenge, revenge for the lies, revenge for the false front of England. He is the symbol of revolution and freedom. Loss is the key word regarding Flint’s distrust towards his country. During the third season, the crew of Captain Flint has been taken by an army composed of slaves. They own an island, and they hide themselves from colonies. They have their own hierarchy, and they fight against strangers. Flint, thanks to his capacity in conversation, convinces the queen of this population to collaborate with him against English men who had taken Nassau under their control.

Each character finds its own end in the fourth and last season. Slaves and pirates work together to fight the British government and want their freedom. There were lot of battles and many people

died for the cause. Madi was one of the leaders of the slaves' revolution and she begins an intercourse with Long John Silver. In this season the relationship between Flint and Silver falters many times. The war for Nassau begins and the crew of Edward Teach and Flint were ready to fight. They are forced to retreat and after a fight Long John Silver falls off the ship and his crew thinks he is dead. Instead, he is under the control of Israel Hands, an ex-member of the Captain Blackbeard crew. This latter is blocking the harbour of Nassau. Blackbeard is captured by Wooden Roger, the English governor, who tortures him. The pirate suffers for many minutes and finally dies after being shot by the Rogers. Meanwhile Flint is searching for other alliances with maroons and ex-slaves and Flint convinces Hands to take part to the cause. Everything is ready for a big fight, but a plot twist changes everything. Billy Bones after feeling betrayed by Flint and Silver is captured by Wooden Rogers. Here he explains that the only way to win the war and conquer Nassau is to separate the two captains and destroy their relationships. He cannot act alone but Wooden Rogers has kidnapped Madi who was believed to be dead. Roger sends a message to the pirate; the exchange is Madi for the treasure of Urca de Lima. This request breaks the relationship between Flint and Silver, the first one does not want to give up to the treasure, but Silver wants to save his lover. Billy Bones suggests to Wooden Rogers to make the change in a neutral place, a place where the time does not pass: Skeleton Island. It does not appear on maps and some rumours say the island is full of mysterious creatures, mermaids, and legends. Many sailors swear they heard the voices of their loved ones who passed away. Others felt distressed by it. Silver convinced Flint to obey the request telling him he always did everything he wanted to even if he thought it was something crazy or without any sense. They spoke about their friendship and Silver prayed him to trust him. (E.Steinberg, 2014-2017)

In one of the last episodes Flint decides to turn his back on Silver and with another pirate dropped down the ship and goes hiding the treasure. His idea is to bury it underground. Here Silver feels betrayed by him and orders his crew to find and kill Flint. In a flashback there is a scene in which Flint teaches Silver how to handle the sword. Everybody has his way to fight and, teaching Silver his skills, Flint gives him the possibility to know how to defeat the captain. During this training there is a conversation between them. Flint asks him about his childhood and Silver explains that he was born in Whitechapel and spent his childhood in an orphanage. Flint knows that his story is not the truth; he asks Silver why he does not want to reveal his story from the moment he knows everything about Flint's past. He is disappointed because he has always been transparent and truthful. He feels a bond between them, and he would have problems if he were forced to harm him. Silver explains that his story is not important; his past is not worth telling; he finds no meaning in

his past and his story does not define him in any way, but his loyalty and friendship should be enough for the captain to be trusted. Now the situation is changed, in the present Silver wants to see Flint dead. The captain buries the treasure before being seen by Silver. During a verbal fight between them, the pirate who follows Flint in his mission points the gun at Silver to kill him, but Flint saves him with a shot. Here there is the clear demonstration that, even if Flint is selfish, he is bound to his friend. A sword fight starts between them, but their ship is burning, and the men of Wooden Rogers attack the pirates. Flint and Silver unite their strength and go fighting the English navy. There is a conflict between Flint and Billy Bones who falls into the water. Meanwhile Silver goes searching for Madi below deck and he finds someone. The man shakes and he is scared. Silver calls him a coward because he is not part of the battle but, suddenly, the man answers: "I am just a cook". This sentence reminds Silver of his first encounter with pirates, someone called him coward too. At the end the pirates defeat Wooden Rogers and Silver finds Madi. After a while Captain Flint disappears. Silver explains to Madi what happened to him. He speaks about a work camp in Savannah where people who were considered impure and rejects of society work; only a few people know about this place. Months before, Silver had sent someone there to ask for information about a specific man: Thomas Hamilton. At the beginning, Flint did not believe Silver, but his hope allowed him to try to find his lost lover. Silver witnesses the vanishing of Captain Flint, a man created as a reaction to his loss, a man persecuted by horrors and disgrace, a man whose mind was incorporated with that of Silver. Then there is the return of James McGraw who decided to give up the case he followed for many years just for love. James found Thomas Hamilton in Savannah and, after being reunited with him, returned a man of hope and without anger. Just a few know the real destiny of Captain Flint and it is said that he has decided to disappear without a specific reason. In doing so Captain James Flint did not become a martyr to cry and to get revenge for but a legend. Silver explains: "He did not retire from this, they needed to hear that, but they did not know him like you do." Madi accuses him of having killed his friend and Silver replies:

No. I did not kill Captain Flint. I unmade him. The man you know could never let go of his war. For if he were to exclude it from himself, he would not be able to understand himself. So, I had to return him to an earlier state of being. One in which he could function without the war, without the violence, without us. Captain Flint was born out of a great tragedy. I found a way to reach into the past...and undo it.

And he goes on with his narration:

He disbelieved this. But the closer we got to Savannah his resistance began to diminish... perhaps he would finally reach the limits of his physical ability to fight. Or perhaps as the promise of seeing Thomas got closer, he grew more comfortable letting go of this man he created in response to his loss. The man whose mind I had come to know so well...whose mind I would in some ways incorporate into my own. It was a strange experience to see something from it...so unexpected. I chose to believe it because it was not the man, I had come to know at all...but one who existed beforehand...waking from a long and terrible nightmare. ...reorienting to the daylight and the world as it existed before he first closed his eyes letting the memory of the nightmare fade away. (E.Steinberg, 2014-2017)

After a deal, Nassau is now controlled by Max and a new governor who is nice and able to manage the situation. Jack Rackham sails with Anne Bonny and a new member of his crew. His name is Mark Reid, Mary Reed in disguise; one of the two female pirates described in the first chapter of this thesis. They sail with a new flag, a black flag with two bones crossed under a skull, the real Jolly Roger, the representative flag of the pirates. The show intertwines with history, the Jolly Roger is indeed made by Jack Rackham.

The destiny of Long John Silver and Billy Bones is not explained in the show. Their stories remain open and not defined. The stories of the characters match with the beginning of *Treasure Island* by Robert Luis Stevenson. In the book Flint is described as a ruthless pirate who died in Savannah; Long John Silver appeared without a leg and his name scared Billy Bones who has become a drunk and grumpy pirate. The treasure of Captain Flint is still on Skeleton Island.

Jack Rackham is the narrator voice in the last minutes of the season and speaking with a pirate who wants to become part of Jack's crew says:

It matters less and less. The stories we want to believe, are the ones that survive, despite the upheaval transition, and progress. Those are the story that shape history and then what does it matter if it was true when it was born? It is found truth in its maturity, which is a virtue in man ought to be no less so for the things men create.

He continues his discourse speaking about Long John Silver:

Long John Silver's story is a hard one to know. The men who believed most deeply in it were ultimately destroyed by it. And those who stood to benefit most from it... were the most eager to leave it all behind. Until all that remains of any of it are stories bearing only passing resemblance

to the world the rest of us lived in, a world we survived. A world that is no more. (E.Steinberg, 2014-2017)

There is an interview with the cast of *Black Sails* in which the characters explain their idea about this TV series. The first question was: “How does each of your characters tie into the iconic characters in Robert Louis Stevenson’s novel?”

Luke Arnold, who interprets John Silver, answers:

In *Treasure Island* Long John retired from the sea and is now a cook, compared to the silver we had at the beginning of this show, that is quite a change. And I think it is a character who there is a lot of menace in him from the book. They say that Silver is the only man Flint ever feared, and Billy and Silver’s relationship is about as stressed as you could get

Toby Stephens added:

At the beginning of season four, we are all on the same side of fighting together and that starts to unravel quickly. I am dead by the time *Treasure Island* comes along, but I sort of loom over it. There is this whole story, how I buried the treasure and how killed all these people in doing it and he is sort of a legend by the time *Treasure Island* is there

Tom Hopper, the interpreter of Billy Bones:

I always use the phrase “fresh-faced” but in *Treasure Island*, he is such a grumpy old drunk. In season four we start to see how this world and the people in this world have affected him and we are going to see that big shift towards that Billy Bones in the book

Luke Arnold again:

That is really what we are trying to do with these characters. We have witnessed the death of our brothers around us, and we have had to take part in some terrible things, and each of those that have happened since the first episode has all accumulated to make them who they are from *Treasure Island*. And season four we start drawing these two worlds together and I think the biggest part of that is Israel Hands enters season four who is Silver-s right/hand man in the book and this season he was kind of the devil on silver shoulder. The moment Israel Hands steps into the show it feels like we are just walking towards *Treasure Island*

Toby Stephens concludes by saying:” He is the good angel and the bad angel. Silver ironically is the good angel and bad angel, and it is two sides of Silvers’ conscience” (Toby Stephens L. A., 2020)



### 3.4 A Sequel of Treasure Island: The Last Adventure of Long John Silver

Sequel is a noun that describes a book, a film or play that continues the story of a previous work. (Dictionary). Björn Larsson was the author of the book “ The Last Adventure of Long John Silver”. The novel is a sequel of Treasure Island, but it was considered too long and so the author decided to divide the last chapter into another opera. During the year 2013, he wrote “The Last Adventure of Long John Silver” describing the last days of the pirate’s life. The story is narrated from the point of view of John Silver except for the first pages. Jim Hawking explained us that he married Anna Trelawny and had a son: Tom. He became rich and famous thanks to the gold found on Skeleton Island and became a businessman. Years went by without the presence of Silver who seemed disappeared. Jim received a sort of manuscript by William Cunningham written by the pirate which described his life from his point of view. The aim of Silver was to help Jim to understand his private life. The young man thought that Silver was dead because his fort exploded with him inside. Scolding that masterpiece, he became richer and more famous but Long John Silver was not dead, he was alive. One day, Jim received a letter at Benblow and inside it, there was the manuscript “The last adventure of Captain Long John Silver” . He told him about his last few days of life congratulating him for selling his book. (Larsson, 2013) From this moment on the point of view changed. Long John Silver is in Madagascar and lives a quiet life with Jack on the island. One day he saw two “white men“ arrived on their island, they seemed dazed and lost. The two men are Herman Dyssel and Charles Berrington who were abandoned on the island because considered liars and mutinied. The first one is sick and shabby and the other one is racist and considered black men inferior. John Long Silver, instead, considered all people as part of human beings, without any exception moreover during his time he thought white people were stuck in wrong ideals. Long John Silver is a rich man who owns many gemstones, esquire Barrington is enchanted by his richness. It is figured out that, to gain more richness, Barrington made a lot of travels and had many slaves, and he did not respect their life as human beings. Barrington did not recognize John Silver; for him it was just a name in the air. He just thought Silver was a nobody with great richness. During the story, Berrington told his story and Silver seemed visibly bored by him. He was a man without any type of compassion but Silver thought that nobody should be condemned without being interrogated. (Larsson, The Last adventure of Long John Silver, 2013)

During his story Silver joked many times with him without being understood, Silver with his eloquence and savoir-faire was always considered hilarious. After the story, Barrington became drunk, and Silver decided to unmask himself. He began to speak about Captain Flint; obviously both the guests knew him, and they knew Flint was dead drunk in Savannah so his name was not a

danger anymore. Silver reminded them that Flint had a quartermaster very powerful and had a wooden leg. This information terrified the two guests who, after one day, figured out that their host was no less than Captain Long John Silver. Dyssel shivered and John Silver began to converse with Barrington. He wanted something back, Silver saved his life without knowing why. He thought that he should leave him alone, it would be not a big loss, but it would not be a great gain for the afterword. Dyssel was afraid of him and, the day after, Silver found him hanged. Jack, Silver's friend said that Barrington saw his scars due to the whipping and, gladly asked him if he could learn something from his episode adding that surely it was deserved. After that Silver decided to give the esquire a big lesson. He invited White, son of Thomas White, a pirate, and Princess Rahana to his place. He had both races in his blood. Silver sold Barrington as a slave. The two big companions of White examined him, depriving him of his clothes and leaving him naked. A doctor visited him humiliating the esquire saying that he was weak as a little girl. Silver said that Barrington could read and write and do the math, so he had a little value. In the end, the esquire was sold for three pounds and eighteen shillings. The book ends with Silver who, after having written for 24 hours, gave himself a thought of his own. Barrington is still alive but maybe his behaviour will weigh on his conscience. From being a slave merchant to becoming one. (Larsson, *The Last Adventure of Long John Silver*, 2013)

## Conclusion

Robert Louis Stevenson was one of the most famous and important writers of his time. His masterpiece *Treasure Island* has contributed to the birth of many famous pirates stories. *Treasure Island* is a novel which was born as a book for young readers but that soon became part of the literary classics. Men, women, girls and boys are captured by Stevenson's masterpiece. As written in the previous chapter a lot of prequels, sequels and adaptations were written and filmed and represented in theatres. Some of them had their roots in other stories like *Captain Flint in Black Sails* but it could be an interesting possibility to analyse some secondary characters. Every character made experiences and adventures by its own and maybe it could be an opportunity for them to create another story that could be bond with *Treasure Island*. Why have some characters decided to become pirates? What was Flint's childhood? Maybe there was some sort of fascination in the figure the pirate and maybe some character has decided to become members of a crew just for that reason.

Another important aspect to focus on could be the woman figure. In Stevenson's novel there is only Jim's mother who plays just a marginal role. A novel with the participation of women who were bond or had some sort of friendship or relationship to some characters of *Treasure Island* could be interesting to analyse.

There are many articles, prequels, sequels created by men. Every work of this thesis like *Black Sails*, *Treasure Planet* and *The Last Adventure of Long John Silver* are written by men because these type of stories were written by men for men. A feminine point of view misses. Pirates were described always as violent and ruthless (most of them). It could be peculiar to analyse the beautiful part of being pirate. Sensations and feelings of being on a ship without knowing what will happen the day after. The idea of pirate, in the collective imaginary of society, seems still and not exchangeable. Many young boys watch movies and think they want to be pirates. Sailing seas and be part of a crew fascinated the young's mind. Generally a girl, instead, cannot see herself like a captain of a ship who faces dangers and adventures. Often, in a few movies in which the female figure has an important role on the ship, her existence as a character is justified just by love. There are not many movies in which the girl or woman decides to sail just for the willingness to do it.

The female point of view could provide new life to the pirate novel which would take a more modern vision and contemporary taste for current readers.

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