

# **Silver: Return to Treasure Island Study Guide**

## **Silver: Return to Treasure Island by Andrew Motion**

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# Contents

<a href="#">Silver: Return to Treasure Island Study Guide.....</a>	<a href="#">1</a>
<a href="#">Contents.....</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
<a href="#">Plot Summary.....</a>	<a href="#">3</a>
<a href="#">Part 1, Chapter 1 - Part 4, Chapter 20.....</a>	<a href="#">4</a>
<a href="#">Part 4, Chapter 21 - Part 6, Chapter 37.....</a>	<a href="#">9</a>
<a href="#">Characters.....</a>	<a href="#">13</a>
<a href="#">Objects/Places.....</a>	<a href="#">16</a>
<a href="#">Themes.....</a>	<a href="#">18</a>
<a href="#">Style.....</a>	<a href="#">20</a>
<a href="#">Quotes.....</a>	<a href="#">22</a>
<a href="#">Topics for Discussion.....</a>	<a href="#">24</a>



## Plot Summary

"Silver: Return to Treasure Island" is a novel by Andrew Motion which details the account of young Jim, the son of Jim Hawkins, and a trip back to Treasure Island to secure the left-behind silver cache.

When the novel begins, Jim is working at his father's inn, the Hispaniola, on the coastline of England by the Thames River. He is a fairly well-educated teenager, who is slightly rebellious and loves the marshlands, but looks forward to something a little more exciting. The introduction of Natty Silver, daughter of Long John Silver and a freed slave from Barbados, gives him the adventure of a lifetime by coming to see Jim on her father's behalf. Long John Silver has hired a trustworthy crew and captain to bring Jim and Natty to the Caribbean, to Treasure Island, to bring back the massive horde of silver that was left behind. Jim secures the treasure map, and he and Natty, along with Captain Beamish and his crew and ship, set out to Treasure Island.

However, at Treasure Island, things go wrong quickly. Three marooned pirates from the original expedition have become the rulers of a small group of Europeans, and their marooned slaves, whom they rule with an iron fist. When Natty is captured by these pirates, Beamish determines that an attempt to save her life and liberate the slaves must be made. Sadly, Beamish is killed in the attempt. Natty simultaneously discovers the silver horde on the island with the White Rock. In a swashbuckling climax, the pirates are ultimately defeated and the silver is loaded onto the ship. Attempting to run off from a storm, the ship is run aground and many slaves and crew die. Natty and Jim, however, fortunately, escape to tell their story.



# Part 1, Chapter 1 - Part 4, Chapter 20

## Part 1, Chapter 1 - Part 4, Chapter 20 Summary

In Chapter 1, Jim recalls his youth, when he assisted his father by running errands and bringing his father grog. It is July 1802 when the story begins. Jim is tasked with finding a wasp's nest and destroying it, so the customers do not become annoyed. Jim loves the marshy coastline where his father's inn, the Hispaniola, is located. Jim tracks down the nest, but wonders whether or not he should actually destroy it. He finally sets fire to it, and then heads off to wander around before returning home.

In Chapter 2, Young Jim is a little rebellious, but he is not mean. His mother died in childbirth. The inn is located on the river Thames by the coast. Jim reveals his father to be Jim Hawkins, who sought Treasure Island with Captain Flint. Returning home rich, he marries, and his wife (Jim's mother) helps him to moderate and regulate his life. Following the death of his wife, Jim's father plunges himself into drink. Young Jim is sent to school, where he becomes relatively well-educated. On Jim's way back to the inn after destroying the wasp nest, he comes across a mysterious stranger.

In Chapter 3, the stranger beckons Jim to a boat, with an object covered by an orange cloth. The stranger is a girl. Jim invites her into the inn for a drink. The girl's name is Natty. Jim is just shy of eighteen, and it appears to him as though the same is true for the girl. The other stranger has a parrot named Spot, who has the talent and ability to repeat whatever he hears. Natty and Jim hit it off quickly, and Jim admits he trusts her immediately. Natty's father is John Silver. Natty explains that her father wants to meet him, that he has asked her to come and fetch Jim. She also wants to know if Jim's father still has the map, and if it could be borrowed. Jim doesn't know, but he wants to meet Natty's father anyway, and she consents.

In Chapter 4, Natty rows Jim upriver to London to her home. Her house appears to be a modified, floating ship. She brings him inside, and is amazed that the house itself appears to be rocking. He follows her up a flight of steps, and she turns and smiles at Jim, which makes his heart melt.

In Chapter 5, Natty opens the door to her father's room. It is dominated by a giant set of windows that looks out over the harbor. Silver is half the man his father described him to be. His body is wasted away, and he is blind. John Silver speaks of an adventure to be had, with relation to the map. There is much more treasure to be claimed that could not be taken off the island. Jim has no idea how he will manage anything -but Natty reveals that Long John Silver has already put together a crew, captain, and ship for the adventure. Natty says she will go along as her father's representative on the quest. All that remains is the location. Jim consents to going.

In Chapter 6, Jim feels at once both free and a traitor to his father. Jim questions Natty about the crew, the captain, and the ship. He wants to know if they are good at what



they do, and if they can be trusted. Jim knows all too well the intrigues of his father's adventures decades before. Downstairs, Jim meets Mrs. Silver. She is a kind, religious woman.

In Chapter 7, Jim and Natty return to the Hispaniola. Natty is unhappy with her life. She hopes that the adventure will bring her away from England for good. Natty reveals she knows the Captain -Beamish -and he is a good man. Natty reveals, for her safety, she will be traveling as a boy named Nat, and only Captain Beamish and Jim shall know her true identity. Only the Captain and Natty will know that Jim is the son of Jim Hawkins. At the Hispaniola, Jim sneaks into his father's room after his father has gone to sleep. At the foot of his bed is the chest of Billy Bones. Jim extracts the map from the chest with little difficulty. Jim leaves a note for his father, with vague details about where he is going and what he is doing. Jim then returns to Natty.

In Chapter 8, as Jim heads along with Natty, he realizes he must stop dwelling on the past and look to the future. They return to the crow's nest of Natty's house, to her father's bedside. They reveal they have the map. Silver gives them his blessing. He will even pray for them.

In Chapter 9, on the way out, Natty's mother says she will pray for them, and wishes them well. Natty tells her mother that she, too, will pray for her. Natty then disguises herself for the voyage. Natty reveals that there will be smaller weapons on board -such as swords and pistols -but for the most part, things are currently peaceful. Natty brings Jim to their ship: The Silver Nightingale. There, Jim is introduced to Captain Beamish, who is clean-cut and looks professional, and who promises again to keep Jim's identity a secret. He then asks Jim if he has the map.

In Chapter 10, Jim appears to trust the captain at once, but he wonders about the rest of the crew. Captain Beamish studies the map for a course. Jim lends it to him to hold onto so long as the map is returned to him upon the voyage's completion, and Beamish agrees. He then tucks the map safely inside his clothing. Mr. Allan, the cook, is given the task of settling Natty and Jim in. Allan explains there is plenty of food for the voyage. Jim and Natty are given a small, plain cabin with beds. As the ship sails along the Thames for the sea, Jim sees his father watering the flowers in front of the inn.

In Chapter 11, the open sea makes Jim a little sad, as he misses his home and the marshes where he grew up. The captain is a thorough man, and the crew seem to be very enthusiastic about what they do. Jim also discovers that Jordan Hands, the nephew of Israel Hands, is on board. Jim worries, because his father killed Jordan's uncle decades before. Mr. Tickle, one of the ship's crew, wonders what has become of the pirates left behind on the island; Mr. Krkby believes they have turned into skeletons. Mr. Stevenson believes they have begun gardens on the island. Jordan believes they have prospered from living off the island. The captain is a very good singer, and he sings to the crew. Jim realizes, meanwhile, that he finds Natty to be beautiful.

In Chapter 12, two days later, England disappears behind the Nightingale. Although Jim and Natty are neither crewmen or guests, they do help out around the ship with light



chores. Meanwhile, word comes that Jordan Hands is an antagonist and instigator, setting crewmen against one another. Captain Beamish warns Jordan to keep in order. Just a few days later, Jordan Hands and Mr. Sinker get into a fight. Sinker is killed. Tickle and Kirkby arrest Hands; Sinker is given a Christian sea burial. But Jordan is not to be stopped. He curses Jim, calls him out by name in front of everyone, and jumps into the ocean.

In Chapter 13, Jim is preoccupied by thoughts of death, but with the departure of Jordan Hands, good fortune seems to fall on the ship, which begins making good and steady progress. Jim delights in seeing all manners of birds. They see dolphins, and Jim finds the sight of the sea to be beautiful.

In Chapter 14, the goal is the Bay of Mexico. The ship sails on toward the destination. At night, Jim and Natty stay out on deck, and watch the stars. Finally, they arrive at what is called Captain Kidd's Anchorage, and there, weigh anchor. They will go ashore the following morning. They see large numbers of felled trees, and Jim has no idea why. A fire can also be seen, as well as a graveyard and farm. Among the area appear to be five or six Europeans, and innumerable dark-skinned people. Natty wonders if the ship has been sighted. The captain believes they should land on the northern tip of the island, to give themselves time.

In Chapter 15, the ship drops anchor for the night. The captain asks Jim and Natty about what it was that they saw on the island. While everyone wants to investigate the people on the island, some, like Natty, want to make it as quick as possible.

In Chapter 16, the next morning, preparations are underway for landing. The captain calls the crew together, to tell them what to expect. Three groups will be formed: one to defend the ship, one with Captain Beamsih to seek the treasure, and one, including Jim and Natty, to spy on the stockade and farm. Kirkby and Mr. Lawson will also accompany this group. Rations are prepared, the groups are divided, and the people set out for shore. As Jim's group goes on through the thick growth of the island jungle, they become nervous. They move pass Spyglass Hill, and take breaks when they must, for it is hot and humid. At last, they come upon the stockade and the cabins built in and around it. There are many slaves there. A trial of some sort is going on. One of the slaves is executed, and the others are sent back to work.

In Chapter 17, no one says anything among Jim and Natty's group as they watch the execution. Jim imagines the leaders of the society to be the maroons left on the island. They come across a beaten slave named Scotland. Scotland explains his slave ship was wrecked on Treasure Island. Ten guards survived, who worked in league with the three maroons to suppress the slaves. They have been at the mercy of the Europeans for five years. Scotland explains his wife also attempted escape, but they have become separated. As they travel across the island back toward the ship, Scotland explains much of the island to Jim, Natty, and the crew.

In Chapter 18, Captain Beamish awaits the return of Jim, Natty, and their party. The captain reveals the treasure has all been taken. The weapons buried along with the



treasure have also been taken. Scotland knows where the silver has been taken, but realizes it is his bargaining chip. If Beamish and his crew can help Scotland's friends, he will reveal the location of the treasure. Mr. Smirke, Mr. Stone, and Mr. Jinks -the three maroons -rule with an iron fist.

In Chapter 19, Natty and Scotland talk alone together on the deck of the ship beneath the stars. Natty comes to look at Scotland as something of a father. Natty and Scotland discuss what to do about the stockade and the slaves. Scotland decides he will voluntarily return, and become the secret commander of a rebellion among the slaves. Natty will be going with him. But the weather turns bad, quickly, and they must take shelter. The captain's men will also participate in liberating the stockade, and they must catch the slavers by surprise. The rebellious slaves will help if needed. They are also discovered by Stone, one of Smirke's men.

In Chapter 20, Natty does not attempt to flee, and all of Scotland's courage disappears quickly. Stone demands to know who Natty is. She confesses she has arrived on a ship. Stone realizes that Natty must have friends around somewhere, and says if they come looking for her, there will be trouble. At dawn, Natty, Stone, and Scotland arrive back at the stockade.

## **Part 1, Chapter 1 - Part 4, Chapter 20 Analysis**

When Andrew Motion's novel "Silver: Return to Treasure Island" begins, several decades have passed since Robert Louis Stevenson's novel, "Treasure Island" has ended. While many of the characters that populated Stevenson's novel are still alive -Jim Hawkins owns an inn and has a son, Silver has a daughter, and three maroons are still on Treasure Island. Jim's son, Jim, has a penchant for adventure, and while not as hungry for adventure as his father, still seeks something more than common life. The introduction of Natty into the novel, courtesy of her father, Long John Silver, means that Jim has the chance to head out on an adventure -mainly because his father retains the treasure map to the island.

The reader familiar with Stevenson's "Treasure Island" will remember that the original voyage was fraught with predicaments and a mutinous crew. This, in addition to the fact that his daughter, and the son of the man who saved his life, will be traveling back to the island gives Silver the added motivation to find a crew that is good and loyal. By all accounts, he seems to have done just that. Captain Beamish appears to be a straightforward and honest man, and Jim immediately trusts him enough to give him control of the treasure map. This is a good sign, though at least through much of the first four parts of the novel, the verdict is still out on the remainder of the crew. (Ultimately, the crew ends up proving its worth and goodness when it remains loyal against the odds of the pirates.)

For Jim, the adventure has its ups and downs. It causes him to reflect on life in ways he never did in the English marshes along the Thames. He also becomes aware of dangers that are far greater and more menacing than the hive of wasps he burns at the



beginning of the novel. Jim, who appears to get along well enough with his father, also seems to be a very lonely individual -until Natty enters his life. Indeed, though one is not entirely sure of the future that Jim and Natty have together, the reader is aware at least that, at the time of the writing, Jim and Natty are still together, for they are both reflecting on their experiences at some point long before.





# Part 4, Chapter 21 - Part 6, Chapter 37

## Part 4, Chapter 21 - Part 6, Chapter 37 Summary

In Chapter 21, the stockade is in rough shape, but it serves its purpose. Stone brings Natty and Scotland to Jinks, who is sleeping. Stone wakes him up. Jinks brings Scotland to the hole, while Natty is to be brought before the captain. As they head to the captain, Natty talks about how beautiful England is, and Stone talks about how much he hates the island he is on. Natty looks at the men around her. They are all very aged because of sunburn and the harsh weather. Captain Smirke is no difference. He forces Natty to drink. Meanwhile, the slaves are assembled, sing a morning hymn, and are put to work. The rebellion does not appear as though it will happen. Natty is imprisoned in the distillery, in the darkness.

In Chapter 22, Natty is very afraid. She hears Smirke and his men discussing what to do. Everyone wants to kill her. Smirke says he will take it under consideration. Smirke later comes for Natty. Smirke threatens her with punishment if she does not reveal the details of her arrival, ship, and crew to the island. At the same time, the slaves return from labors in the field. Smirke begins a tirade about how much he hate Long John Silver. They bring her to the ravine, where Natty curses them, and steps out.

In Chapter 23, in the ravine, Natty catches herself on fallen trees from the recent storm, and gives the impression that she has died. She later emerges from the ravine near Captain Kid's Anchorage. Another storm sets in, and she heads out to a small island in the shallows.

In Chapter 24, when Jim wakes up, he realizes that Natty is gone. Captain Beamish immediately knows a course of action must be taken. Beamish believes that Natty has fallen into the hands of her enemies, and that she must be rescued, and the slaves set free. The crew shall be divided into two parties: one to defend and sail the ship to the Anchorage to pick up liberated people; the second to free the people at the stockade.

In Chapter 25, Kirkby is left in command of the Nightingale, while Beamish and the landing party move along the island. Beamish seems to know a lot about Jim's family history, but Jim doesn't ask why. Jim almost drowns, but is saved by a sea lion.

In Chapter 26, Jim catches his breath. The captain's party returns to the ship for the night, where they discuss their final plans. It rains again. Jim doesn't know whether or not he will die the following day, and realizes just how close he has come to death that day.

In Chapter 27, Beamish asks Jim how he is doing the following morning, and Jim replies that he is good. Jim is given a dagger, which he finds insulting, because the rest of the crew get cutlasses. Beamish reminds his crew that their task is one of rescue and parley, not murder, and that they must make their country proud. The crew cheers



approvingly. They return to the island, and head toward Spyglass Hill. The party is caught in the midst of another terrible storm. They come to a place to observe the stockade, and study it by telescope. Jim worries that he might never find Natty, and that this will be because he will die.

In Chapter 28, Beamish's party prepares themselves, including Mr. Kirkby, Mr. Tickle, Mrs. Stevenson, and Mr. Creed. The pirates below are all sleeping late. The party breaks into the stockade silently, and the pirates are quickly overcome. The slaves are liberated, and Scotland confesses he does not know what has happened to Natty. The slaves rally themselves and move out with Beamish and his men. But as they leave, the rest of the pirates wake up, and realize what has happened.

In Chapter 29, Beamish tells Kirkby to make his way to the ship with all possible speed. The pirates rally themselves, and Beamish and Smirke engage in parley. Beamish says that the pirates will face justice. Smirke refuses, and Beamish concludes he will be forced to take the pirates prisoner for justice in England. Smirke and Beamish raise pistols to one another. Beamish fires and hits Smirke, but Smirke is wearing armor under his clothes. Beamish and Smirke then draw swords. Stone then shoots Beamish in the head, killing him.

In Chapter 30, the appearance of the Nightingale causes commotion, and Jim and the others begin racing toward shore to escape. Among those who reach the shore is Scotland's wife. Everyone realizes they must fight or die. The ship is too far away to help immediately. The pirates know this too, and they advance on the outnumbered crew. Jim kills two men. Stone kills Scotland's wife. Suddenly, Stone spots something in the distance, and the pirates beat a hasty retreat.

In Chapter 31, looking toward the small island, the White Rock, Jim sees Natty. Jim realizes the pirates believed her to be dead, and were scared by her appearance. The freed slaves are loaded on board the boat, and taken to the ship. Smirke and Stone go after Natty as others attempt to rescue her. But Smirke and Stone capture her, and the boat in which Jim sits heads toward the canoe Smirke and Stone are using. Scotland dumps a basket of snakes on Stone and Smirke while Natty leaps into the water. Scotland even leaps into the canoe and makes sure the snakes bite both men -but they also bite him. Within a few minutes, all three are dead. Natty is brought on board by the crew, and Jim hugs her.

In Chapter 32, Natty's wet clothes reveal who she is, and she admits she is the daughter of John Silver. Natty urges everyone to go to the White Rock, which they do. It is where all of the silver has been hidden, so the pirates could keep an eye on it.

In Chapter 33, Kirkby brings a silver ingot with him. It is a bittersweet victory, for Beamish, Scotland, and Scotland's wife are all dead. The decision is made to bury the dead. Jim also decides that the map should be buried with the captain, so no more misfortune can come of it.



In Chapter 34, following burial, the crew returns to the shop in case the other pirates to exact revenge. Yet, Kirkby, Natty, Jim, and others return to the stockade. Jim and Natty discuss burning the stockade, to do away with the evil it stands for. But Natty says the evil will always remain in memory. Nevertheless, they decide to burn it down.

In Chapter 35, Jim, Natty, and Kirkby return to the Nightingale. Jim and Natty reflect on everything they have lost and left behind. Jim realizes he has feelings for her.

In Chapter 36, the next morning, the silver is loaded on board the ship, load by load, where it is safely stowed below in the captain's cabin. Jim is given the key. As the Nightingale begins to pull out of the bay, the marooned pirates curse the leaving crew. The ship heads out into the Caribbean. But then a storm comes on. They decide to sail back, going past Treasure Island. Jim and Natty hunker down together.

In Chapter 37, Jim attempts to help out on the ship as it is tossed about in the storm. The ship runs aground at what is presumed to be Spanish America. The ship breaks up, and people begin drowning. Jim almost drowns. Unknown people on shore save Natty, who in turn, helps to save Jim.

## **Part 4, Chapter 21 - Part 6, Chapter 37 Analysis**

The arrival at the island reveals that Treasure Island is still inhabited by three marooned pirates, from the previous expedition to the island. They have grown meaner and angrier, and rule like tyrants over a slave population, going so far as to execute slaves summarily. For Natty, the stockade and the island now give her mixed feelings. She is undoubtedly torn by the slaves that exist on the island, for she herself is the daughter of a former slave from Barbados, and of the wonderful possibilities of finding the treasure of silver on the island. Natty's heart is immediately with the slaves, including Scotland, whom she comes to view in a fatherly light.

When the marooned pirates sentence Natty to death, they unwittingly begin a series of events that will bring about their own demise. Natty's faking her own death brings her to the White Rock island, where the silver treasure is buried; and her disappearance leads to a showdown between the upright crew of Captain Beamish, the liberation of the slaves, the destruction of the slaves, and the loss of the lives of the pirates. Beamish ultimately gives his own life in service to his country, intending that justice should be done against the marooned pirates and the barbarities that they have committed against the slaves. Later, Jim and Natty both burn down the stockade, eradicating the physical presence of evil on the island.

Despite the successes that the crew, Jim, and Natty ultimately enjoy, the loss of Beamish, Scotland, and Scotland's wife, all put a damper on things. After the silver is loaded onto the ship, Jim and the others set sail, but run into a storm, and decide to sail in the other direction, toward Spanish America. The ship runs aground and there is a great loss of life, but Jim and Natty survive. What ultimately becomes of them, beyond

their survival and the writing of the contents of the novel, is unknown. The silver is, presumably, lost and gone in the storm.



# Characters

## Jim Hawkins

Jim Hawkins is the main protagonist and narrator of the novel "Silver: Return to Treasure Island" by Andrew Motion. He is seventeen years old, relatively well-educated, and works at his father's inn, the Hispaniola. Jim relishes the adventures of his father, though he has grown weary of hearing those adventures repeated. Jim is an upstanding young man, though he wants something more out of life than a drunken father and work at an inn. When he meets Natty, he has his chance for adventure. Besides Natty being beautiful -something which Jim notices immediately- she is the daughter of Long John Silver, whom has hired a crew and ship for a return to the island to retrieve the silver horde left behind.

Jim undertakes the journey also because he owns the map. He gives it to Captain Beamish for safe keeping. When the ship arrives at Treasure Island, Natty is taken captive by the marooned pirates whom still live on the island, and have become tyrants over a population of slaves. Jim becomes part of the party that liberates the stockade, and even fights the pirates, killing them. Following Natty's rescue and the death of the pirates, the ship is laden with silver, and sets off, but soon runs into a storm. The ship heads in the other direction, but the storm catches up, and the ship runs aground somewhere in Spanish America. Many crew members and slaves are killed in the wreck. Jim and Natty, however, survive.

## Natty Silver

Natty Silver is the seventeen-year-old daughter of a slave from Barbados, and Long John Silver. She is beautiful, strong, courageous, and intelligent. She is the one who makes contact with Jim, informing him about the plan of her father to send a ship and crew to Treasure Island to claim the silver horde that still exists there. Natty disguises herself as a boy for the duration of the trip for reasons of safety, though her secret is known to Captain Beamish, and to Jim. Natty befriends a slave from the island, Scotland, whom she plans to help cause the slaves to rebel. She is captured and sentenced to death by the maroon pirates, but escapes her death by faking her death. She comes to the small island of the White Rock, where she discovers the silver treasure cache had been hidden. Following a fight with the pirates, Natty is rescued, and the silver is loaded onto the ship. Unfortunately, the ship is forced aground by a storm, and the wreck kills many people. Natty and Jim, however, survive.

## Long John Silver

Long John Silver is the father of Natty Silver. He is a member of the original expedition to Treasure Island, and is known for his mutinous and underhanded ways. However, he has become a reformed person, finding redemption in Christianity and his wife, a former



slave. Long John Silver hires the crew and captain and ship that will form the return expedition to the island. At the time, he is in very ill-health, his body severely emaciated, and essentially blind. What becomes of him is unknown.

## **Old Jim Hawkins**

Old Jim Hawkins is the father of Jim Hawkins, and the owner of the Hispaniola Inn. Old Jim is a member of the original expedition to Treasure Island, and returns home rich, where he later wastes away his fortune. He marries, and is reformed, but the death of his wife in childbirth has brought him back to his drunken ways. He gets along well enough with his son, but seems to be largely absent from having an active part in his son's life.

## **Captain Beamish**

Captain Beamish is the righteous, morally upstanding, and courageous captain who commands the Silver Nightingale. Hired by Long John Silver, Beamish is very protective of both Jim and Natty Silver. Beamish is also an abolitionist, and is responsible for the liberation of the slaves being held captive on Treasure Island. Unfortunately, he is killed in the attempt.

## **Kirkby**

Kirkby is a member of the crew on board the Silver Nightingale, and is the right hand man of Captain Beamish. When Beamish is killed, Kirkby assumes command. He continues to protect Jim and Natty in Beamish's absence, and ensures that Jim is the one who controls the key to the captain's cabin, where the silver is kept.

## **Smirke**

Smirke is one of the marooned pirates left behind on Treasure Island by the original expedition. He is mean, callous, and the de facto ruler of the island. He attempts to kill Natty on two occasions, but is ultimately killed when snakes are dumped on him by Scotland.

## **Stone**

Stone is the right-hand man of Smirke on Treasure Island. He is one of the marooned pirates from the first expedition. He is killed by snake venom when snakes are dumped on him by Scotland.



## Scotland

Scotland is a slave being held prisoner on Treasure Island by Smirke. He and his fellow slaves are wrecked on Treasure Island years before, where their surviving captors, and the three marooned pirates, come to force them into slavery on the island. Scotland has a wife, who is killed by Stone in cold blood. Scotland later gives his life by ensuring that snakes dumped on Smirke and Stone bite them.

## Jinks

Jinks is one of the marooned pirates from the original expedition to Treasure Island. He has a habit of sleeping all the time, and he is killed when the stockade is broken into and the slaves are liberated.



# Objects/Places

## The Hispaniola Inn

The Hispaniola Inn is located on the Thames River on the English coastline. It is owned and operated by Old Jim Hawkins and his son, Jim. It is visited by Natty Silver when she and Jim head off with the map.

## London

London is the capital of England, and is the city located upriver from the Thames River. It is also where Natty and her mother and father live.

## The Caribbean

The Caribbean is a body of water off of Spanish America. It is also where Treasure Island is located. Jim, the crew, and the ship sail through the Caribbean to get to Treasure Island.

## Treasure Island

Treasure Island is an island in the Caribbean near Spanish America. It is the location of a massive horde of gold and silver, hidden years before. It is the subject of two expeditions, and is the target of Jim, Natty, and their second expedition. It is full of jungle and patches of pine, exotic flora, and fauna.

## Spanish America

Spanish America is located in the Caribbean. It is toward Spanish America that Jim, Natty, and the crew steer their ship to outrun a storm. Spanish America is presumably where the ship wrecks.

## The White Rock

The White Rock is a small island located off Treasure Island, where the three marooned pirates had the silver stash hidden away to be kept an eye on. The White Rock is where Natty takes refuge and finds the silver.





## The Map

The map shows the location of Treasure Island, and the location of the treasure on Treasure Island. It is lifted by Jim from his father, and given to the captain for safe keeping. The map is buried with Captain Beamish.

## Telescope

Telescopes are used by Captain Beamish and Jim to observe the island, and its inhabitants. It is a mark of having rank to use a telescope, and Jim is honored that Beamish allows him to use one.

## Cutlass

Cutlasses are swords that are wielded by the crew of the Silver Nightingale and the marooned pirates. A cutlass is used to behead a slave in summary execution by the pirates.

## Pistol

Pistols are weapons wielded by the crew of the Silver Nightingale and the marooned pirates. Stone uses a pistol to murder both Captain Beamish, and Scotland's wife.



# Themes

## Coming of Age

Coming of age is a major and dominant theme in the novel "Silver: Return to Treasure Island" by Andrew Motion. Coming of age involves the spiritual, emotional, ethical, and character growth of an individual pertaining to real world experiences and encounters. The theme of coming of age affects primarily the characters of Jim and Natty in the novel, each one of them in similar and different ways. Both end up better people for the experiences they go through, and for the emotional toll they pay and overcome.

For Jim, coming of age impacts him primarily in his experiences with death. In England, Jim has a simple life. He has been relatively well-educated, and his most rebellious acts include not coming straight home. He is happy with the English marshes, but like many, dreams of something more. The expedition to Treasure Island gives him such experiences. The murder of another shipmate by Jordan Hands, and Jordan Hands's own suicide, give Jim his first encounter with death. It is a grave thing, and makes Jim reflect on his own life. Indeed, Jim ends up horrified at the prospect that Natty might have died, but then understands death is unavoidable. Jim must kill in self-defense, but this does not bother him in the way that seeing others die has done.

For Natty, coming of age impacts her primarily through her experiences with slavery. Natty, who is of mixed race (her father is white, her mother is black), has never experienced slavery firsthand. Her mother is a former slave, but dwells on her faith in Christ and not her days as a slave. Meeting Scotland and seeing the horrors of slavery firsthand on Treasure Island horrifies Natty. So incensed is she by the presence of slavery, and the barbarity of it, she wants to help Scotland with a slave rebellion. Suddenly, there is something much more important to Natty than silver. She becomes a stronger and more grounded person, seeking to stamp out injustice. At the end of the novel, Natty helps Jim to set fire to the stockade, and all of the evil it represented.

## Friendship

Friendship is a major and dominant theme in the novel "Silver: Return to Treasure Island" by Andrew Motion. Friendship involves unconditional mutual affinity and loyalty for another. In the novel, friendship occurs primarily between Jim and Natty, and also between Captain Beamish, Jim, and Natty, but in different ways. Each presence of friendship affects the novel in different ways.

Jim and Natty become friends instantly, while Jim hopes that friendship with Natty will lead to something more romantic. Jim and Natty grow close quickly, confiding hopes and fears in one another, and spending much time together throughout the course of the expedition. When Natty is captured, Jim worries she is dead, and wants to go with Beamish to free her. Indeed, toward the end of the novel, when Jim and Natty decide to



burn down the stockade to eradicate the physical presence of evil on the island, they both realize that they will forever share the burden of evil memories of the past. But they carry on together.

Captain Beamish is an upright and moral gentleman, who cares for his crew and the charges of Jim and Natty. He is very friendly with them, and very protective of them. He allows Jim to use his telescope, which is a mark of privilege on the ship, and Beamish carefully guards the fact that Natty is actually a girl. Indeed, upon learning of Natty's capture, Beamish is even more determined to liberate the stockade and bring the pirates to justice. He could simply have continued the search for the treasure, and sailed away without Natty, but his moral compass and his friendship with Natty will not let him do so.

## Injustice

Injustice is a major and dominant theme in the novel "Silver: Return to Treasure Island" by Andrew Motion. Injustice means that there is an absence of justice, and a presence of tyranny, barbarity, cruelty, and infringing the rights of others. Injustice primarily concerns the marooned pirates and slaves on Treasure Island, and efforts to combat injustice focus around the characters of Captain Beamish and Natty.

When it comes to the pirates and the slaves, injustice appears in the forms of not just slavery, but the added cruel acts perpetrated upon the slaves by the pirates. Slavery to begin with is a great injustice, as it denies the freedoms and God-given rights of human beings. The marooned pirates who rule over the slaves are the perpetrators of such injustice. Additionally, they use the slaves as sexual objects, beat them, treat them horribly, and execute them at the slightest whim.

When it comes to combating injustice, Captain Beamish and Natty take the lead. Slavery hits close to home for Natty, for her own mother is a former slave, and Natty is half black. She heads out with Scotland, determined to liberate the slaves at the stockade in some fashion -perhaps by rebellion. Beamish, on the other hand, is likewise determined to liberate the slaves, but by storming or infiltrating the stockade, and capturing the pirates for trial back in England.



# Style

## Point of View

Andrew Motion tells his novel "Silver: Return to Treasure Island" in the first-person perspective of the protagonist, Jim Hawkins. Since the novel is an account of Jim's adventures on Treasure Island, and in many ways a tribute to Robert Louis Stevenson's original novel, the first-person perspective works perfectly for the novel. The first-person point of view allows the narrator to make personal and emotional connections with the narrator.

## Setting

Andrew Motion sets his novel "Silver: Return to Treasure Island" primarily on Treasure Island, a fantasy island somewhere in the Caribbean, near the coast of Spanish America. This is done for at least two primary reasons. The first is that the novel is about a return to Treasure Island -and Treasure Island is therefore the only place capable of being returned to. The second is that Treasure Island is the setting of Robert Louis Stevenson's original novel, "Treasure Island", and Motion's book is a further adventure of that same place. Because there has never been found an actual pirate treasure map, a fictional location in the real world works best for the telling of the story, and the crucial tenets of the plot such as buried treasure, a map, and the island where the treasure is buried.

## Language and Meaning

Andrew Motion tells his novel "Silver: Return to Treasure Island" in language that is flowery, poetic, and decidedly antiquated. This is done for at least two reasons. The first is in homage to Robert Louis Stevenson's original novel, "Treasure Island", which was written in similar fashion. This gives the novel and the sequel a sense of connectedness and continuity. The second reason is that the events of "Silver: Return to Treasure Island", take place in 1802, and is told by the main character. Therefore, the language reflects both the times and education of the narrator, Jim. This gives the novel an added edge of reality and believability, as well as a sense of authenticity.

## Structure

Andrew Motion divides his novel "Silver: Return to Treasure Island" into six main parts, with each part further subdivided into chapters. Each part of the novel focuses on a series of events, and each chapter focuses on specific parts of that series of events. For example, Part 4 contains Natty's story of her experiences on the island, told by Jim. Each of the chapters within that part deal with particular incidents. Chapter 20 involves Natty's being taken prisoner, for example. This uncomplicated and straightforward

approach to the structure of the novel works well, for it allows the reader not to be distracted by the structure itself. It allows the reader to focus on the events of the novel, and to be able to more easily traverse the antiquated language used to tell the story.



## Quotes

"Take my heart, sweet Jesus, take my life/ I borrowed them from you, now have them back/ Come down to me, possess me as your wife/ The breath I lose in you I never lack" (Chapter 4, p. 41).

"When Natty at last reached the head of the stairs, and turned to encourage me with a smile of the most melting sweetness, I had no thought in my brain except this: everything we do, we must do together" (Chapter 4, p. 42).

"The world is very wide -that is all I mean. It is full of dangers we cannot predict" (Chapter 6, p. 56).

"The earth remembers us. We are generally survived by the homes we have lived in -and our improvements, like our desecrations, leave marks on the landscape that curious historians may study. When we no longer live and breathe, headstones show where our journey has ended. In all such ways, the solid ground resembles a book, in which our stories are recorded" (Chapter 13, p. 135).

"Natty had imagined a second storming of the Bastille. On Treasure Island, such a thing was impossible. Here was the old world still, stupid and brutal as ever" (Chapter 21, p. 232).

"The density of noise, and the strange inward luminosity of the waves, and the repetition of their self-gathering, provoked her into feeling she must drop onto her knees and give thanks to her Creator. Thanks for her escape from Death, and for the world He allowed her to enjoy" (Chapter 23, p. 258).

"The question is one of accommodation. How does a mind create space for so large a thing as the clear sight of death" (Chapter 26, p. 283).

"You a murderer, and me a murderer, Captain, that's the way I see it. What's the difference between us? Nothing. No difference between us" (Chapter 29, p. 315).

"And yet we cannot destroy it entirely. We can remove the evidence but that is not the same thing. What has happened has happened, and we are a part of it. It is a part of us. Forever" (Chapter 34, p. 361).

Not even the cries of our passengers, rising very faintly through the planks, meant what I would have normally have taken them to mean. They were not sounds of fear or desperation, but merely noises. The entire world was myself, and my only wish was to continue living" (Chapter 36, p. 392).



## Topics for Discussion

Discuss the theme of coming of age in the novel "Silver: Return to Treasure Island" by Andrew Motion. What is coming of age? What does it involve? Which characters does it primarily affect in the novel? How do these characters come of age? How do they improve? Are these changes for the better? Why or why not?

What reasons does Long John Silver give for wanting Jim and Natty to return to Treasure Island? Does he give any reasons at all? Do you think that Long John Silver has ulterior motives? Why or why not?

Discuss the theme of friendship in the novel "Silver: Return to Treasure Island" by Andrew Motion. What is friendship? Among whom does friendship appear in the novel? What are the consequences of these friendships? Are they positive or negative consequences?

At the beginning of the novel, why does Jim entrust Captain Beamish with the Treasure Map? At the end of the novel, why does Jim allow the map to be buried with the captain's body? What purposes does he hope this serves? Do you believe this is the right thing to do? Why or why not?

Discuss the theme of injustice in the novel "Silver: Return to Treasure Island" by Andrew Motion. What is injustice? Where does it occur, and among whom? What injustices are there? Which characters seek to oppose injustice, and how? Are they successful?