Going it Alone...

When Davie sets out for the House of Shaws in Chapter One, Mr Campbell gives him a packet containing four things ("gifties") that he believes will be useful, not only for the duration of the journey, but in his life’s journey as well.

List below four things you would give someone who was setting out on a journey to seek his/her fortune and write down a reason for choosing each item. Remember it can be something practical as well as something which may enrich their life in the long term.

item 1: [Blank]

item 2: [Blank]

item 3: [Blank]

item 4: [Blank]
Meeting Ebenezer

first impressions

“He was a mean, stooping, narrow-shouldered, clay-faced creature; and his age might have been anything between fifty and seventy. His nightcap was of flannel and so was the nightgown that he wore, instead of coat and waistcoat over his ragged shirt. He was long unshaven; but what most distressed and even daunted me, he would neither take his eyes away from me nor rook at me fairly in the face. What he was, whether by trade or birth, was more than I could fathom; but he seemed most like an old, unprofitable serving-man who should have been left in charge of that big house upon board wages.”

The above extract is taken from the description Davie offers us of his Uncle Ebenezer when he first meets him. As can be seen, first impressions can be particularly powerful especially when the person’s appearance offers an insight into the personality of the individual.

Choose a member of your family who has had an impact on you and write a description of what it would be like to see them for the first time through somebody else’s eyes.

getting started...

You may wish to begin by listing the following

- Words and phrases to describe their physical appearance.
- Words and phrases to describe personality or characteristics.
- Words and phrases to describe how they make you feel.

Why not email your story to the kidnapped website with your name, age and the name of your school?
(edinburgh@cityofliterature.com)
Dear Diary...

The Siege of the Round House

Davie and Alan Breck survive a dramatic and exhausting ordeal as they fight off Captain Hoseason and his men in the battle of the Round House.

Return to the book and look closely at the events which unfold and the emotions the men experience.

Imagine that you are David Balfour and are writing your diary entry at the end of the night when all is quiet again. You must try to relay the events which took place that day whilst conveying your emotions in the language and tone that David would take. Remember that you are a teenager who has led a simple life to date and will never have experienced anything like this before.

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

10th June in the Year of Our Lord 1751

Dear Diary,

Why not email your story to the kidnapped website with your name, age and the name of your school? (edinburgh@cityofliterature.com)
WANTED
for the murder of Colin of Glenure

Alan Breck Stewart
ENEMY OF THE CROWN

Age: ___________  Eye Colour: ___________
Height: ___________  Hair Colour: ___________
Build: ___________  Crime Committed: MURDER
Distinguishing Features: __________________

REWARD: 100 GUINEAS

Describe Alan Breck Stewart’s features as best as you can using what you’ve learned from the book.
MISSING
Have You Seen This Man?

David Balfour

Age: ______________  Eye Colour: ______________
Height: ______________  Hair Colour: ______________
Distinguishing Features: ________________________
Circumstances Surrounding His Disappearance: ________________________

Anyone with any information should contact Mr Campbell, Minister of Essendean

Describe David Balfour’s features and how he went missing as best as you can using what you’ve learned from the book.
WANTED

for crimes against the Crown

Age: ____________  Eye Colour: ____________
Height: ____________  Hair Colour: ____________
Crime Committed: ____________________________
Distinguishing Features: ____________________________

REWARD: 100 GUINEAS

Make your own Wanted poster! Fill in your details. Describe your features and use a photo for your face (or draw it yourself). Why are you wanted?

DON’T FORGET YOUR NAME!
Settling the Dispute

Near the end of the novel we learn that the matter of Davie's inheritance "hinges on a love affair". Davie discovers, from information conveyed to him by the lawyer Rankeillor, that his father David, and his uncle Ebenezer had been in love with the same woman. Although Alexander was the elder son and rightful heir to the House of Shaws, he relinquished his 'estate' to his spoiled brother in order that he could marry Davie's mother: "one man took the lady, the other the estate."

Imagine that the 'dispute' between the two brothers was settled by a letter from David to Ebenezer. Write the letter in which he makes his suggestion as to how they might settle this difficult situation.

You may wish to consider the following before you begin writing:

- David is the older brother who by law should inherit the Estate.
- Ebenezer seems to have been spoiled and used to getting his own way.
- David has rescued his brother from death in battle and has always made concessions for his behaviour.

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It could be said that at the beginning of *Kidnapped* David Balfour begins his journey a child, but by the end of the novel has developed into a young adult.

His many adventures serve as *rites of passage* and, having survived and learnt from them all, he can be seen to have grown in confidence and maturity. Indeed, you may have noticed that there are many occasions in the story when David has to cross a physical boundary, such as a threshold or an expanse of water, and these crossings not only allow the story to move forward, but also show him mastering a fear or at least having to act in a grown-up way.

With these experiences in mind, write a short story, choosing one of the following topics:

- Write a short story entitled “Growing Up”.
- Write a story which begins with the following lines:
  
  “Presently there came a great rattling of chains and bolts and the door was cautiously opened and shut again behind me, as soon as I passed.”

- Write a story in which the main character faces up to, and conquers, a fear that (s)he has.
- Write a story in which two brothers or sisters fall out with one another.

Why not email your story to the kidnapped website with your name, age and the name of your school? (edinburgh@cityofliterature.com)
OBITUARY

DEATH OF
R.L. STEVENSON

A dispatch to The Star, dated Apia, Samoa, Dec. 8, confirms the report that Robert Louis Stevenson, the novelist, died suddenly a few days ago from apoplexy. His body was buried on the summit of Paa Mountain, 1,300 feet high.

LONDON, Dec. 17, 1894 -- The Westminster Gazette, in an article on the death of Robert Louis Stevenson, says that, although Mr. Stevenson was anything but apoplectic, there is little doubt that his untimely end was due to apoplexy, induced by the heat of the climate. He left a new novel half completed. The Gazette says the was among the most lovable of modern writers, and the news of his death will be heard with the keenest regret. Perhaps no author of recent years has enlisted so much personal interest on the part of his readers.

What is an Obituary?

An obituary is a piece of writing, usually published in a newspaper, which, as well as notifying us of a person’s death, also gives us an overview of their life and character. You will find an obituary section in most ‘broadsheet’ newspapers. In this country some newspapers are renowned for their fascinating obituaries of some quite eccentric individuals who, although they may be strangers to the reader, are vividly portrayed. You might find it interesting to note that an obituary does not simply focus on the positive aspects of the deceased’s life but, like any truthful school report, may include things that the individual might have preferred forgotten!
You are going to write an obituary, but before you do so, some research is necessary. You should work in pairs or groups of three.

**task 1:** Find and cut out some examples of obituaries from newspapers. You can also do some research on the internet and may wish to find an obituary of someone who was famous, be they celebrities or historical figures. You will need at least 2 examples to look at in your group.

Why not try to find an obituary for Robert Louis Stevenson on the internet?

**task 2:** Writing an obituary is a skilled task and it is important that you look closely at the conventions involved. How do your two obituaries differ? Do they have certain features in common?

You should note the following:
(i) the type of factual information
(ii) important events and achievements highlighted
(iii) the tone of the obituary used by the writer.

**task 3:** You are going to write the obituary of the Kidnapped character Colin Campbell (Colin of Glenure), also known as the Red Fox. First of all, you will need to revisit the story and gather as much information as you can. Secondly, you can use the internet again: Colin of Glenure was an historical figure and you will be amazed at the amount of information there is about him.

Why not email your result to the Kidnapped website with your name, age and the name of your school? (edinburgh@cityofliterature.com)

**finally...**
Once you have gathered all your information, in true journalistic style, you can put pen to paper or fingertips to keyboard and start writing the obituary of the Red Fox.
As you will no doubt be aware it is quite common for novels to be adapted for the stage, whereby the narrative is ‘reduced’ to a mixture of dialogue and stage directions.

In this task you are to imagine that you are a dramatist commissioned to prepare a specific section of the text for a drama production of Kidnapped.

Your play adaptation will focus on the climax of the novel, the revealing confrontation between Alan Breck and Ebenezer, as detailed in Chapter 29.

**Things to do:**

1. Look again at the chapter entitled *I Come Into My Kingdom* and decide what parts of the dialogue you will use.

2. Think about how you will transform Stevenson’s narrative, his descriptions of the things that happen, into stage directions for the actors.

   Remember that these are always written in the present tense for drama.

3. Consider the following three things:
   - What will you write in order to set the scene at the beginning of the episode?
   - What role will be played by lighting in order to create the appropriate mood?
   - Will you make reference to sound and sound effects to enhance the atmosphere?

4. Before you begin your adaptation find at least one example of a drama script and take note of the layout of the text, the writer’s use of italics and brackets for stage directions and any other conventions used when writing drama.
can you find these words, names and phrases...?

ALAN BRECK STEWART  APPIN MURDER
COLIN CAMPBELL  DAVID BALFOUR
DUNCAN DHU MACLAREN  EDINBURGH
ESSENDEAN  GLENURE
HAWES INN  HOUSE OF SHAWS
JACOBITE  JAMES STEWART
KIDNAPPED  MR RANKEILLOR
RED FOX  R L STEVENSON
SOUTH QUEENSFERRY  UNCLE EBENEZER