



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: _____

↑
what

why

item 2: _____

item 3: _____

item 4: _____



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

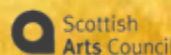
- Words and phrases to describe their physical appearance.
- Words and phrases to describe personality or characteristics.
- Words and phrases to describe how they make you feel.

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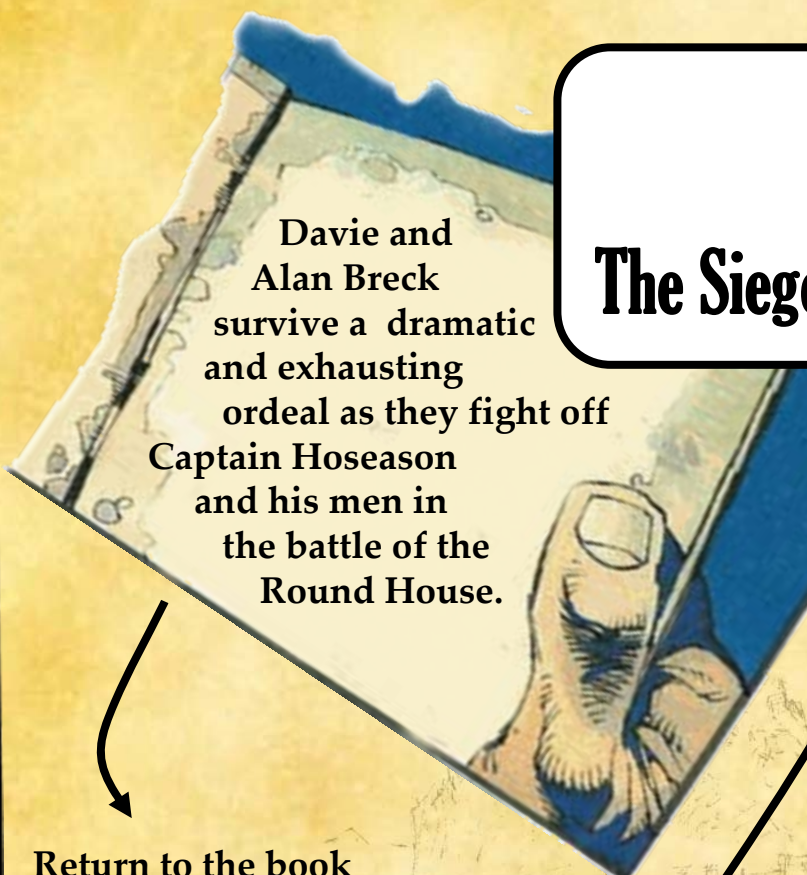


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Dear Diary... The Siege of the Round House



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,

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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: _____

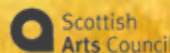
Anyone with any information should contact Mr Campbell, Minister of Essendean

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



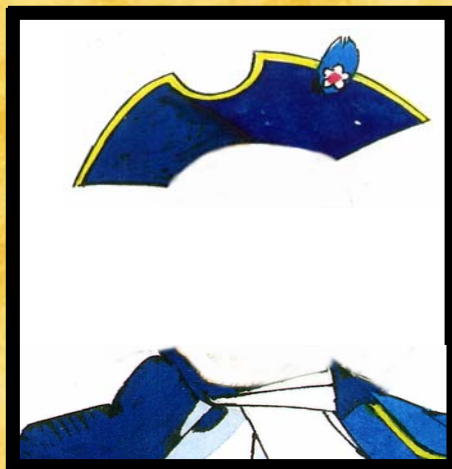
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WANTED

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 !



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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."

Burying the hatchet by writing a letter

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*

getting started...

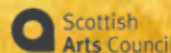
- David is the older brother who by law should inherit the Estate.
- Ebenezer seems to have been spoiled and used to getting his own way.
- David has rescued his brother from death in battle and has always made concessions for his behaviour.

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Writing Narrative

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.

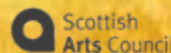
- Write a story in which two brothers or sisters fall out with one another.

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"All the News
That Fits Our Bites"

The New York Times

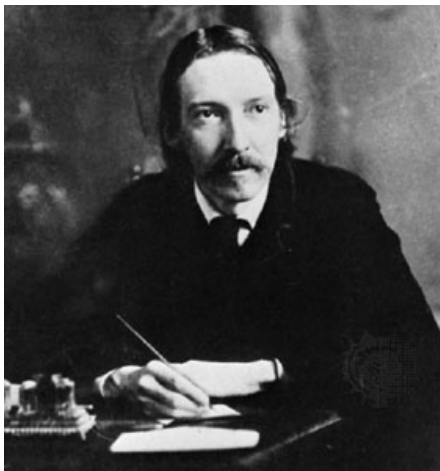
Low Edition
New York: Today, sunny, but cold,
high 12, tonight, clear, cooler, low 40
Tomorrow, overcast, partly
cloudy, low, high 10. Tomorrow, high
10, low 40. Weather map on Page 15A

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NEW YORK, MONDAY, April 17, 1775

TWO CENTS



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 he 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.

Writing an Obituary



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.

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?

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

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.

MORE RESEARCH !

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.

finally...

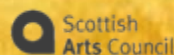
Once you have gathered all your information, in true journalistic style, you can put pen to paper or fingertips to keyboard and start writing the obituary of the Red Fox.

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Kidnapped on Broadway

adapting the novel for the stage

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.

It might be worth noting that dramatists carrying out this type of task often reduce the texts of original stories because of the constraints of time - an epic novel sometimes has to be carefully edited in order to fit neatly into two hours of performance time. Ask yourself when rereading if there are parts of this chapter that could be edited out to save time without spoiling the impact of the story.

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.

Maybe you would like to use music during key moments in the plot?

KIDNAPPED

activity pack

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T Y E R U N E L G O R D V Z A L U L R J
A R I H S Y C D P H E W T U L H F P E T
K R A E B O Q T I F X N M E L M F J D M
A E D W D G T B F N G M B O H Z B P R A
N F W H E X C A N K B P E F V R H R U K
P S G X U T N D I O M U V B S J A R M A
O N D S E D S Q A A S H R H K N A N N Q
L E S M I Y D K C V A N F G K K F M I S
O E B K F B D N C W I E E E H U O B P H
J U A X I K I C E E N D I V C J O G P O
A Q V Q T L C S J E R L B W E M E F A U
C H W Q O J I U P D L B B A K T D U R S
O T C C M N P Y K O L F N X L T S F U E
B U M M N V O D R N U W D A O F A L D O
I O T R A W E T S S E M A J L F O Q R F
T S U N C L E E B E N E Z E R A D U T S
E W E S S E N D E A N R T H B D N E R H
N E R A L C A M U H D N A C N U D U R A
D L J G X P N Y P Q J V A S N A P M J W
M L N S C R X P S F D K Y Y Z B U J E S

they can be in any direction!

can you find these words, names and phrases...?

ALAN BRECK STEWART
COLIN CAMPBELL
DUNCAN DHU MACLAREN
ESSENDEAN
HAWES INN
JACOBITE
KIDNAPPED
RED FOX
SOUTH QUEENSFERRY

APPIN MURDER
DAVID BALFOUR
EDINBURGH
GLENURE
HOUSE OF SHAWS
JAMES STEWART
MR RANKEILLOR
R L STEVENSON
UNCLE EBENEZER