little known facts about R.L.S.

with permission from http://www.stevenson-house.co.uk/rls.htm

Scotsman invents sleeping bag!
R.L.S. has a good claim to be the inventor of the Sleeping Bag, taking a large fleece-lined sack with him to sleep in on the journey through France described in his book Travels with a Donkey in the Cevennes.

Who was Long John Silver?
The one-legged pirate cook, the dark hero of R.L.S.'s most famous novel Treasure Island, is said to be based on the author's friend and collaborator William Ernest Henley, whom he met when Henley was in Edinburgh for surgery to save his one remaining leg from tuberculosis.

How did R.L.S. die?
Although probably afflicted throughout his life by tuberculosis, R.L.S. actually died in 1894 at Vailima, his home on the south pacific island of Upolu, Samoa. At the time, he was helping his wife make mayonnaise for supper! He died of a cerebral haemorrhage (stroke).

Malaria in California!
R.L.S. nearly died of it in San Francisco shortly before his wedding in 1880.

The real Dr Jekyll?
In his tale of Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde, one of the first 'psychological' thrillers, R.L.S. portrays how two contradictory personalities - one conventional and 'good', the other an example of increasingly uncontrolled 'evil' - can coexist in one body. It is said that this was an idea modelled on the late 18th century case of Deacon Brodie, a respectable Edinburgh businessman by day who was a gambler, adulterer, armed robber and murderer by night. Nobody knew until he hanged a robbery, was eventually caught and hanged on a gallows of his own invention!

some ideas for Library related events

(Displays)

Stop (kidnap) classes, read Kidnapped

Mock Trial of James Stuart

Background information can be found at
http://heritage.scotsman.com/topics.cfm?tid=1267&id=2013922005
http://www.sundayherald.com/51171
http://www.scran.co.uk has useful background material including a copy of a document for the expenses for the re-hanging of James Stewart. James Stewart's body was left in chains on the gibbet at Ballachulish to discourage others. Due to a gale the corpse blew down! Makes fascinating reading.

Kidnapped Day Dress down day in school. A modern day pirate theme?

Puzzles Wordsearch and sudoku puzzles available from the City of Literature website.

Quizzes "Fling the teacher" quiz from the City of Literature website.

Poetry Poetry based on Kidnapped, Scottish poetry.

Mock Kidnapping Leave a "treasure chest" clue trail within library books to let visitors find out who has been kidnapped and where they are?

Modern Day Heroes What makes a hero? Top ten fictional heroes. Top ten real life heroes. Invite guest speakers to talk about their heroes.

Creative writing workshops
Useful websites

Kidnapped One Book-One Edinburgh Campaign

Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust website   http://www.cityofliterature.com

Robert Louis Stevenson

National Library of Scotland website   http://www.nls.uk/rlstevenson/

Robert Louis Stevenson website   http://dinamico.unibg.it/rls/rls.htm

In 1994, the University of South Carolina marked the centenary of Robert Louis Stevenson’s death with a special exhibition illustrating his life and writing career.
http://www.sc.edu/library/spcoll/britlit/rls.html

SLAINTE Scottish authors website   http://www.slainte.org.uk/scotauth/stevedsw.htm


Kidnapped

http://www.gradesaver.com/classicnotes/titles/kidnapped


Recommended Jacobite websites

National Trust for Scotland website   http://www.ntseducation.org.uk/pupils/jacobites.html


BBC website   http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/scottishhistory/union/features_union_jacobites.shtml

The Jacobite Heritage website   http://www.jacobite.ca/

Recommended pirate websites

http://www.piratesinfo.com/


http://www.nationalgeographic.com/pirates/

http://ukoln.ac.uk/services/treasure
WANTED

If you enjoyed reading Kidnapped why don’t you try some other great Adventure Books

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen
A routine flight turns into a life changing experience when it crashes in the Canadian tundra. Adventure at its best.

Alex Ryder series by Anthony Horowitz
Action packed spy series. Has been called ‘James Bond for kids’.

Mortal Engine Series by Philip Reeve
Well thought out science fiction adventure with unlikely heroes on huge wheeled cities.
If you enjoyed reading Kidnapped why don't you try some other great books about Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobites?

The Last Wolf by Michael Morpurgo
Robbie McLeod is orphaned, brought up by his heartless uncle and born at the time of the Jacobite Uprising in 1745. Robbie, inspired by Bonnie Prince Charlie's call to arms, fights at Culloden and runs for his life from the field of the battle. Can he outwit the redcoats and make it to safety?

The Ravenmaster's Secret by Elvira Woodruff
Forrest Harper lives in the Tower of London. There, he makes friends with Maddy, a Jacobite rebel's daughter. Forrest is soon faced with a dreadful choice when Maddy is sentenced to death. Should he help her escape or watch his friends die?

Bonnie Prince Charlie And All That by Allan Burnett an Scoular Anderson
Fun and fact filled! Follow Bonnie Prince Charlie as he returns to Scotland and enlists the support of the clans. Find out where things start going wrong - and what happened next.

The Jacobites by Iain Rose
The story of the Jacobites and their support of the return of King James to the throne and of their battles against the English.
If you enjoyed reading Kidnapped, why don’t you try some other great books about Pirates and shipwrecks?

Pirates by Terry Deary and Martin Brown
Find out the truth behind the legends with pirates given the Terry Deary “Horrible Histories” treatment. Full of interesting, gruesome and foul facts.

Pirates! by Celia Rees
A swashbuckling adventure from start to finish. Join Nancy and Minerva as they live the life of pirates in the Caribbean.

Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe
The most famous shipwreck story ever. Crusoe washes ashore on an island and finds a man servant on a Friday. If only he could think what to name him…

Kensuke’s Kingdom by Michael Morpugo
Another desert island and another shipwreck. After being shipwrecked, Michael struggles to survive on his own. He soon realises that he is not alone…
WANTED

A Darn Good Read!

If you enjoyed reading Kidnapped why don’t you try some other great books by Robert Louis Stevenson

Treasure Island
An exciting tale of pirates, skullduggery, and buried treasure.

Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde
Stevenson’s dark tale of good vs evil set in Edinburgh.

Catriona
If you want to know what happen to David after Kidnapped, then this book is for you!
You want more?

If you enjoyed reading Kidnapped but you don’t know what to read next……

….have you tried looking at these websites?

AchUKa!  www.achuka.co.uk
The chock-full, eyes-peeled, independent children’s books site that has something for everyone… reviews, scoops on your favourite authors work, and tons more! Have a look yourself……

cool-reads  www.cool-reads.co.uk
Just as cool is the website that was started by a couple of keen teenagers and now has 2500 more than reviews, by hundreds of 10-15 year olds! If you want to hang out somewhere, and find out what your mates like reading, this is it!

….browsed through this magazine? 

It has lots of reviews that help you make up your mind. You can find this magazine at the City of Edinburgh School Library Resource Centres

….or simply ask your librarian for a hot tip!

They are there to help you, and not all of them bite….