

1 Robert Louis Stevenson was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in November, 1850. When he was a child his father told him stories of pirates and adventures. Robert liked these stories very much.

2 [When he went to university he first studied engineering, but he did not like it, so he decided to study law. But he never worked as a lawyer because his dream was to become a writer.]

[his dream came true: he became a popular writer and wrote novels, short stories and poems.]

3 He wrote a lot of stories. Many of them are adventures and fantasy stories. He is very popular as a writer of children's stories.

4 He wrote famous stories such as *Treasure Island* (1883) and *Kidnapped* (1886). Another very famous children's classic is *The Black Arrow* (1888).

His great success was *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* (1886). It is the story of a doctor and a drug he discovers. This changes him from a good person into a monster.

5 Stevenson suffered from tuberculosis and was often ill. Scotland is a cold and wet country and this did not help him. So he decided to leave Scotland and travel to Spain and France because there was warm weather. His first books describe his time there.

6 [During a trip in California in 1876 he met an American woman, Fanny Osborne. He fell in love with her, but she was already married. In 1879 Fanny Osborne divorced her husband and, in 1880, she married Stevenson.]

7 In 1888, they decided to go to the South Seas. They visited many islands in the Pacific, including Tahiti, Samoa and Hawaii. They enjoyed this trip very much and decided to move to the island of Samoa. Stevenson continued to write many stories.

8 [In 1891, inspired by his visit to Hawaii, he wrote 'The Bottle Imp'. In 1893, he published this story in a collection of eight stories called *Island Nights' Entertainments*. All of these stories were about the islands in the Pacific.]

9 Keawe was a courageous but poor man from Hawaii. His real name is secret because he is still alive. He could read and write and he was an excellent sailor.

10 [One day, he decided to go and see the world, so he went on a ship to San Francisco. The city was beautiful, with a lovely harbour, and there were many rich people.]

11 [One day Keawe went for a walk on a hill. There were some beautiful houses. He looked at them and thought, 'These houses are nice. The people must be very happy. They are rich, so they don't worry about the future.'

12 He arrived at a small but lovely house. A man looked out of a window. Keawe looked at him and the man looked at Keawe too. The man was old. He seemed to be very unhappy.

Suddenly the old man said, 'Come and see my house.'

13 He showed Keawe every room and Keawe was very surprised. The house was perfect.

'You live in a beautiful house! Why are you so sad?' asked Keawe.

'You can have a house like ⁴ this. Do you have any money?' asked the old man.

14 Keawe shook his head ⁵ sadly, and said, 'I only have fifty dollars, so I can't buy a beautiful house like this.'

'I am sorry you do not have much money.'

15 Keawe was confused. 'There are two things that I can't understand: the bottle can make you happy, but you are very sad. And the bottle can make you powerful, but it is very cheap.'

16 The old man said, 'I am sad because I am old and ill and I must sell this bottle before I die. In the past the bottle was very expensive, but every time someone sells it, the price must go down.'

17 'You cannot sell the bottle for more money or for the same amount of money: it always returns to you. Also, you must pay with coins. People do not believe you because it is so cheap. Why don't you try it? Give me your fifty dollars and make a wish.'

18 After the war the British government asked Cook to explore the Pacific. This was Cook's first voyage. In 1768, he left Plymouth in a single ship, the *Endeavour*. Between 1768 and 1771, he explored Tahiti and New Zealand.

19 At that time people believed there was a southern continent in the Pacific Ocean and during his voyages, Captain Cook's secret mission was to find it. In 1770, he was successful and found Australia. He explored and charted ¹ its east coast.

20 Captain Cook was an intelligent man with a strong personality. At that time many sailors died during the voyages. He introduced some rules of personal hygiene ³ and he and his men ate many vegetables and fruit. As a result fewer sailors died.

21 On his second voyage, between 1772 and 1775, he was the first person to go around Antarctica and the globe ¹ from west to east. This was a very difficult voyage because of the cold weather. Cook and his men spent the winter months in New Zealand and Tahiti and the summer months exploring the Antarctic.

22 He discovered many islands including a group of fifteen islands in the South Pacific between Hawaii and New Zealand. He called these islands The Cook Islands.

On his third expedition to the Pacific Ocean, in 1778, he discovered and explored the Hawaiian Islands.

23 He also tried to find a new route ² to the East Indies, a north-west passage around Canada and Alaska. But this time he was not successful. During this voyage he found a lot of ice and so he decided to return to Hawaii for the winter and find food and drink for his next voyage.

The island of Kauai is called the 'garden island'. It has many beautiful rivers and waterfalls. ¹

24 Big Island is the second name of the island of Hawaii. Its capital is called Hilo and the island is famous for its volcanoes. Particularly famous are Mauna Kea and Kilauea Crater.

Mauna Kea is 4025 metres high and is a sleeping volcano.

25 Sometimes you even see some snow at the top! Kilauea Crater is a very active volcano and erupts regularly! Luckily these eruptions are usually very small.