

library pack

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 bungled 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>

Wikipedia - R.L.S. page http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Louis_Stevenson

Kidnapped

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

Wikipedia - Kidnapped page http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kidnapped_%28novel%29

Recommended Jacobite websites

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

Wikipedia - Jacobite page <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacobitism>

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.rochedalss.q1.edu.au/pirates/>

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

<http://ukoln.ac.uk/services/treasure>



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