

Treasure Island

Robert Louis Stevenson

Why can a scrap of paper frighten Billy Bones more than a visible weapon?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Billy Bones explains the black spot
------------	-------------------------------------

FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	Chapter III · The Black Spot
START	"Thunder!" he cried. "A week! I can't do that; they'd have the black spot on me by then.
END	"That's a summons, mate. I'll tell you if they get that."
PASSAGE ID	sec-ti-01

THE MOVE

Infer the power of a symbol from a community's rules

WHY THIS PASSAGE

The black spot is physically trivial—a scrap of paper—but within pirate culture it carries agreed rules and consequences. Billy Bones fears not the material object but the community's power encoded in it.

MARK

Circle the physical description of the black spot. Underline every line explaining what receiving it means. In the margin, write which consequence gives the scrap of paper its power.

NOTICE

- What could the paper do by itself if nobody shared the pirates' rules?

- Why does Billy react to the meaning before anything has physically happened to him?
- How does a community make a symbol powerful without making the object itself dangerous?

THINK

Answer provisionally: Why can a scrap of paper frighten Billy Bones more than a visible weapon? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: Why can a scrap of paper frighten Billy Bones more than a visible weapon? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	The black spot frightens Billy because the pirate community has given the scrap of paper an agreed meaning and consequence. Its power comes from shared rules, not from the material object itself.
EVIDENCE	Use the physical triviality of the paper and the explanation of what receiving it means within pirate custom.
WATCH FOR	Do not say the paper is 'symbolic' without explaining who gives the symbol power and what consequences make that meaning real.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

Treasure Island

Robert Louis Stevenson

Why can a scrap of paper frighten Billy Bones more than a visible weapon?

START ANCHOR	"Thunder!" he cried. "A week! I can't do that; they'd have the black spot on me by then."
END ANCHOR	"That's a summons, mate. I'll tell you if they get that."

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK - Circle the physical description of the black spot. Underline every line explaining what receiving it means. In the margin, write which consequence gives the scrap of paper its power.
2. NOTICE - What could the paper do by itself if nobody shared the pirates' rules? Why does Billy react to the meaning before anything has physically happened to him? How does a community make a symbol powerful without making the object itself dangerous?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: Why can a scrap of paper frighten Billy Bones more than a visible weapon?
4. WRITE - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.