

Treasure Island

Robert Louis Stevenson

How does Jim realize what 'gentleman of fortune' actually means before anyone says 'pirate'?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Jim decodes Silver's language
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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 XI · What I Heard in the Apple-Barrel
START	Gentlemen of fortune, returned the cook, usually trusts little among themselves, and right they are, you may lay to it.
END	Dick's square, said Silver.
PASSAGE ID	sec-ti-02

THE MOVE

Infer hidden identity by decoding euphemism

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Silver's phrase 'gentleman of fortune' sounds respectable until Jim hears the surrounding conversation about crews, shares, hanging, and past voyages. Meaning emerges from context before the forbidden word 'pirate' needs to be spoken.

MARK

Box the phrase 'gentleman of fortune.' Underline the nearby details that do not fit an ordinary gentleman. Write what each clue suggests about the men's actual occupation.

NOTICE

- Why is the euphemism useful to Silver and the others?
- Which contextual clue most clearly exposes the phrase as a disguise?
- At what point can Jim infer 'pirate' even if nobody has said the word?

THINK

Answer provisionally: How does Jim realize what 'gentleman of fortune' actually means before anyone says 'pirate'? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: How does Jim realize what 'gentleman of fortune' actually means before anyone says 'pirate'? 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	Jim infers 'pirate' because the respectable euphemism is surrounded by evidence that does not fit ordinary gentlemen—shares, crews, hanging, secrecy, and criminal experience. Context defeats the polite label.
EVIDENCE	Use the phrase 'gentleman of fortune' plus at least two nearby clues that expose what kind of life the men actually lead.
WATCH FOR	Do not rely on later knowledge that Silver is a pirate. Show how the meaning can be inferred before the word is spoken.
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.

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START ANCHOR	Gentlemen of fortune, returned the cook, usually trusts little among themselves, and right they are, you may lay to it.
END ANCHOR	Dick's square, said Silver.

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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 - Box the phrase 'gentleman of fortune.' Underline the nearby details that do not fit an ordinary gentleman. Write what each clue suggests about the men's actual occupation.
2. NOTICE - Why is the euphemism useful to Silver and the others? Which contextual clue most clearly exposes the phrase as a disguise? At what point can Jim infer 'pirate' even if nobody has said the word?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: How does Jim realize what 'gentleman of fortune' actually means before anyone says 'pirate'?
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.