

The Lost Treasure of Captain Kidd

by Peter Lourie

Chapter 1 (Setting the scene)

1. Briefly describe the two main characters. In describing them, tell how they are alike and different from one another.
2. Describe the setting. Use an atlas to try to locate the places mentioned.
3. What are the main characters in search of?
4. Cliffhanger: Re-read the last sentence in the chapter. How does it make you feel as a reader?

Chapter 2 (The adventure begins)

1. Describe the new setting and the new character.
2. How has the level of excitement changed in this chapter?
3. At the end of the chapter Alex and Killian get a warning from Cruger. Do you think they'll come back to the island? Why or why not?

Chapter 3 (Background information)

1. At the bottom of page 19, Killian says, "History is everything." How does the author weave history into the story? Why do you think he does this?
2. Taking risks is an important element in adventure stories. What risks did they take in this chapter? Did the risks take them closer to the treasure? Did the risks put them in danger's path?

Chapter 4 (Character Development)

1. In what ways does Killian's personality change during this chapter?
2. How does Alex feel about these changes in Killian?
3. Why do you think the author chose to change Killian's personality? What significance do you think this will play in the story?

Chapter 5 (Character Development/Suspense)

1. Briefly re-tell the events that led up to Alex's family's arrival in Cold Springs.
2. Why do you think the author included this background information on Alex's family?
3. List the elements of the story from pages 28-31 that helped to create a feeling of suspense for the reader.

Chapter 6 (Geography and History)

1. The author uses similes and metaphors to enrich his descriptions. Find a metaphor and a simile from page 34 and write them in your notes.
2. Summarize what you learned about the geography of the area as they move north from Cold Spring.
3. Summarize what you learned about the history of Captain Kidd. What was his story?



Hudson River



Stormking Mountain



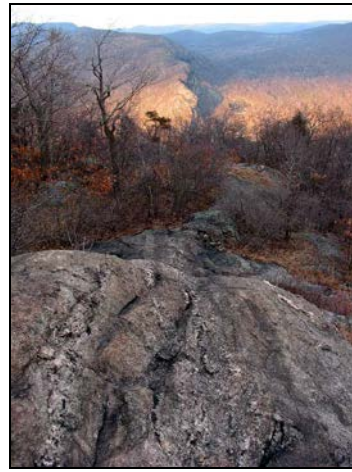
Boats on the Hudson



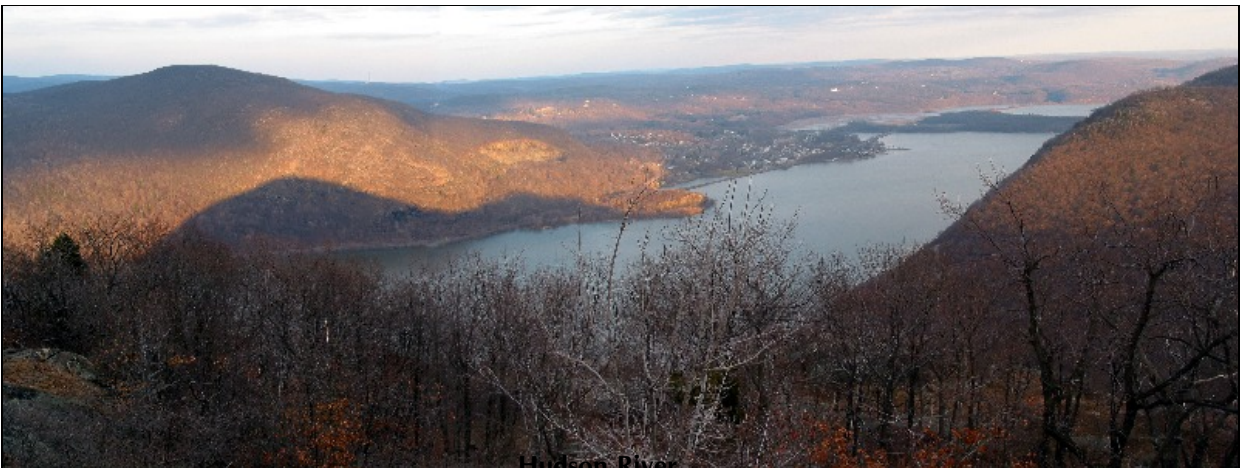
Breakneck Ridge



Breakneck Ridge



Cornwall on the Hudson



Hudson River

Chapter 7 (Searching for Clues)

1. What was Livingston's connection with Captain Kidd?
2. How did the Earl of Bellomont trick Captain Kidd?
3. What clue did Alex "borrow" from the library? Make a prediction about what will happen now that they have this clue?

Chapter 8 (Finding Direction)

1. Re-tell the story of Captain Kidd told by Killian in this chapter.
2. Describe what they learned from the clue hidden in the book?
3. Where are they headed next? Why?

Chapter 9 (A Turn of Events)

1. Imagine that you were Killian. Describe how you would be feeling at this point.
2. What would be going through your mind if you were Alex?

Chapter 10 (Treasure Hunting Begins)

1. Briefly summarize this chapter in your own words.
2. Make a prediction about what will happen to Killian the night that he sets off in the fog.

Chapter 11 (Obstacles)

1. After reading this chapter, look back over Chapters 1-11 and work as a group to complete the activity below:

At the end of chapter one, we know that Alex and Killian are in search of what?

Look up the word obstacle and write down its definition.

What obstacles must they overcome in order to find what they're looking for?

Chapter	Obstacles
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

Chapter 12 (Overcoming Obstacles)

1. At the end of the previous chapter, all hope seemed lost forever, like a fire that was put out by the rain. But in chapter 12 we see that there might still be a hot ember left in this fire. Will they be able to overcome all of the obstacles? Make a prediction about what will happen next. Include your thoughts about: Killian's health, the boat, their parents, Florida, and Cruger.

Chapter 13 (New Ideas Emerge)

1. What does the author do to give us hope in this chapter?
2. When an adventure changes directions it's very important to keep the story believable. Are Alex's actions believable? What do you think about Alex's new theory of where Captain Kidd may have buried the treasure? Is this a reasonable solution? Why or why not?



Chapter 14 (Big Decisions)

1. In this chapter there's a discussion about what will be done with the treasure if they find it. What would you do if you found this treasure? Explain why you would do this.

Chapter 15 (Outlining)

1. In this chapter many important events take place. Use the template below to outline the chapter's major events.

Come up with your own Chapter Title:

1. Introduction - How does the chapter begin?

- Detail: _____
- Detail: _____
- Detail: _____

2. First Major Event

- Detail: _____
- Detail: _____
- Detail: _____

3. Next Major Event

- Detail: _____
- Detail: _____
- Detail: _____

4. Final Major Event

- Detail: _____
- Detail: _____
- Detail: _____

Chapter 16 (Resolution and Reflection)



1. In this chapter two very important things happen – the story is resolved (concluded) and the main character reflects (looks back) on his adventure. Use the table below to take notes on these important elements of the adventure.

How is the story resolved?	What does Alex reflect on?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Visit these Internet sites which have been carefully chosen by the teacher:

<http://www.clearwater.org>

<http://www.pojonews.com/enjoy/stories/oii6971.htm>

<http://clearwater.org/about.html>

<http://www.hudsonriver.com/halfmoonpress/stories/hudson.htm>

<http://www.hudsonriver.com>

<http://hhr.highlands.com/default.html>

<http://novagate.com/~schoonerman/halfmoon.htm>

<http://www.hudsonvalley.org/index.html>

Biography: Peter Lourie



Peter's adventure books come directly from his travel journals. In order to write a book about a place – its history, its geography, its people, and its culture – Peter likes to experience it for himself.

As a child, he loved collecting rocks and wandering the countryside of Connecticut. When his parents split up, he, his identical twin brother Jim, and their younger sister Ann moved to Ontario, Canada. In the fourth grade, having read the Hardy Boys, Peter wanted to be a bush pilot in Canada's Northwest Territories. He also wanted to be an archaeologist, to travel the world and delve into ancient cultures.

When he graduated from college, Peter studied early human bones with Margaret Leakey in Kenya and observed Colobus monkeys in the Usembara Mountains of Tanzania. He was all set to become an anthropologist when suddenly, while surveying monkeys in the jungles of Ecuador, Peter heard the mysterious story of an Incan treasure.

In 1533, seven hundred tons of gold were buried in a strange and haunting cloud forest in the Andes Mountains, and the gold is still hidden in a dangerous chain of mountains not far from Quito, the present-day capital of Ecuador.

It was this fantastic story that made Peter drop his plans to get a Ph.D. in anthropology. And for the next five years, he remained in Ecuador to research the story of the Inca gold. Finally he hired three guides and went up into the cloud forest to find it. He came back not with riches but with a desire to write a book (*Sweat of the Sun, Tears of the Moon*).

After this, Peter began to write adventure-travel books about many places, rivers, and ancient cultures, both for children and for adults. His journeys have now taken him to remote parts of the world, including the jungles of Mexico, Bolivia, Brazil, Panama, Peru, and Africa.

Recently he realized a boyhood dream when he spent a few weeks exploring Tierra del Fuego at the tip of South America, known also as "El Fin del Mundo," or the End of the World. This remote island is located at the southern tip of Patagonia and was named "Land of Fire" by Ferdinand Magellan in 1520. Only seven hundred miles from Antarctica, it is a wild and desolate place, full of penguins, sea lions, and wild guanaco, a llama-like creature that the natives there depended on for food and clothing.

When he returned from the jungles of southern Mexico where he was working on a story about the ancient Maya, Peter admitted that for him it is important to read books in preparation for a journey. But just as crucial are the observations he makes while traipsing through jungles or following rivers.

"Hearing the roar of howlers and the whine of cicadas in the long, hot jungle afternoons in Chiapas, Mexico, was an important part of my research into the ancient Maya civilization," he says. For Peter, research is another word for exploration!

"The mystery has to come alive!" he says. "I want my readers to feel and to hear and to smell a place."

It is Peter's love of mystery and of what he will discover next that compels him toward his next adventure. He has just finished a book about scuba diving with sharks, is working on a book about the Aztecs, and will be heading back to Barrow, Alaska, in February and late April for his new book on the Inupiaq eskimos and global climate change.

Peter holds a BA in classics from New York University, an MA in English Literature from the University of Maine, and an MFA in creative writing from Columbia University. He has taught writing at Columbia College, the University of Vermont, and Middlebury College.

He now makes his living traveling, writing, and visiting schools to share his adventures. He and his family live near Middlebury, Vermont.

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