

Thursday 26th November 2020

'Yo Ho Ho and a Bottle of Rum' Comprehension

Obj: to show I have understood the text I have read

Read the following extract from 'Treasure Island' by R L Stephenson:

I remember him as if it were yesterday, as he came plodding up to the inn door, his sea-chest following behind him in a hand-barrow – a tall, strong, heavy, nut-brown man, his tarry pigtail, falling over the shoulder of his soiled blue coat, his hands ragged and scarred, with black, broken nails, and the sabre cut across one cheek, a dirty, livid white. I remember him looking round the corner and whistling to himself as he did so, and then breaking out in that old sea-song that he sang so often afterwards:

“Fifteen men on the dead man’s chest-
Yo-ho-ho, and a bottle of rum!”

in the high, old tottering voice that seemed to have been tuned and broken at the capstan bars. Then he rapped on the door with a bit of stick like a handspike that he carried, and when my father appeared, called roughly for a glass of rum. This, when it was brought to him, he drank slowly, like a connoisseur, lingering on the taste and still looking about him at the cliffs and up at our signboard.

Now answer the questions which follow; remember to use quotes to explain and support your answers:

1. How do we know that the narrator is recalling something from long ago?
2. Which word in this phrase is closest in meaning to sword?
'..his hands ragged and scarred, with black, broken nails, and the sabre cut across one cheek, a dirty, livid white.'
3. Explain what effect the description of the man has on the reader.
4. With reference to the text, explain how the author uses language to make the reader think that the man is a sailor.
5. Based on what you have just read, what type of man do you think this visitor will turn out to be?
6. Number the sentences below to show the order in which they happened in the story extract:

- * The man sang an old sea-song.
- * He looked about him at the cliffs and the inn sign board.
- * He rapped on the inn door.
- * Roughly, he called for a glass of rum.
- * He came plodding up to the door of the inn.