



2002

The Adventure of Treasure Island

Lena Wagner

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Bush, Max, with occasional music and lyrics by Dale Dielman. *The Adventure of Treasure Island*. Dramatic Publishing Company, 1985. ISBN 0871298155. Contact publisher regarding price. 69 pp.

Reviewer: Lena Wagner

Reading Level: Primary

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Plays; Adventure Plays;

Subject: Drama--Reviews; Pirates--Juvenile drama; Adventure and adventurers--Juvenile drama; Stevenson, Robert Louis, 1850-1894--Juvenile drama;

Theme: Never trust a pirate

Production Requirements: 3 somewhat difficult sets, easy costuming

Acts: 2

Run Time: 1 hour

Characters: 2 female, 8 male

Cast: adults

Time Period: Long Ago

This is the story of an adventurous boy, Jim, who lives by the sea and wants to become a sailor one day. He meets an old pirate who asks him to keep a map to a pirates treasure safe so that someday they can go and retrieve it together. Then the old pirate, Billy Bones, is kidnapped by the rest of his pirate crew. Jim still has the map, so the town doctor volunteers to help Jim get the treasure along with Captain Smollett. The doctor and captain accidentally hire part of the old pirate crew as shipmates and discover the truth just in time to save themselves as well as the treasure.

This play would be very interesting for older elementary school children, especially young boys who enjoy adventure and pirates. The plot is very simple yet engaging. The action keeps the audience's attention especially during the chase scenes. The costumes should be quite simple to create, as all that is necessary is pirate outfits and normal clothes for the other characters. One challenge will be set construction and transportation. The first set requires a room with a staircase, which could be difficult to transport if you want to move it quickly. The second set would be on a boat, making it necessary to show that the boat is floating in water. The third set is much simpler, with only is a deserted island with a cave. The play would be easier to do with an adult cast because there is some sword fighting which might not be safe for children. Other considerations include the fact that this play is written to be a musical, and that it does not have a very clear message, so it is probably meant strictly for entertainment.