



ABOUT YOU

Answer the questions and compare your ideas.

- 1 What is the longest distance you have ever walked?
- 2 What do you know about Edinburgh? Is it a place you would like to visit?
- 3 How did people in the past make a journey without the help of mobile maps or GPS?
- 4 In the past, a lot of people worked in large houses owned by wealthy people. What kinds of jobs do you think they did?

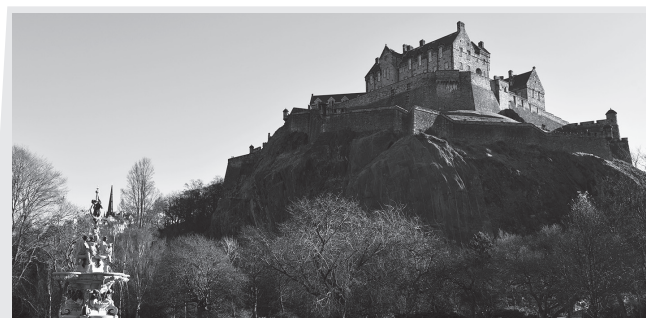
Kidnapped was a big success and a novel greatly admired by many writers. The descriptions of the Scottish landscape are especially impressive. As a young boy, Stevenson would often accompany his father, a surveyor, on extensive journeys around Scotland on which he developed a detailed knowledge of the country, its language and customs.

- 1** Read the text. As you read, think about this question.
How old do you think David, the boy telling the story, is?

Kidnapped Robert Louis Stevenson

I will begin to tell the story of my adventures with a certain morning early in the month of June 1751, when I took the key for the last time out of the door of my father's house. The sun began to shine upon the hills as I went down the road. The

- 5 birds were whistling in the gardens, and the mist that was in the valley at dawn was beginning to **die away** ...
- On the afternoon of the second day of my journey, coming to the top of a hill, I saw all the country before me down to the sea. In the middle of this descent, on a long **ridge**, was the
- 10 city of Edinburgh, smoking like a fire. There was a flag upon the castle, and ships moving or lying **anchored** in the water; both of which, for as far away as they were, I could distinguish clearly; and both brought my country heart into my mouth.
- 15 Soon after, I came by a house where a farmer lived, and got a rough direction for the neighbourhood of Cramond. A little farther on, and I was told I was in Cramond, and began to substitute in my inquiries the name of the house of Shaws. It was a word that seemed to surprise those I
- 20 asked. At first, I thought the plainness of my appearance, in my country clothes, and that all dust from the road, didn't go with the greatness of the place to which I was **bound**. But after two or maybe three people had given me the same look and the same answer, I began to think there was perhaps something strange about the Shaws itself.



- 25 Seeing an honest looking man coming along a lane on his cart, I asked him if he had ever heard of a house they called the house of Shaws.
- He stopped his cart and looked at me, like the others. "Yes" said he. "What for?"
- 30 "It's a **grand** house?" I asked. "Doubtless," says he. "The house is a very big house." "Oh yes," said I, "but the **folk** that are in it?" "Folk?" cried he. "Are you mad? There's no folk there—to call folk."
- 35 "What?" say I; "not Mr. Ebenezer?" "Oh yes," says the man; "there's the lord, to be sure, if it's him you're looking for. What'll be your business there, young man?" "I was led to think that I would get employment," I said,
- 40 looking as **modest** as I could. "What?" cried the man, so loudly that his very horse **started**; and then, "Well, lad," he added, "it's none of my business; but you seem a decent-spoken lad; and if you'll take a word from me, you'll **keep clear** of the Shaws."

GLOSSARY

die away	slowly disappear
ridge	a narrow edge along a mountain
anchored	when a metal object is dropped from a boat into the water to prevent the boat from moving away
bound	going to
grand	very large, or special and impressive
folk	old-fashioned way of saying 'people'
modest	not proud and not usually talking about or making obvious your own abilities and achievements
started	moved your body suddenly because something has surprised or frightened you
keep clear	avoid someone or something

2 Read the text again and answer the questions.

1 Why do you think it was the 'last time' David left his father's house?

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2 What do you think David means by the expression '(it) brought my country heart into my mouth'?

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3 At first, how does David explain the strange response he gets to his enquiries?

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4 What are the reasons why David becomes suspicious about the Shaws?

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5 What clues are we given that the man David talks to dislikes the Shaws?

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VOCABULARY

3 Match the sentence beginnings (1-5) with the sentence endings (a-e).

- 1 She just said 'thank you' when they gave her the prize ...
 - 2 It took a while for the smoke ...
 - 3 The sudden sound of glass breaking ...
 - 4 I think the ridge over there ...
 - 5 If it hadn't been anchored, the ship ...
- a ... because she's very modest.
 - b ... is a good spot to take photos.
 - c ... made Jo start.
 - d ... would have been damaged in the storm.
 - e ... to die away after the fire.

4 Complete the text below with the correct word from the box.

anchored bound grand keep clear

When he asked David where he was
 1, he said "Edinburgh. I've never
 been there, but I'm told it's very 2
 with its castle and monuments. I'll sleep in the big
 park and visit the town in the morning."
 "I think you should 3 of the park
 at night, it can be a dangerous place," the man said.
 "You can find a very cheap hotel – just go to the
 neighbourhood near where the ships are
 4"

WRITING

5 Work in small groups. With your group, discuss ideas about what happens next in the story, using language of speculation. Then write another 10-12 lines of dialogue based on your ideas. You can introduce new characters if you want.

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SPEAKING

6 You are going to perform the script you wrote in Activity 5. Decide who is going to play the parts of the characters. Practise your script in preparation for performing it to the rest of the class.