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#### ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

# Welcome to Saddleback's *Illustrated Classics*™

We are proud to welcome you to Saddleback's *Illustrated Classics*<sup>TM</sup>. Saddleback's *Illustrated Classics*<sup>TM</sup> was designed specifically for the classroom to introduce readers to many of the great classics in literature. Each text, written and adapted by teachers and researchers, has been edited using the Dale-Chall vocabulary system. In addition, much time and effort has been spent to ensure that these high-interest stories retain all of the excitement, intrigue, and adventure of the original books.

With these graphically *Illustrated Classics*<sup>TM</sup>, you learn what happens in the story in a number of different ways. One way is by reading the words a character says. Another way is by looking at the drawings of the character. The artist can tell you what kind of person a character is and what he or she is thinking or feeling.

This series will help you to develop confidence and a sense of accomplishment as you finish each novel. The stories in Saddleback's *Illustrated Classics*<sup>TM</sup> are fun to read. And remember, fun motivates!

### Overview

Everyone deserves to read the best literature our language has to offer. Saddleback's *Illustrated Classics*<sup>TM</sup> was designed to acquaint readers with the most famous stories from the world's greatest authors, while teaching essential skills. You will learn how to:

- Establish a purpose for reading
- Use prior knowledge
- Evaluate your reading
- Listen to the language as it is written
- Extend literary and language appreciation through discussion and writing activities

Reading is one of the most important skills you will ever learn. It provides the key to all kinds of information. By reading the *Illustrated Classics*<sup>TM</sup>, you will develop confidence and the self-satisfaction that comes from accomplishment— a solid foundation for any reader.

# Step-By-Step

The following is a simple guide to using and enjoying each of your *Illustrated Classics*<sup>TM</sup>. To maximize your use of the learning activities provided, we suggest that you follow these steps:

- 1. *Listen!* We suggest that you listen to the read-along. (At this time, please ignore the beeps.) You will enjoy this wonderfully dramatized presentation.
- 2. *Pre-reading Activities.* After listening to the audio presentation, the pre-reading activities in the Activity Book prepare you for reading the story by setting the scene, introducing more difficult vocabulary words, and providing some short exercises.
- 3. *Reading Activities.* Now turn to the "While you are reading" portion of the Activity Book, which directs you to make a list of story-related facts. Read-along while listening to the audio presentation. (This time pay attention to the beeps, as they indicate when each page should be turned.)
- 4. *Post-reading Activities.* You have successfully read the story and listened to the audio presentation. Now answer the multiple-choice questions and other activities in the Activity Book.

# Robert Louis Stevenson

Robert Louis Stevenson, a Scottish author of adventure and travel books, poems, and essays, was born in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1850. The son of a successful engineer, he studied law but never practiced it.

Frequent illness led Stevenson to travel to climates which were better for his health. During a stay in France, he met and later married Fanny Osborne. She was 10 years older than he and had two children of her own. *Treasure Island,* Stevenson's first and most famous novel, was begun as a story to amuse his young stepson.

He and his family spent the next decade traveling from one health resort to another hoping that Stevenson's condition would get better. During this time period, he wrote many of his best known works: *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, A Child's Garden of Verses,* and *Kidnapped*.

After his health improved, he and his family settled on the island of Samoa. He spent the last five years of his life there as a plantation owner and crusader against the harsh treatment of the island's native peoples. He also wrote several fine essays and collaborated with his stepson on three novels.

Stevenson left two novels unfinished at his death in 1894.

Saddleback's *Illustrated Classics*™



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It was the last I saw. Already strong hands had pulled me back from the rail, and now lightning seemed to hit me....















And after two or three had given me the same look and answer, I began to think....



By the second day I was in Cramond....

And the next man I asked told me plainly....







If you see the master tell him Jennet Clouston has put a curse on him and his house.



My knock ignored, I pounded the door angrily until....

But I carried my father's letter and would not be stopped....





