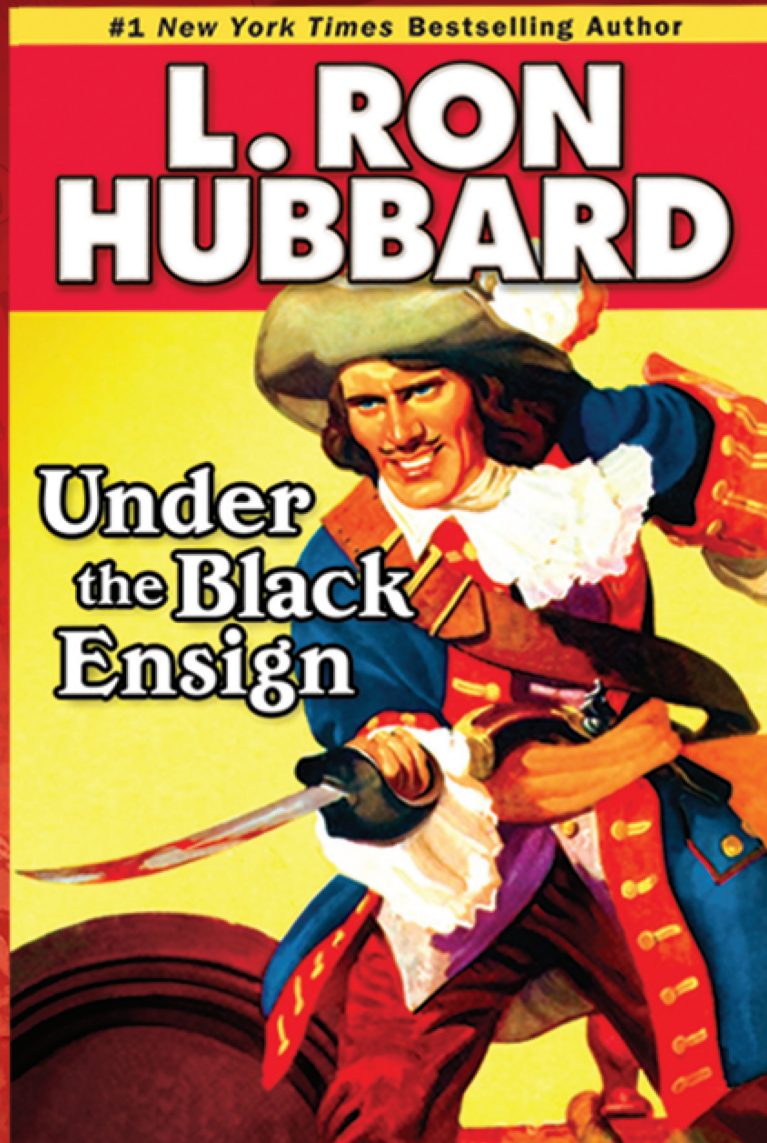




STORIES FROM THE GOLDEN AGE
WHERE ADVENTURE COMES TO LIFE



**LESSON PLAN FOR
TEACHERS & LIBRARIANS**

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About L. Ron Hubbard

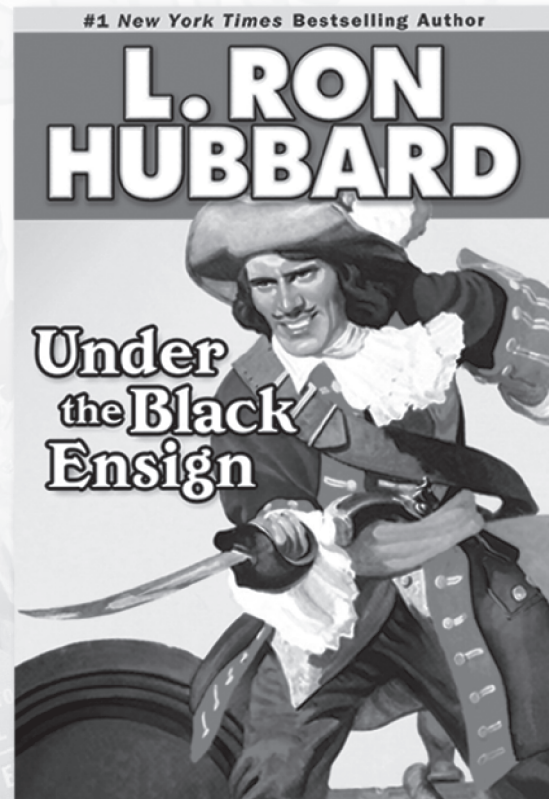


With 19 *New York Times* bestsellers and more than 280 million copies of his works in circulation, L. Ron Hubbard is among the most acclaimed and widely read authors of our time. As a leading light of American Pulp Fiction through the 1930s and '40s, he is further among the most influential authors of the modern age. Indeed, from Ray Bradbury to Stephen King, there is scarcely a master of imaginative tales who has not paid tribute to L. Ron Hubbard.

About *Under the Black Ensign*

Under the Black Ensign:
(ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN THE AUGUST 1935
ISSUE OF *FIVE-NOVELS MONTHLY*)

Tom Bristol barely escapes an unjust death sentence aboard the British HMS *Terror* when the ship is overtaken by pirates. Soon enough, Bristol is stranded on a desert island for stopping a pirate mutiny. When Lady Jane Campbell joins Tom at sea, things really set sail in this swashbuckling adventure.



Under the Black Ensign **Activity Guide Contents**

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• Quiz

For this section circle the correct answers to fill in the blanks.



1. MAIN IDEA

What is the main idea of the story?

- A man is stranded on an island and takes revenge against those who did it.
- Pirates are really criminals and need to be brought to justice.
- You never know who you can trust.
- A man overcomes adversity and sets matters straight.

2. SEQUENCE

What belongs in the middle?

- a) Tom Bristol is made to serve aboard the HMS *Terror*.
 - b) _____
 - c) Tom Bristol is set ashore on a desert island.
- Tom Bristol travels to Nevis.
 - A sea battle takes place between the pirates and British.
 - Tom Bristol kills another man and harbors a woman on board.
 - Lady Jane gets married.

3. CAUSE AND EFFECT

Tom Bristol is a sea artist, a ship's navigator, so _____

- he gets into a fight with the captain of the British ship.
- he is invited to be navigator for the pirate ship.
- he tricks the British into sailing into a trap.
- he wants to change lifestyles and start a plantation.

• Quiz

4. CAUSE AND EFFECT

Lady Jane is the lady-in-waiting to the Queen of England, _____

- so she arranges transport back to England to resume her duties.
- and she has the pirates hanged from Execution Dock.
- and orders the captain of the British ship to take her to Nevis.
- so she gets a full pardon for Tom Bristol from the King of England.

5. CONTEXT CLUES

A first mate is a _____, so he can navigate ships.

- sea artist
- pirate
- sailor
- buccaneer

6. CONTEXT CLUES

Execution Dock is a place where pirates are _____ after being convicted.

- electrocuted
- drowned
- hanged
- shot

7. PREDICTION OR INFERENCE

How does Tom Bristol feel about slavery?

- Slavery is okay as long as slaves are not mistreated.
- He is against slavery and frees the Nubians whom he finds in the hold of the Dutch ship.
- Slavery is a profitable trade.
- Slavery is a very old industry.

• Quiz

8. PREDICTION OR INFERENCE

What do you think happens after the book ends?

- The pirates are captured and executed.
- Sir Charles Stukely gets the King of England to remove Tom Bristol from command.
- Tom Bristol and Lady Jane successfully govern Nevis.
- Bryce builds a new command and attacks Tom Bristol.

9. FACTS AND DETAILS

A grinning skull against an ebon field describes what kind of flag?

- Spanish
- British
- Nevis
- Pirate

10. FACTS AND DETAILS

Captain Bristol and his crew capture the *Falcon* by _____

- having a bigger ship with more guns.
- setting fire to the sails.
- sneaking up at night, climbing aboard and surprising the crew.
- disguising themselves as crew members.

11. FACTS AND DETAILS

_____ decides to create a mutiny aboard the *Terror*.

- Tom Bristol
- Midshipman Jim
- Ricardo
- The crew

• Quiz

12. FACTS AND DETAILS

A blackbirder is _____

- a kind of hunter.
- a type of hunting rifle.
- a person who sang in bars in the eighteen hundreds.
- a person or ship engaged in the slave trade.

13. FACTS AND DETAILS

Whom does Tom Bristol use as his crew?

- English sailors who mutinied.
- Local inhabitants from Nevis Island.
- Pirates he freed from a prison.
- Slaves freed from a Dutch ship.

14. FACTS AND DETAILS

What year does the story take place?

- 1492
- 1776
- 1680
- 1904

15. FACTS AND DETAILS

What is special about Midshipman Jim?

- He is really only 15 years old.
- Midshipman Jim is really Lady Jane in disguise.
- He is the nephew of the King of England.
- He can speak English and Spanish fluently.

• Characters

CHARACTERS

WRITE ABOUT THE FOLLOWING CHARACTERS, AND BE SURE TO EXPLAIN THEIR RELATIONSHIPS TO THE OTHER CHARACTERS.

CAPTAIN TOM BRISTOL

JIM

LADY JANE CAMPBELL

BRYCE

• Summary/SBQ

SUMMARY

Write a summary of the book on a separate piece of paper. You may prepare for an oral summary if you prefer.

SBQ (STORY-BASED QUESTIONS)

Answer the following questions in short sentences.

1. How does Tom Bristol become a pirate?
2. How do we find out that Midshipman Jim is really Lady Jane?
3. Why is Tom Bristol marooned on a desert island?
4. What was Tom Bristol specifically trained to do?
5. Whom do Bristol and Lady Jane free that then become a crew?
6. How does Bristol get his own ship?
7. Why are the buccaneers fighting the British?
8. What happens to Tom Bristol at the end?

• Story-Based Discussion

SBD (STORY-BASED DISCUSSION)

While you are reading the book, find the answers to the following questions. You don't have to write down the answers.

1. How did the British navy recruit sailors?
2. What made the cat-o'-nine-tails so deadly as a whip?
3. What is a black ensign?

SAW (STORY-APPLIED WRITING)

Pick one topic below and write a complete response.

1. Write the next chapter of the book, explaining what happens once Tom Bristol assumes command as Lord High Governor.
2. Compare and contrast Tom Bristol with a character you have read about in another book.
3. Choose a few scenes from the book and rewrite them from Lady Jane's perspective.

• Find the Meaning

For the following section circle the correct answers.

1. *bark* means

- A crew of 10-15 sailors
- a command to set sail
- a dugout canoe
- a sailing ship with three to five masts

2. *boucan* means

- a tropical bird
- an island inhabitant
- smoked beef
- a type of rifle

3. *whelp* means

- a red ridge on the skin
- a rude youth
- a prisoner
- a young dog

4. *grape* means

- small cast-iron balls shot from a cannon
- garbage shot at the enemy when ammunition has run out
- a purple tunic that allows pirates to recognize friend from foe
- rotten fruit used to make the deck of a ship slippery for enemies

5. *midshipman* means

- a person who constructs ships, specializing in the middle parts
- a sailor who holds lookout from the port and starboard sides of the ship
- someone who works in the center hold of a ship
- a student naval officer

6. *painter* means

- a rope for fastening a boat to a ship
- someone who would paint the rails of boats to prevent splinters
- a type of brush that used to be used in sailing vessels
- an oar to row with

7. *serpentes* means

- swords with curved blades
- green semiprecious stones
- poisonous water snakes
- cannons

8. *rapier* means

- a small sword
- a cannon that shoots four-pound balls
- a whip with sharp razorlike lashes
- a small-caliber pistol

9. *sea artist* means

- a beginning pirate
- a British sailor
- a ship's navigator
- a type of painter

10. *under weigh* means

- able to hold more cargo
- being checked by customs for illegal goods
- in harbor
- in motion

• Complete the Sentences

COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

1. They were unable to locate their _____ to set sail the following morning.

- guns
- painter
- oars
- bark

2. The pirates washed down the _____ with wine.

- powder smoke
- sandwiches
- grape
- boucan

3. The _____ caused considerable trouble on board.

- whelp
- midshipman
- boucan
- leopard

4. The _____, when fired, destroyed sailors and sails alike.

- grape
- shrapnel
- bombs
- bullets

5. The captain turned to the _____ to take over running the ship.

- painter
- sea artist
- mutineer
- midshipman

• Complete the Sentences

6. The small boat drifted away after the _____ was slashed.

- hull
- painter
- mainsail
- captain

7. They fired the _____ and the opposing ship sank.

- muskets
- rapiers
- serpentine
- rifles

8. The sailor, after losing the fight, had to throw down his _____ and surrender.

- redoubtable
- rapier
- quell
- appease

9. In the final analysis, it was the job of the _____ to ensure the ship arrived at the correct locations.

- buccaneer
- first mate
- sea artist
- rowers

10. The captain ordered the ship to attack only when it was _____

- morning.
- under weigh.
- rebuilt.
- fully cleaned.

• Quiz: Answers



1. MAIN IDEA

- A man overcomes adversity and sets matters straight.

2. SEQUENCE

- Tom Bristol kills another man and harbors a woman on board.

3. CAUSE AND EFFECT

- he is invited to be navigator for the pirate ship.

4. CAUSE AND EFFECT

- so she gets a full pardon for Tom Bristol from the King of England.

5. CONTEXT CLUES

- sea artist

6. CONTEXT CLUES

- hanged

7. PREDICTION OR INFERENCE

- He is against slavery and frees the Nubians whom he finds in the hold of the Dutch ship.

8. PREDICTION OR INFERENCE

- Tom Bristol and Lady Jane successfully govern Nevis.

9. FACTS AND DETAILS

- Pirate

10. FACTS AND DETAILS

- sneaking up at night, climbing aboard and surprising the crew.

11. FACTS AND DETAILS

- Ricardo

12. FACTS AND DETAILS

- a person or ship engaged in the slave trade.

13. FACTS AND DETAILS

- Slaves freed from a Dutch ship.

14. FACTS AND DETAILS

- 1680

15. FACTS AND DETAILS

- Midshipman Jim is really Lady Jane in disguise.

• Characters: Answers

CAPTAIN TOM BRISTOL

Tom Bristol's career as a first mate of the Maryland ship *Randolph* is cut short when he is press-ganged into serving aboard the British HMS *Terror*. He is sentenced to 100 lashes under the cat-o'-nine-tails, a cruel whip, for an incident in which Lord High Governor Stukely thought he was being attacked, but this was not the case. The *Terror* is overtaken by pirates and Bristol escapes certain death when he joins up with them and their head, a buccaneer named Bryce. However, he is quickly deserted after being found guilty of killing a mutinous pirate and unwittingly harboring a woman on board—Midshipman Jim, who turns out to be Lady Jane.

JIM

Jim is a midshipman for the buccaneer Bryce and befriends Tom Bristol. Jim attempts to stop Ricardo, a mutinous pirate, from killing Bristol. Only when Jim is struck by Ricardo and falls unconscious to the floor is it discovered that Jim is really a female hiding in a midshipman's uniform.

LADY JANE CAMPBELL

Lady Jane is the lady-in-waiting for the Queen of England. She was disguised as a midshipman when she was captured and recruited by the buccaneer Bryce. She frees Bristol from his bonds aboard the HMS *Terror*. Bristol is then marooned on a desert island for harboring a woman on board the pirate ship. Lady Jane then rescues Bristol and together they set off in escape. Lady Jane is recaptured by the Lord High Governor Stukely, who wants to marry her. Finally, after several battles, Bristol is able to rescue Lady Jane and they get married.

BRYCE

Bryce is a pirate captain who rescues Tom Bristol from being whipped to death aboard the British ship HMS *Terror*. Bryce wants to build a fleet and so captures the *Terror*. He assigns Bristol to navigate his new vessel under Ricardo. Bristol kills Ricardo when he attempts to mutiny. Bryce is later captured by the British but is freed by Bristol in the final battle of the book.

• Story-Based Questions: Answers

SBQ (STORY-BASED QUESTIONS)

Answer the following questions in short sentences.

1. How does Tom Bristol become a pirate?

He is rescued from being whipped to death and asked if he wants to join with the pirates.

2. How do we find out that Midshipman Jim is really Lady Jane?

Jim is knocked out by Ricardo while attempting to mutiny and her hat falls off, showing long yellow hair.

3. Why is Tom Bristol marooned on a desert island?

Bristol was found guilty of killing a man and of harboring a woman on board the ship, both of which are against the pirate code and punishable by marooning.

4. What was Tom Bristol specifically trained to do?

He was a sea artist—a navigator.

5. Whom do Bristol and Lady Jane free that then become a crew?

The slaves who are still alive on board a run-aground slaver; they then join him to make up a crew for his ship.

6. How does Bristol get his own ship?

Bristol and his crew silently board a Spanish vessel that has come too close to the island where Bristol and his crew are located.

7. Why are the buccaneers fighting the British?

The buccaneers had helped the British overcome the Spanish fleet. Once victory was achieved and the British no longer needed their help, they turned on the buccaneers, who then had to fight back.

8. What happens to Tom Bristol at the end?

Lady Jane Campbell arranges a letter from the King of England granting full pardon to Bristol and assignment as a commodore in the Royal Navy, making him the new Lord High Governor.

• SBD/Find the Meaning: Answers

SBD (STORY-BASED DISCUSSION)

While you are reading the book, find the answers to the following questions. You don't have to write down the answers.

1. How did the British Navy recruit sailors?

Men were press-ganged and dragged out to the ship, and made to serve on board.

2. What made the cat-o'-nine-tails so deadly as a whip?

The cat-o'-nine-tails was originally a collection of thongs held together in a short handle. But the British Navy then added brass wire tipped by pellets of lead wound about the ends of the thongs.

3. What is a black ensign?

A pirate's flag; a grinning skull against an ebon field—a white skull and crossbones against a black field. Also known as the Jolly Roger.

FIND THE MEANING

1. *bark* means a sailing ship with three to five masts
2. *boucan* means smoked beef
3. *whelp* means a rude youth
4. *grape* means small cast-iron balls shot from a cannon
5. *midshipman* means a student naval officer
6. *painter* means a rope for fastening a boat to a ship
7. *serpentes* means cannons
8. *rapier* means a small sword
9. *sea artist* means a ship's navigator
10. *under weigh* means in motion

• Complete the Sentences: Answers

COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

1. They were unable to locate their *bark* to set sail the following morning.
2. The pirates washed down the *boucan* with wine.
3. The *whelp* caused considerable trouble on board.
4. The *grape*, when fired, destroyed sailors and sails alike.
5. The captain turned to the *midshipman* to take over running the ship.
6. The small boat drifted away after the *painter* was slashed.
7. They fired the *serpentes* and the opposing ship sank.
8. The sailor, after losing the fight, had to throw down his *rapier* and surrender.
9. In the final analysis, it was the job of the *sea artist* to ensure the ship arrived at the correct locations.
10. The captain ordered the ship to attack only when it was *under weigh*.

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