

Name: _____ Class: _____

Travel

By Robert Louis Stevenson
1913

Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894) was a Scottish novelist, poet, essayist, and travel writer. He is best known for his novels Treasure Island and The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. In this poem, the narrator speaks of his wish to travel the world, one day, when he is "a man." As you read take notes on what the narrator wants to see and why, as well as what these experience might contribute to the speaker's maturity.

- [1] I should like to rise and go
Where the golden apples grow;—
Where below another sky
Parrot islands anchored lie,
- [5] And, watched by cockatoos and goats,
Lonely Crusoes¹ building boats;—
Where in sunshine reaching out
Eastern cities, miles about,
Are with mosque² and minaret³
- [10] Among sandy gardens set,
And the rich goods from near and far
Hang for sale in the bazaar⁴,—
Where the Great Wall round China goes,
And on one side the desert blows,
- [15] And with bell and voice and drum
Cities on the other hum;—
Where are forests, hot as fire,
Wide as England, tall as a spire,
Full of apes and cocoa-nuts
- [20] And the negro hunters' huts;—
Where the knotty crocodile
Lies and blinks in the Nile,
And the red flamingo flies
Hunting fish before his eyes;—
- [25] Where in jungles, near and far,
Man-devouring tigers are,
Lying close and giving ear
Lest the hunt be drawing near,
Or a comer-by be seen
- [30] Swinging in a palanquin⁵;—
Where among the desert sands



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1. Perhaps a reference to Robinson Crusoe, a work published in 1719, about a castaway of the same name shipwrecked on an island near Trinidad.
2. **Mosque (noun):** a place of worship for people of Islamic faith, or Muslims
3. **Minaret (noun):** a tall slender tower of a mosque with one or more balconies from which the summons to prayer is cried
4. **Bazaar (noun):** a market consisting of rows of shops or stalls selling various goods

Some deserted city stands,
All its children, sweep⁶ and prince,
Grown to manhood ages since,
[35] Not a foot in street or house,
Not a stir of child or mouse,
And when kindly falls the night,
In all the town no spark of light.
There I'll come when I'm a man
[40] With a camel caravan⁷;
Light a fire in the gloom
Of some dusty dining-room;
See the pictures on the walls,
Heroes, fights and festivals;
[45] And in a corner find the toys
Of the old Egyptian boys.

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5. **Palanquin (noun):** a covered litter for one passenger, consisting of a large box carried on two horizontal poles by four or six bearers
 6. "Sweep" may be referring to a child in the lower class; children were often hired in Great Britain to clean chimneys and were thus called "chimney sweeps." Stevenson is implying in this line that children from the poorest status to the richest have grown and faded from this place.
 7. **Caravan (noun):** a company of travelers on a journey through desert or hostile regions; may include a covered wagon(s) equipped as living quarters

Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: The word that best describes the tone of this poem is: [RL.3]
- A. Reflective
 - B. Whimsical
 - C. Regretful
 - D. Hopeful

2. PART B: Copy a piece of evidence from the text that supports your answer to Part A. [RL.1]

3. Who is the speaker? How old is he? Cite evidence to support your answer.

4. Summarize the poem in one complete sentence. [RL.2]

5. Which of the following statements best describes the structure of this poem? [RL.5]

- A. The narrator reflects upon the adventures of his life, then conveys his regret for not accomplishing more.
- B. The narrator lists sites of adventure spots so that he can remember them once he is an old man.
- C. The narrator weaves a ridiculous adventure story so that he can tell it to his future children.
- D. The narrator describes numerous places he'd like to travel in his youth, then imagines his future perspective as an older man.

6. Describe the rhyme scheme (for example, ABAB, ABCABC, etc.), and explain the effect [RL.5] of this rhyme scheme on the overall tone of the poem.

7. What is the narrator's reason for wanting to travel? Support your answer with evidence. [RL.6]

8. How does the author utilize dashes (-) in the structure of the text? [RI.5]

9. PART A: In lines 32-38, the speaker describes a "deserted city." This "deserted city" mostly likely symbolizes: [RL.4]
- A. Death
 - B. Childhood
 - C. Adulthood
 - D. Boyhood

10. PART B: Explain your answer to Part A. [RL.1]

11. PART A: According to the speaker, what will he do in the “deserted city”? [RL.3]

12. PART B: What does this reveal about the speaker's feelings about growing up? [RL.1]
