

A graphic adaptation and poetry inspired by the work of Robert Louis Stevenson with accompanying resources for students and teachers.

The Isle of Voices

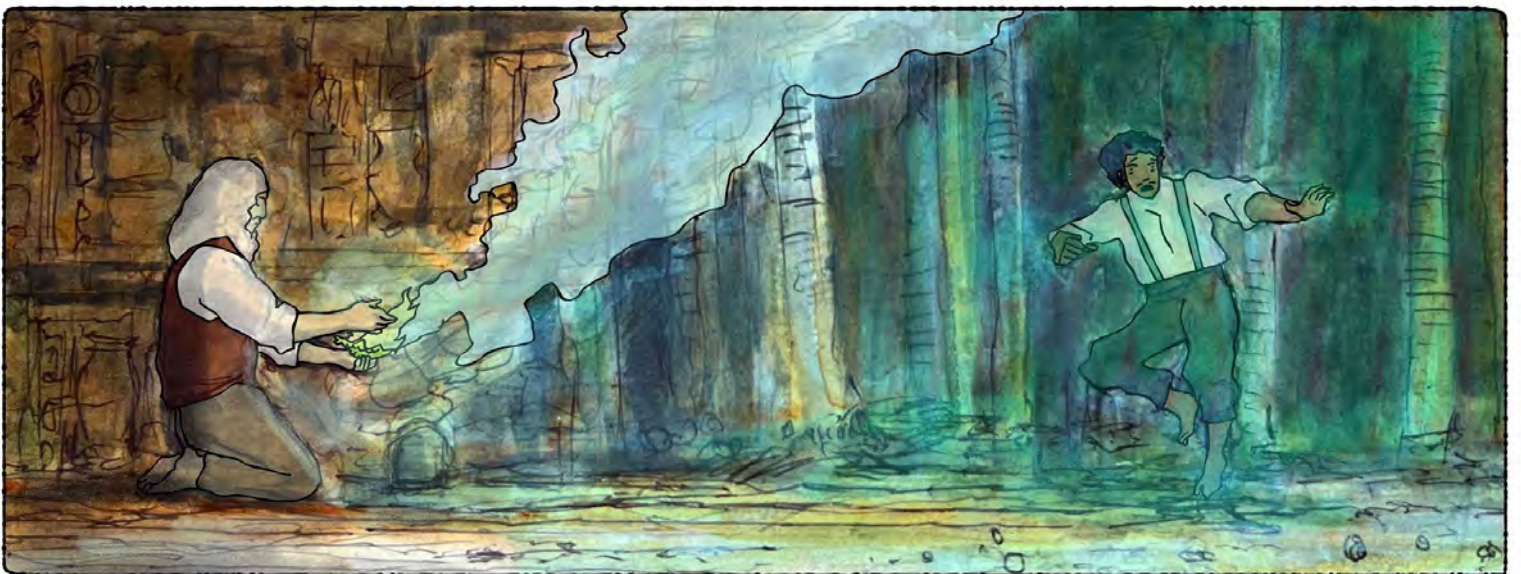


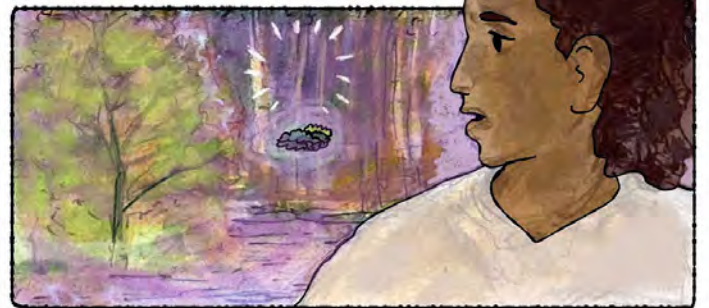
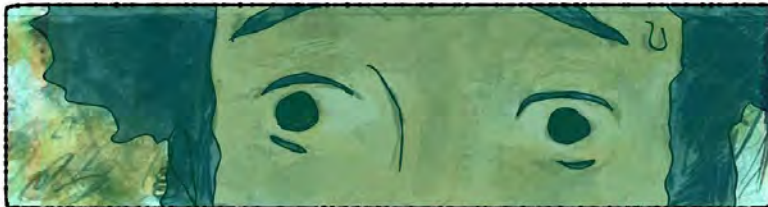


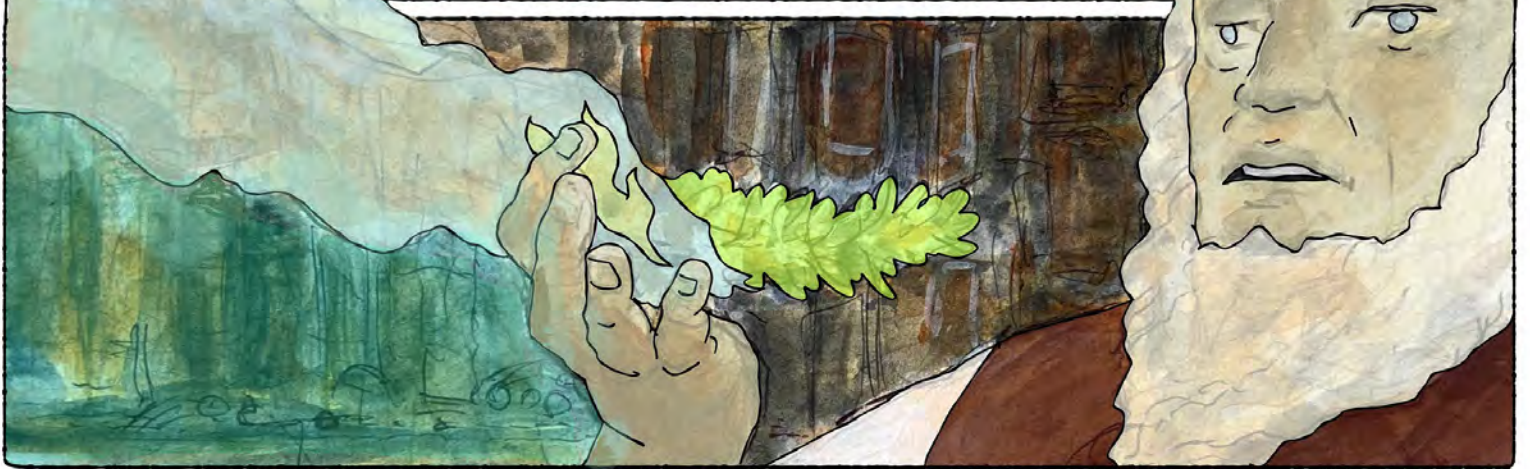


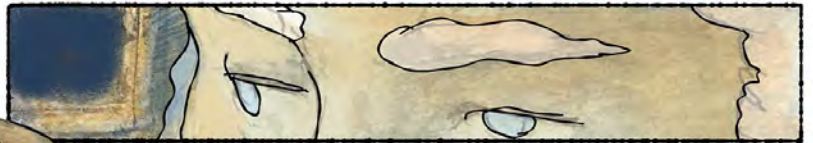




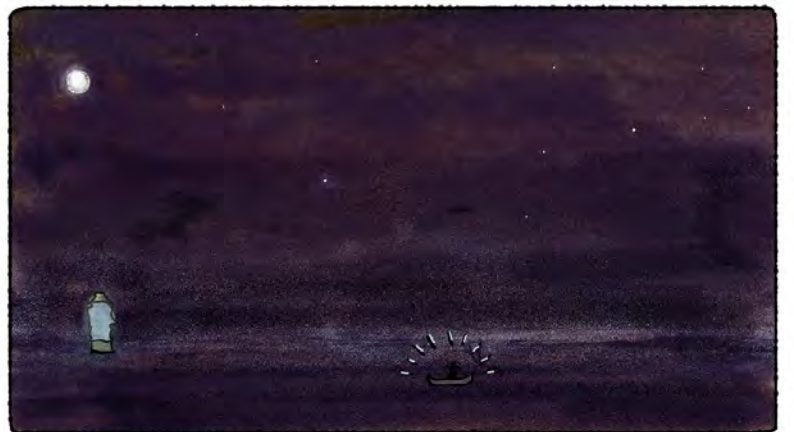
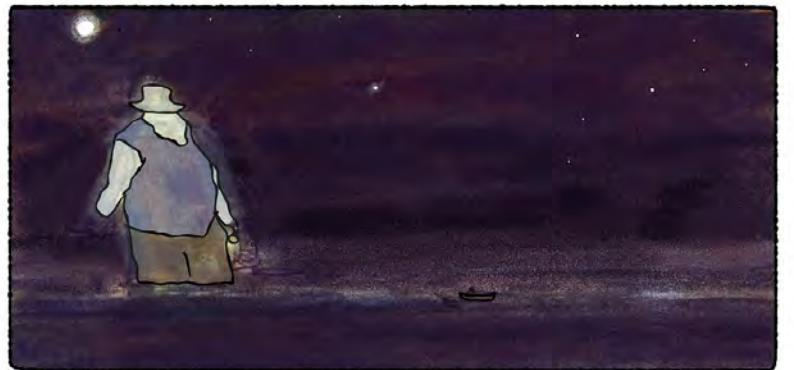


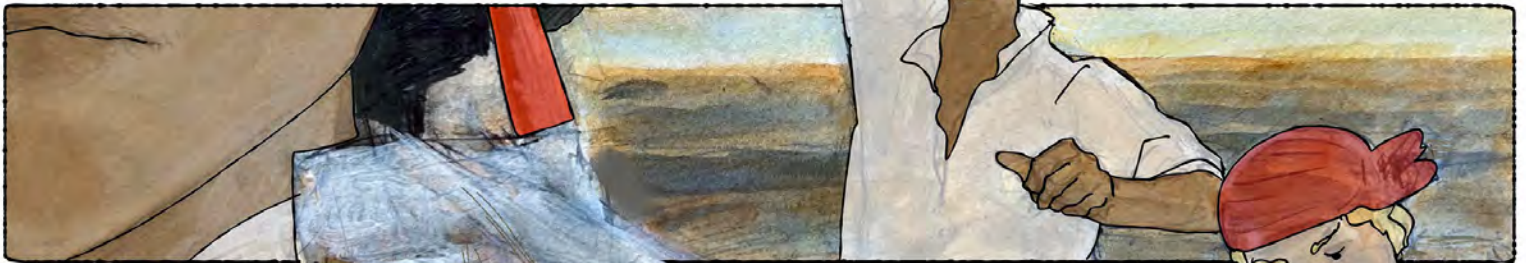


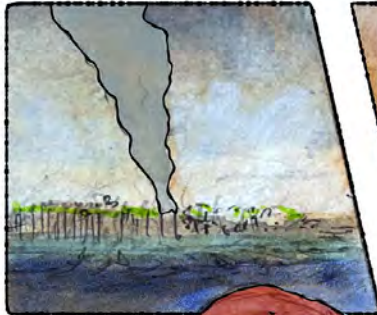










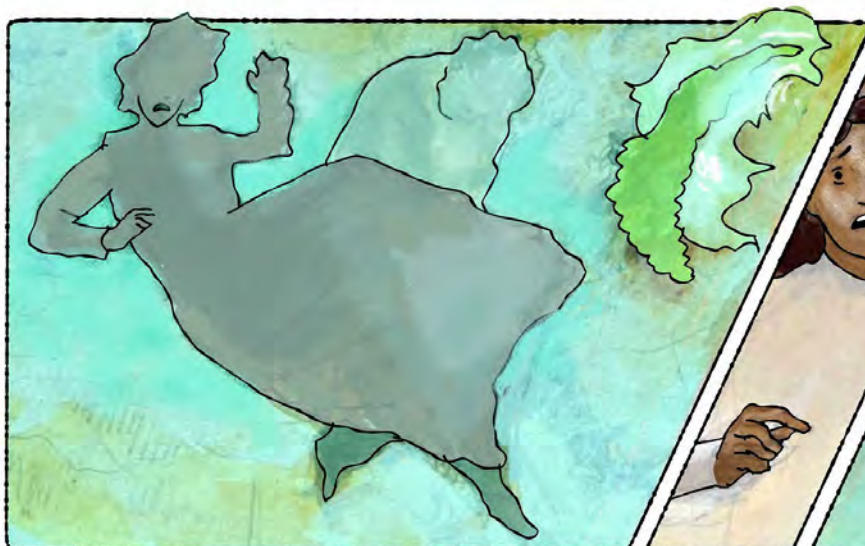


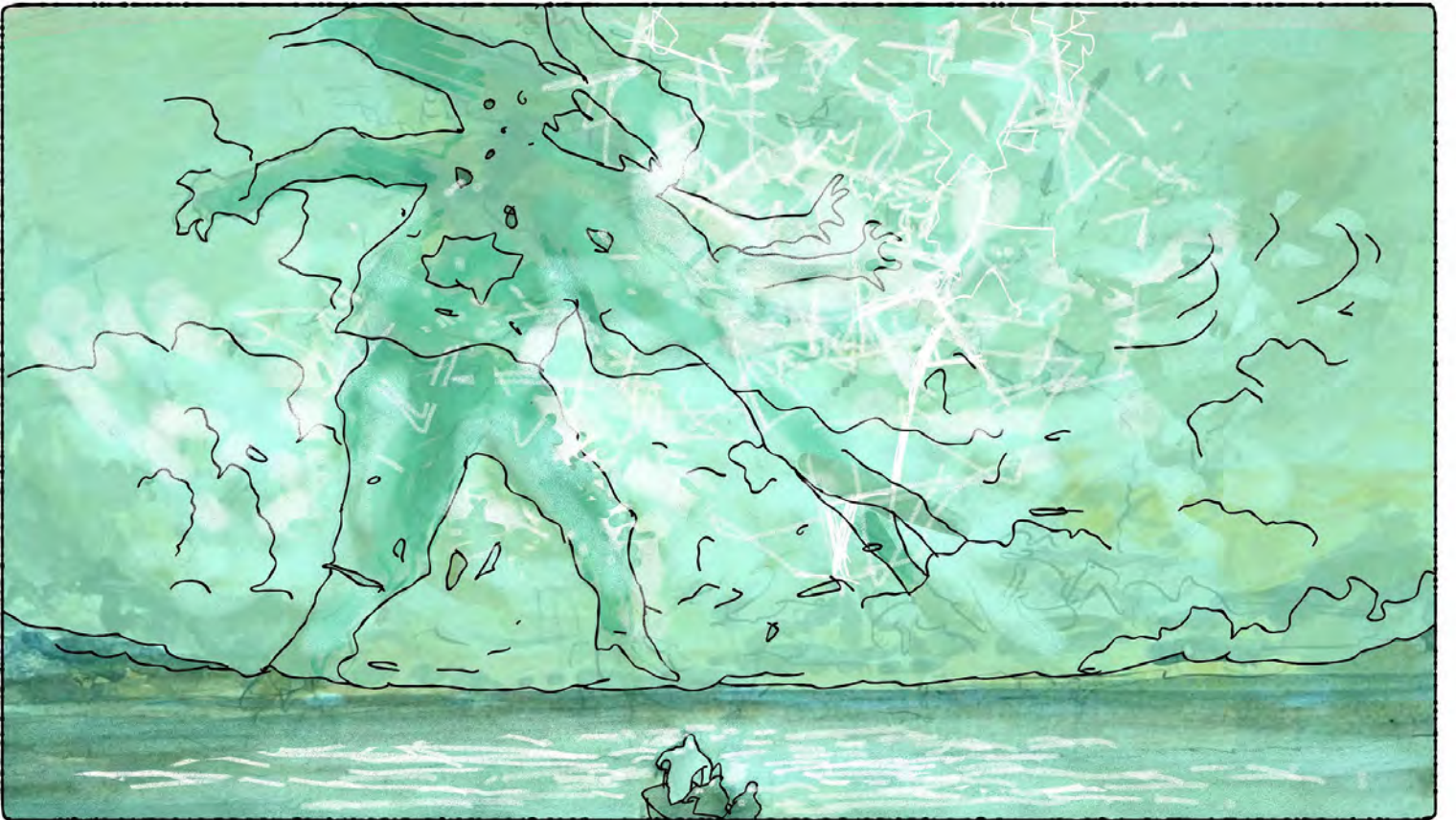
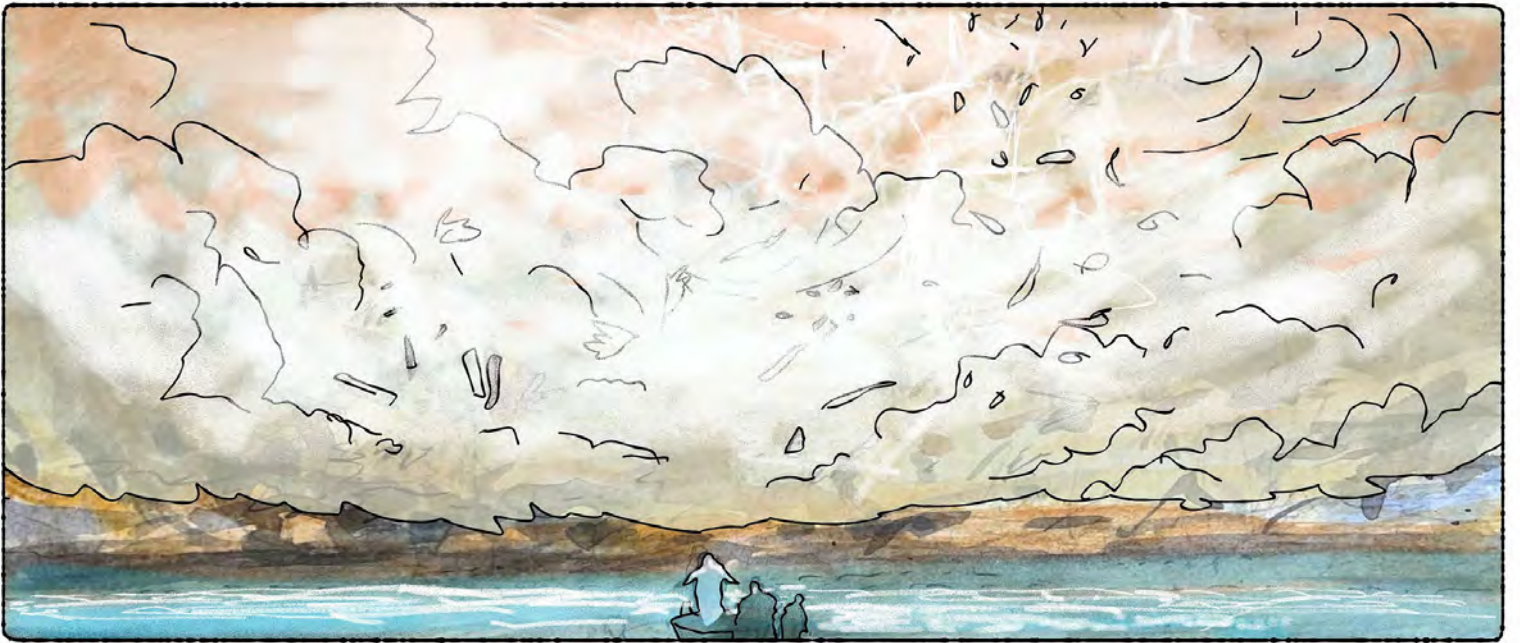


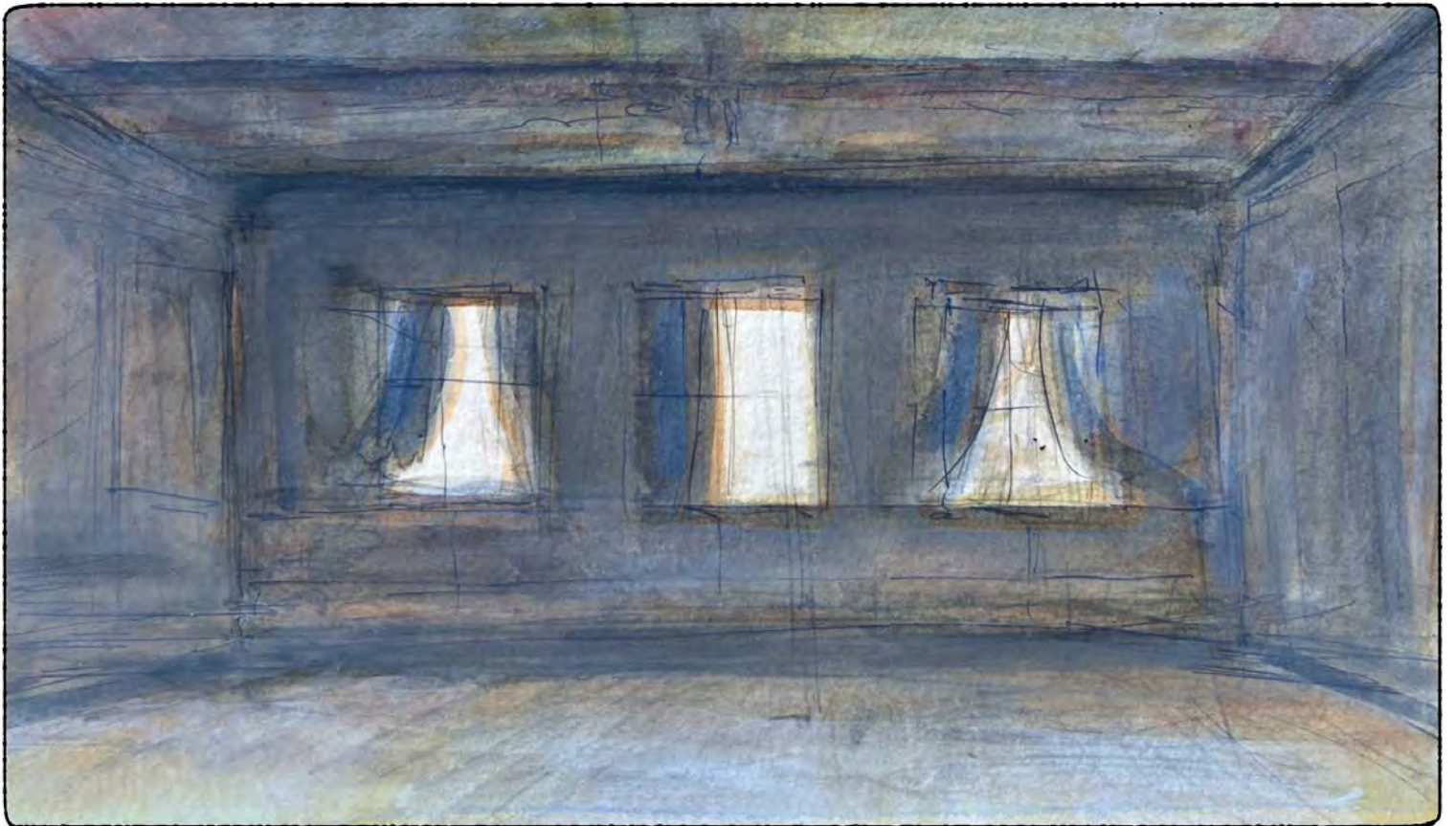


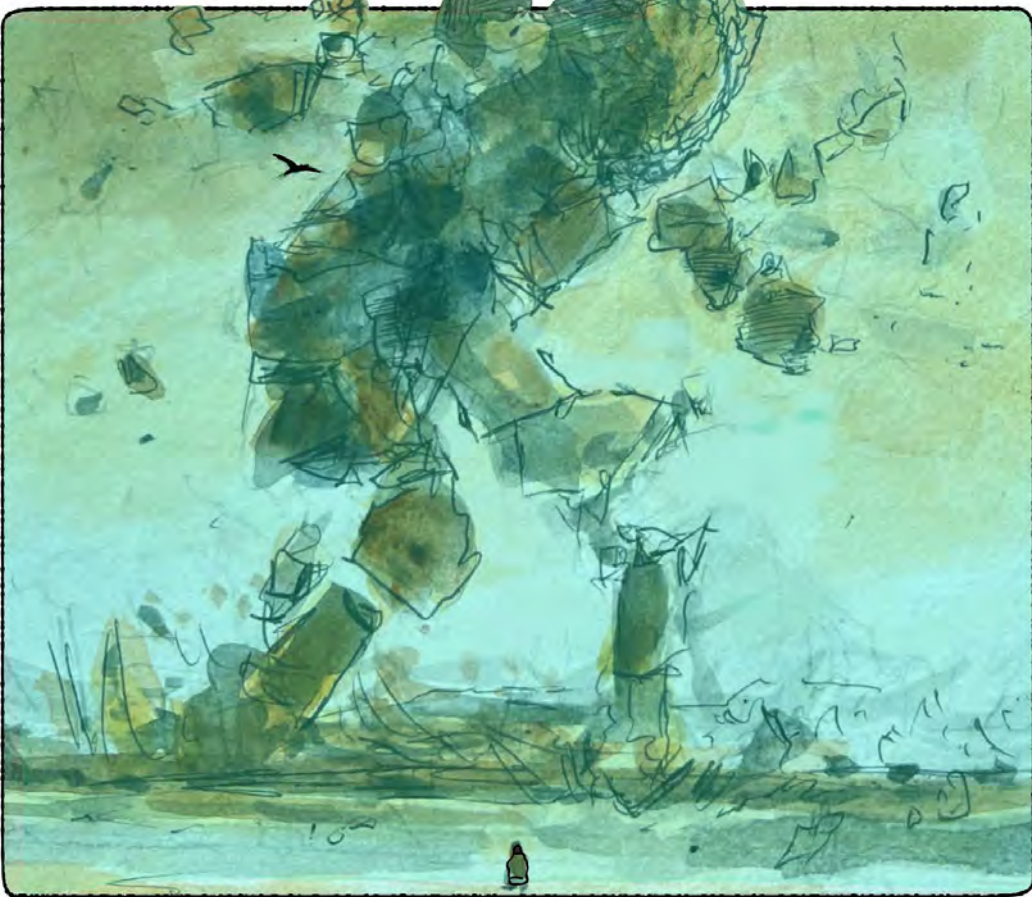
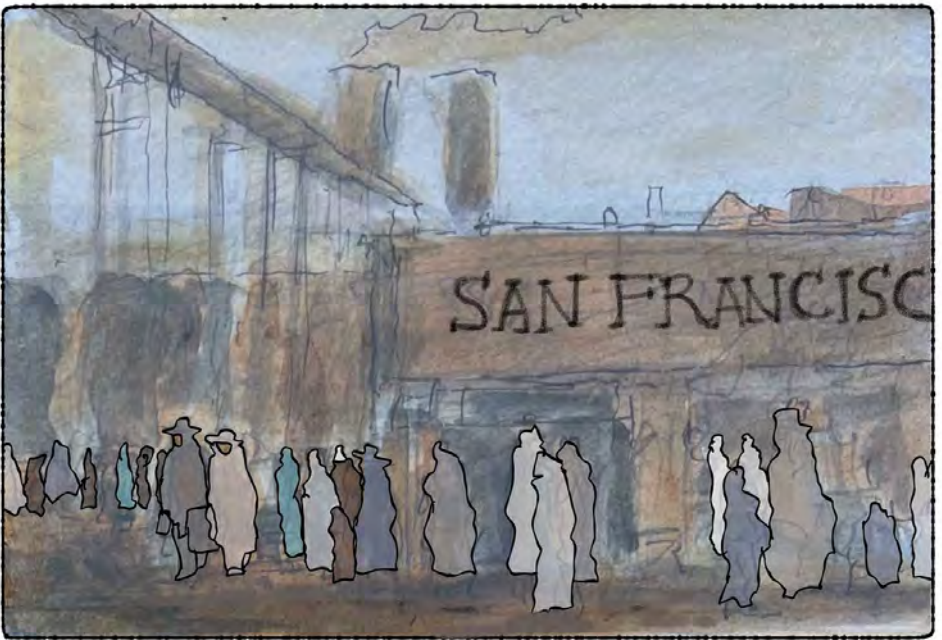












The Isle of Voices

Solomon Enos (after Robert Louis Stevenson)



Husband and wife, Keola and Lehua, live on the island of Moloka'i with Lehua's father Kalamake. Kalamake, a large albino blind from birth, is known and feared across the islands for his power to heal and harm. He also has the power to change into a giant, projecting himself across the globe, connecting with other sorcerers to plot and scheme. He considers Keola lazy and useless and does not like him as a partner for his daughter.



One evening, Kalamake magically appears by Keola's side and welcomes him into his shed. Within, Keola marvels at all the strange objects from around the world. Kalamake takes out a bundle of leaves and sets them alight with magical green flames. As the smoke drifts across the room, the world changes around them: Kalamake and Keola have teleported to another world, a small island covered with coconut trees. Kalamake gives Keola a mission on the island: to gather more of the same leaves and as many shells as he can carry. When carrying out this mission, Keola sees a young woman emerge from the grove, and calls out to her. All she can see are a cluster of oyster shells and leaves hovering in the air, accompanied by a voice of a man, but there is no man there. She is not afraid, for this is the Isle of Voices, and the people here have learned to ignore this anomaly.



Keola brings Kalamake the gathered leaves and he burns them to facilitate their return home. Keola pours the gathered shells into a small chest that Kalamake has brought, and the shells become silver coins. Keola is amazed, but Kalamake sends Keola home without a single coin, and tells him to keep this a secret. For Lehua, very little time has passed, and she knows where her father and Keola have been. The next day, Kalamake takes Keola out to the sea shore this time, with an oil lamp in one hand, to board an old canoe. As they set sail with Keola the only one paddling, grudgingly, they seem to be travelling at great speed. Soon, Keola stops paddling to look back, noticing to his shock that Moloka'i is completely gone, with only the moon and stars lighting the sky. He then hears a splash and sees Kalamake leap into the ocean. Keola then looks on in horror as Kalamake grows titanic in scale, shrouded in an eerie green light, until his waist is level with the tiny canoe. Keola is shocked as Kalamake finds the minuscule oil lamp, and despite not being able to see in the conventional sense, walks away back over the horizon, leaving Keola at sea.



It is morning by the time Kalamake returns to Moloka'i. Lehua knows what has happened without needing to ask, but says nothing to her father. Instead, she draws upon her own powers to direct a sailing ship towards Keola, who is delighted that he will be rescued! Though he has been saved, the crew of the ship are not kind to Keola, and force him to work for his rescue, and as he mops the deck, Keola sees a small island within swimming distance, with a dozen small canoes on shore and smoke rising from within a thick grove of coconut trees.



Keola escapes and swims ashore where he is greeted by the woman he saw on his first magical trip with Kalamake: he is on the same island! This time, the woman can see him and takes him to where a large fire burns and a group of islanders is seated in front of a bundle of the same magical leaves from his first trip. He hears the voice of Lehua. Lehua explains to the islanders that there are sorcerers from around the world who are going to take their islands away from them, unless they burn all of the remaining plants that grow those magical leaves, which would cut off the power to travel to and from these islands. The elderly leader directs her community to act, and soon all of the plants have been destroyed, but for the one last bundle held floating in mid air by the invisible Lehua.



Keola and Lehua stand on the shore and wave goodbye before travelling back for the last time through the means of the final bundle of magical leaves. A figure appears and Kalamake emerges. Only Lehua can see her father, and he admonishes his daughter for what she has done. Lehua yells back at him saying that he should never use his power to exploit and colonise other islands. Suddenly, a host of sorcerers and creatures appears just as Kalamake had, and realising what has happened to the magical plants, they prepare to attack Kalamake and his family with lightning and wind. Kalamake forces Lehua and Keola back, setting the final bundle of leaves alight to teleport them back to Moloka'i without him. He grows giant in scale, and crushes the other sorcerers, his body simultaneously torn apart. All that the villagers can see is a tornado and lightning, tearing up the coconut trees. Back home, Lehua and Keola find the stash of silver coins, and Lehua hopes it will be enough to pay their way to somewhere safe in the world, to hide from any sorcerers who were able to escape the Isle of Voices.



Echolocation

A poem by ChatGPT

Caroline Sinavaiana Gabbard

I send out a sound
A pulse, a wave, a call
It travels through the air
Or water, or both
It bounces back to me
A reflection, a signal, an answer

I hear the shape of things
The size, the distance, the speed
I map out the world
The obstacles, the prey, the friends
I navigate the space
The darkness, the silence, the unknown

I am not alone
I have a voice, a sense, a gift
It guides me through life
Or death, or both
It connects me to others
A family, a community, a song

Learning Resources Overview

You can find the resources here:

<https://scotdec.org.uk/resources/remediating-stevenson/>



- | | |
|------------------|--|
| <i>Read</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sequencing and matching key events to panels• Characters in role: voices and perspectives |
| <i>Respond</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To characters: Kalamake character map• To themes: nature, magic and sorcery |
| <i>Remediate</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Character description of Kalamake• Story ending• Poem |
| <i>Reflect</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agree/disagree line: exploring the theme of power |



- Taking it further*
- Art and design – analysing panels, recreating written imagery

CfE: Experiences and Outcomes

- Listening and Talking: LIT 3-04a
- Reading: LIT 3-16a, ENG 3-19a
- Writing: ENG 3-31a
- Art and Design: EXA3-04a

Anti-racist Curriculum Principle

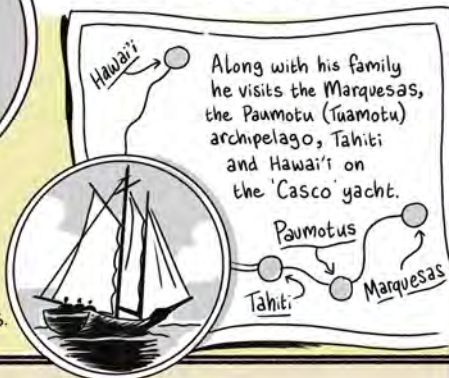
See Breaking the Mould, Education Scotland

Principle 7: Our children and young people will be supported to reflect on positionality, privilege and power, and to unlearn bias, prejudice and divisiveness.

Stevenson in the Pacific

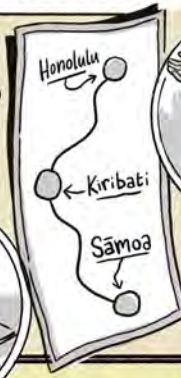


In 1888, Robert Louis Stevenson is paid to write a series of travel narratives for US and UK papers.



Along with his family he visits the Marquesas, the Paumotu (Tuamotu) archipelago, Tahiti and Hawai'i on the 'Casco' yacht.

In 1889 Stevenson visits Honolulu, the Gilbert Islands (Kiribati) and Samoa on the trading schooner 'Equator'.



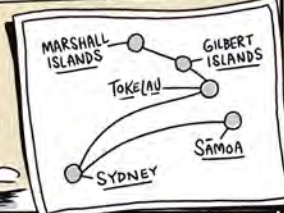
Stevenson befriends Hawaiian King Kalākaua who shares his notebooks containing Hawaiian legends.

RLS wrote a poem for princess Ka'iulani, whose Dad was Scottish!



In 1890 Stevenson decides to live in Samoa, where the climate is ideal for his fragile health.

He buys an estate at Vailima, and then travels with his family to Sydney, Tokelau, the Gilbert and Marshall Islands on the trading steamer 'Janet Nicholl'.



In 1891 his 'South Sea Letters' are published in British and American papers.



O Le Tala i le Fagu Aitu

His story 'The Bottle Imp,' set in Hawai'i, French Polynesia and San Francisco, is published in both English and Samoan. Stevenson adds a note to the English edition—

The fact that the tale has been designed and written for a Polynesian audience may lend it some extraneous interest nearer home.



In 1892 Stevenson publishes 'The Beach of Falesā' (a colonial adventure story rooted in Samoan culture), and 'A Footnote to History' which criticises British, US and German colonial interference in Samoa, and almost gets him deported from his adopted country.

Other papālagi thought RLS was weird for going barefoot in public!

Squawk??



In 1893, Stevenson publishes the story 'The Isle of Voices' (set in Hawai'i and the Tuamotu archipelago) which contains motifs from Hawaiian Legend and explores capitalist greed and colonial trade networks in the Pacific.



'The Bottle Imp,' 'Isle of Voices' and 'The Beach of Falesā' are republished together as 'Island Nights' Entertainments.



He supports Samoan chief Mafa'afa Iosefo as war breaks out in Samoa.

In 1894 Samoans supported by Stevenson during the 1893 war build a road from Apia township to Vailima to express their gratitude. Stevenson dies at Vailima in December of a brain haemorrhage. Samoan friends attend his funeral on Mount Vaea.



In 1896 'In the South Seas,' a collection of Stevenson's travel writing is published. It includes comments on the shared experiences of colonisation of Scottish Highlanders and Polynesian communities.



Stevenson's support for indigenous Pacific self-determination is remembered to this day.

Artists' Biographies



Solomon Enos is a Native Hawaiian artist and illustrator. Born and raised in Makaha Valley (O'ahu, Hawai'i), Solomon has been making art for more than 30 years and he is adept at artistic expression in a wide variety of media including oil paintings, book illustrations, murals, and game design. His latest works include murals and augmented-reality installations for Google and Disney.



Caroline Sinavaiana Gabbard (1946–2024) was an American Samoan poet, scholar, educator, and environmental activist. She was the first Samoan to become a full professor in the United States and taught Creative Writing at the University of Hawai'i until her retirement in 2016. Her collection of poetry, *Alchemies of Distance*, was published in 2002.



Jack Brougham is a freelance illustrator known for poster, comics and zine drawing and conference illustration. www.jackbroughamdrawing.com

The Isle of Voices

In this book you will find Solomon Enos's visual adaptation of 'The Isle of Voices', a short story by Robert Louis Stevenson set in the Pacific Islands, alongside a poem responding to Stevenson's life and work by Samoan poet, Caroline Sinavaiana Gabbard.

These new creative works were commissioned as part of a project aimed at transforming Stevenson's Pacific writings for a contemporary audience; they draw out themes such as power, exploitation and the supernatural.

Along with a set of **accompanying resources**, carefully aligned with both the **Curriculum for Excellence** 'Experiences and Outcomes' and Education Scotland's Principles for an Anti-Racist Curriculum, the book provides a rich visual and verbal resource for teachers and students in Scottish schools working at **3rd Level** in **English** and **Art & Design**.

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