

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

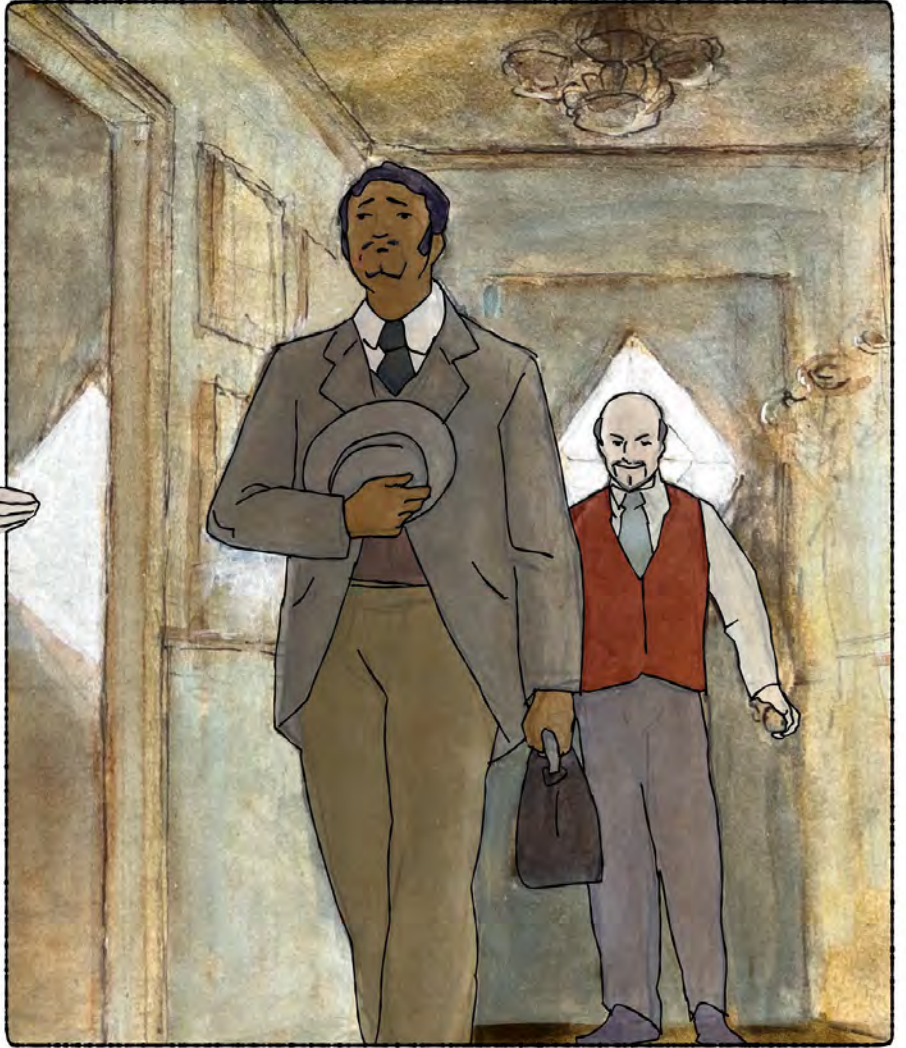
# The Bottle Imp







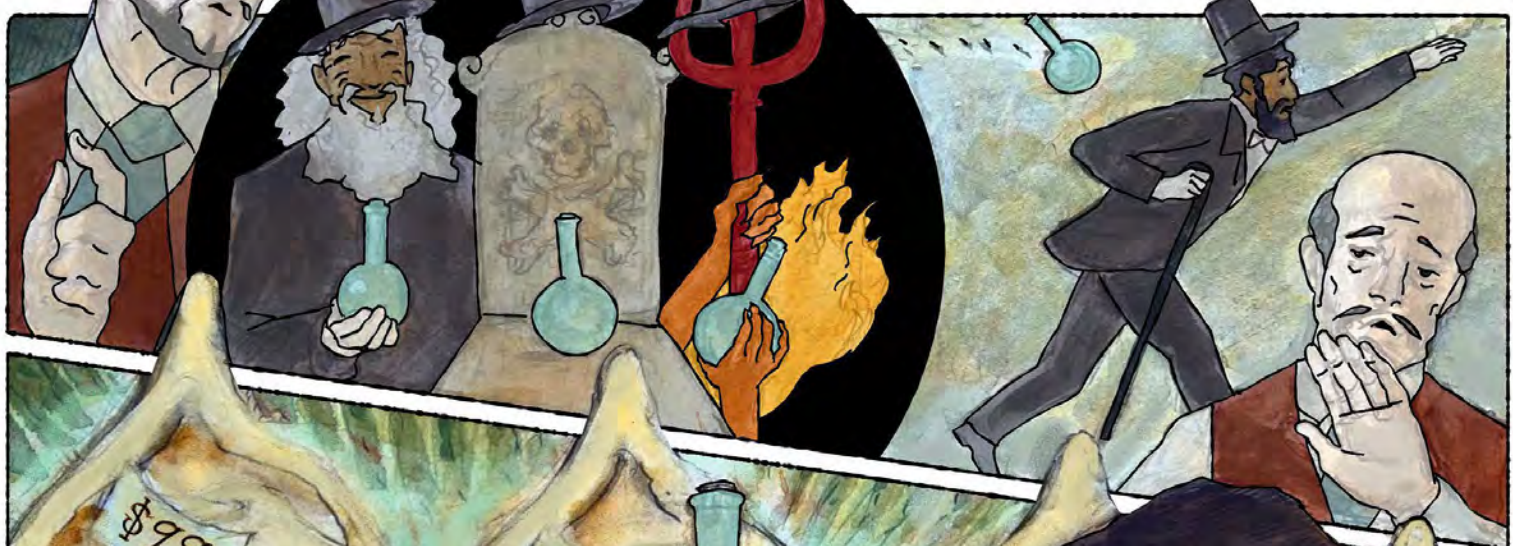








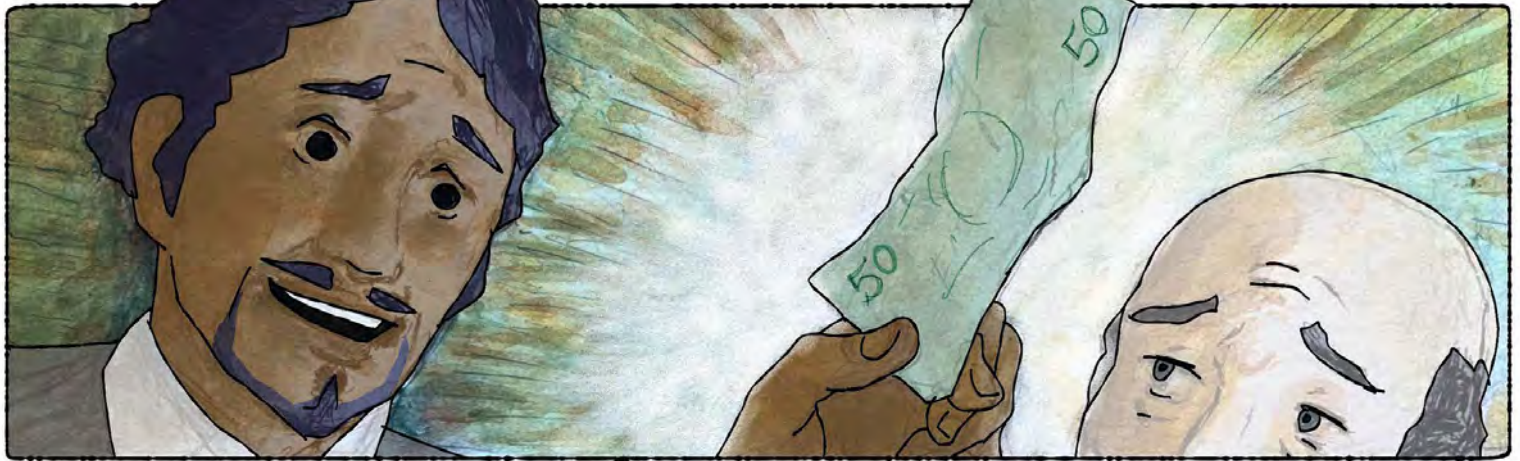
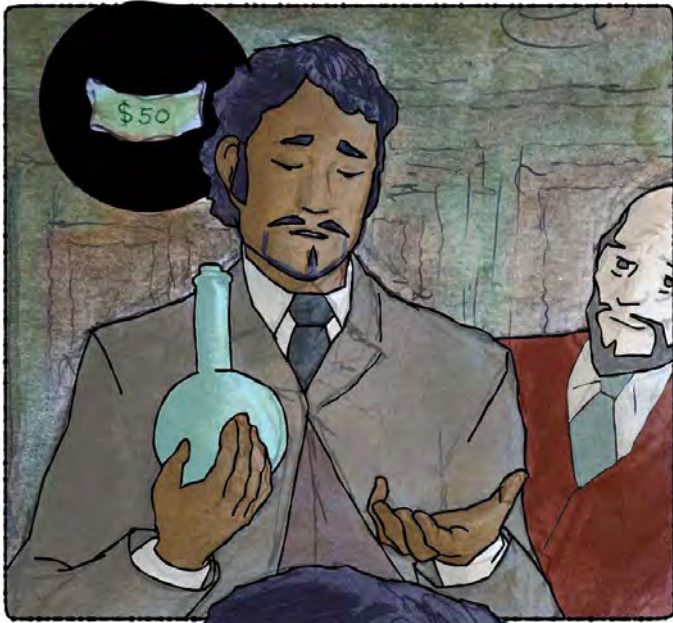




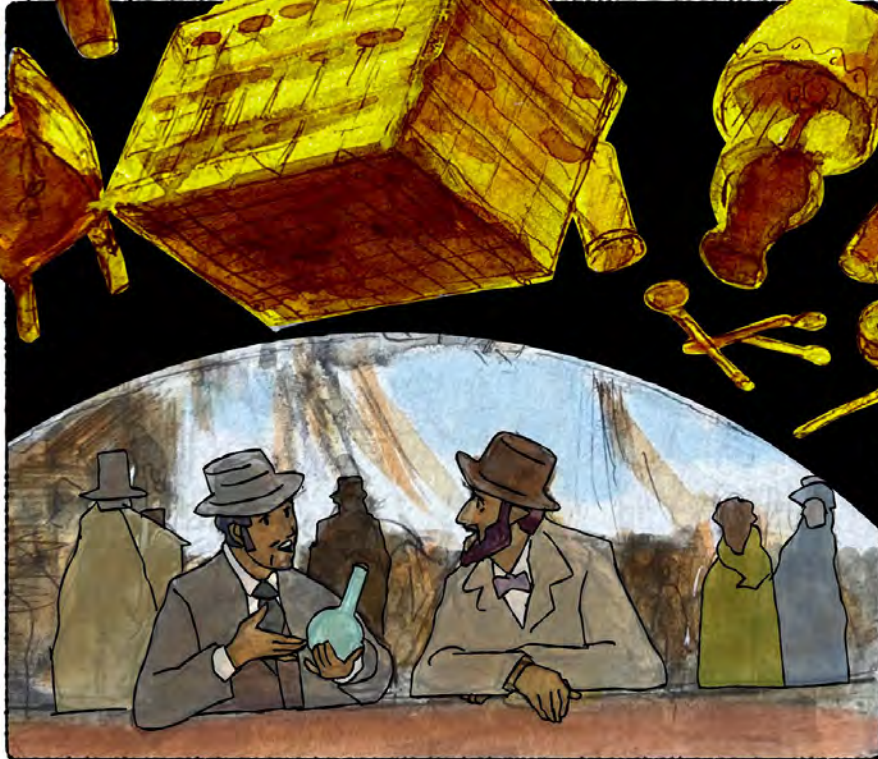




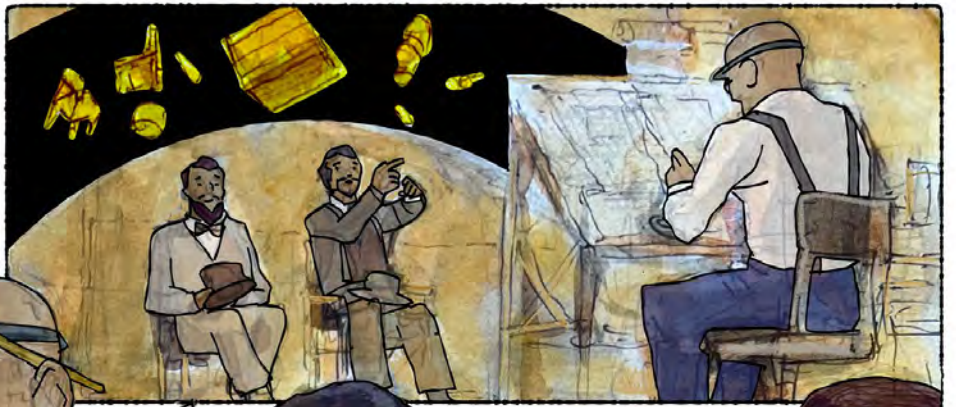




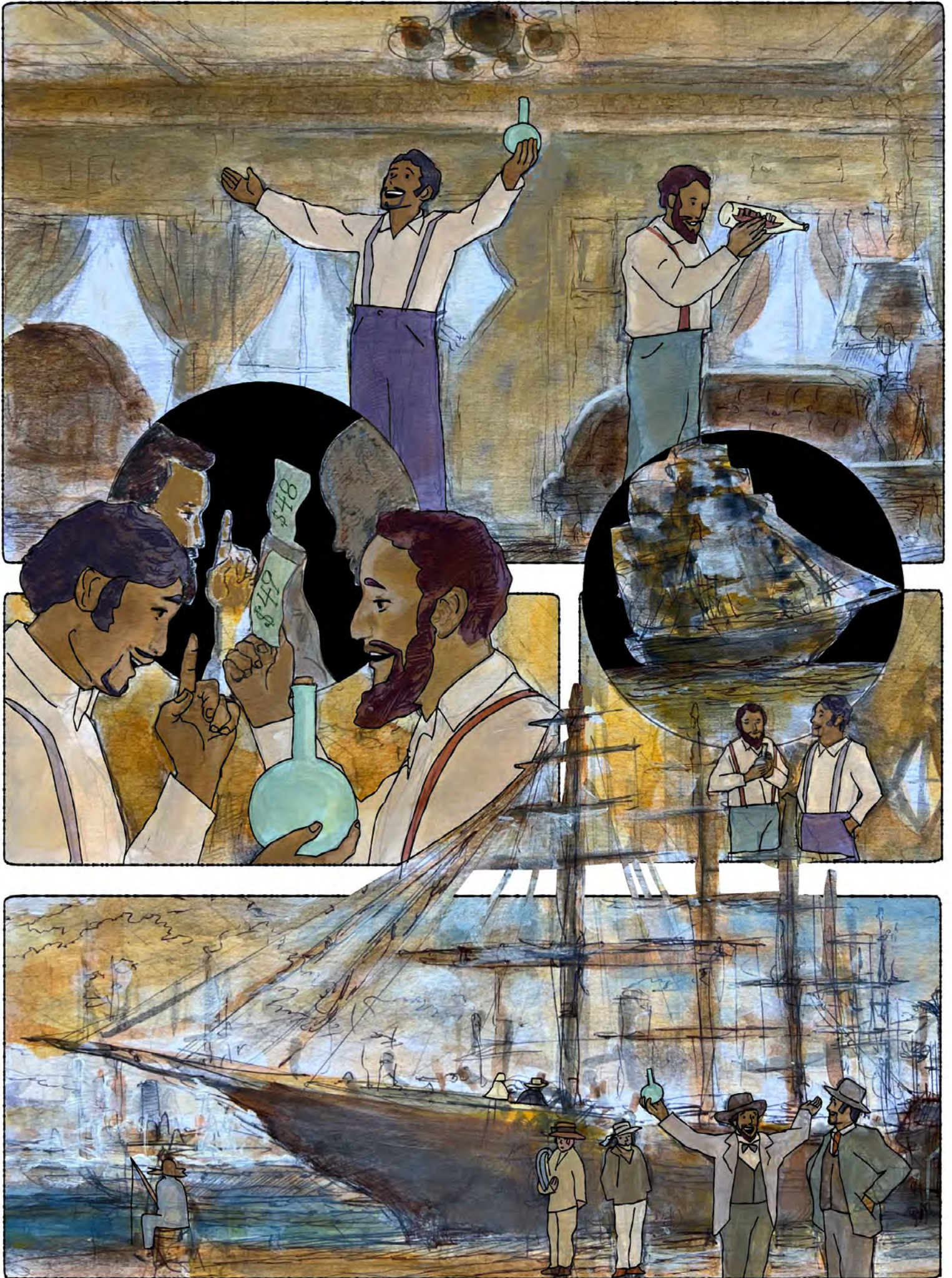




















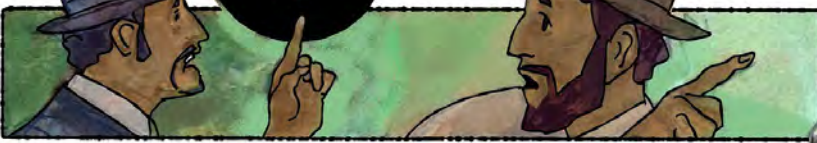








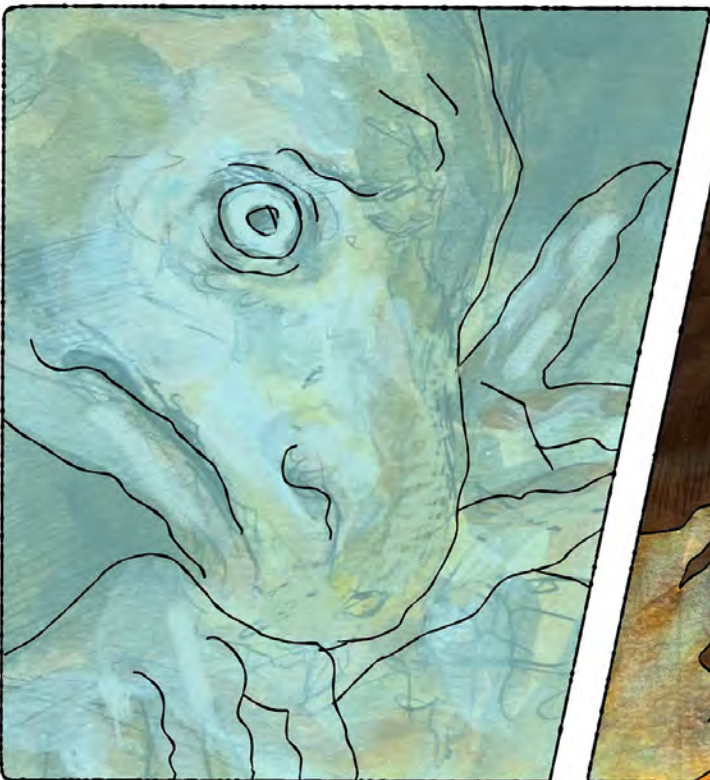
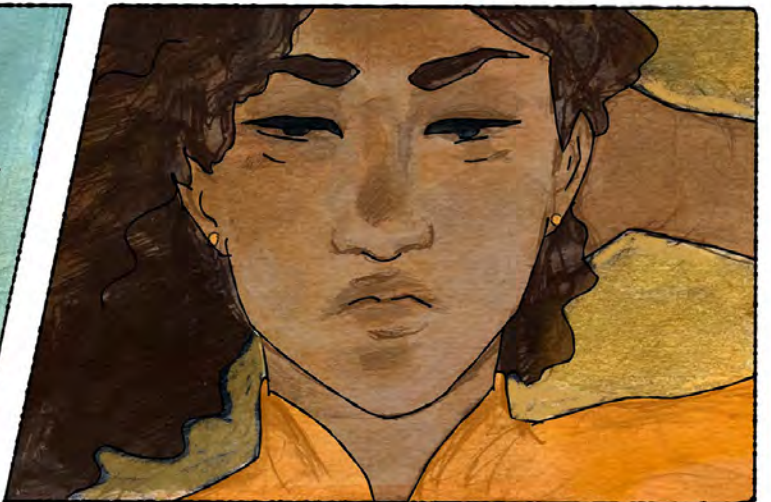




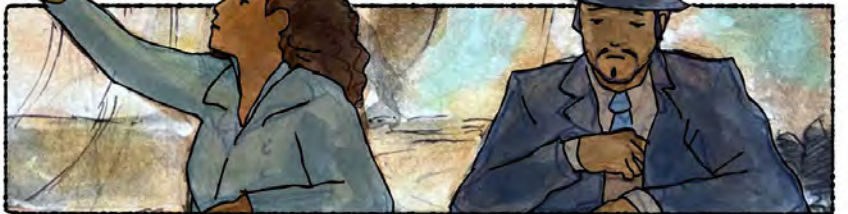








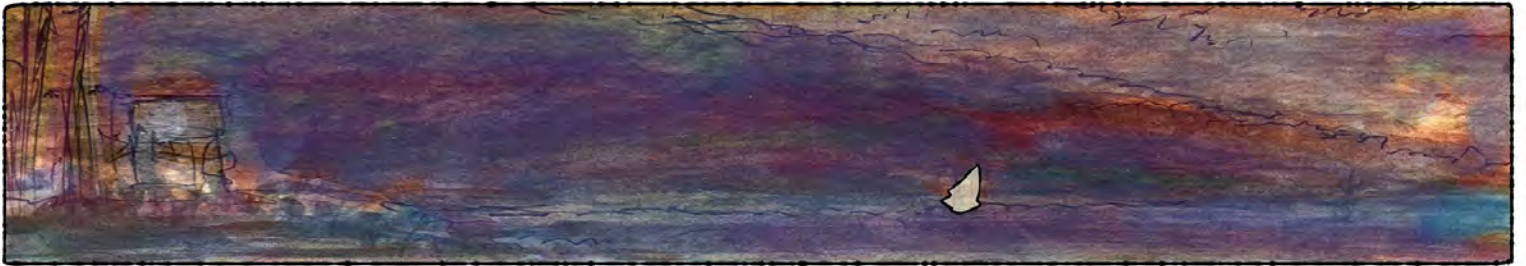


















# The Bottle Imp

Solomon Enos (after Robert Louis Stevenson)



Our story begins with Keawe, a young Hawaiian man exploring downtown San Francisco of the 1880s. He is enamoured by all he sees, especially a beautiful house that glistens in the morning sun. A man appears at a window and beckons him in.



Keawe enters and is awed by all the beauty within this man's home, and is offered a magical bottle which will grant all of Keawe's wishes. Naturally Keawe is sceptical, but the man assures him it will work, with one important caveat: the bottle cannot be destroyed or thrown away, and if Keawe passes away with the bottle, his soul will go to hell. The only way to get rid of the bottle is to sell it for less than what was paid for it.



Here the man then challenges Keawe to hand over a \$50 bill; Keawe then wishes for the money to return, and a new \$50 bill appears! Keawe thanks the man and leaves, meeting his friend at San Francisco harbour for a trip back home to Hawai'i. All the way back home, Keawe describes all the things he will wish for, and upon arriving in O'ahu, a bundle of money totalling \$5,650 magically appears in his bag. They both then visit a local architect, and Keawe describes a giant house full of expensive things to the architect, who then drafts blueprints and a bill for exactly \$5,650.





Keawe and his friend then travel back to Kona on the big island, where over the passing few months this new house is built and is full of all the things Keawe wished for. Keawe then sells the bottle to his friend for \$49, who then wishes for and receives a large sailing ship. They part ways, and Keawe throws a huge party in his new house, inviting all of Kona to attend.



Keawe is living his dream, and soon falls in love with a very intelligent and beautiful woman called Kōkua, who also loves him. Life could not seem to get better for Keawe. But tragedy befalls Keawe when one night, while in the tub, Keawe notices he has the first signs of leprosy, which is effectively a death sentence at this time in history. Keawe rapidly makes his way to Honolulu, tracking down the bottle, and learns to his horror that the bottle was last sold for two cents. Keawe reluctantly buys the bottle for one cent, notices that the leprosy has been cured, but takes very little solace in this as he now cannot sell the bottle, and his soul will be condemned to hell.



Upon his return to Kona, his beloved Kōkua greets him and learns the secret of the bottle. Immediately she knows the solution, but decides not to share this information with Keawe to teach him a lesson. Instead, she acts immediately to travel with Keawe to Tahiti where the exchange rate is one cent for two centimes. Kōkua then takes these two centimes to a local bar where she finds a drunken European sailor and explains the concept to him.





For one centime, he can buy this bottle, and all his dreams will be granted, though he will likely go to hell when he dies. The sailor agrees, buying the bottle for one centime, noting that he will most likely be going to hell anyway.



Keawe is exuberant, and recognises Kōkua for the amazing person that she is, and upon their return to Kona, Kōkua blesses the house with a Hawaiian prayer to remove any remaining curse, as they prepare to sell the house.



A few days later, Keawe's friend, who wished for a ship, visits and tells Keawe and Kōkua that he has sold the ship, then offers to buy the house. He then sells the house to turn it into a school, taking the power of the bottle and turning it to a good end.



Keawe and Kōkua then settle into a small and simple home overlooking the house, where Kōkua has decorated their small coffee table with a similar looking bottle stuffed with flowers.





# Learning Resources Overview

You can find the resources here:

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



- Read*
- Structure and main event mapping
  - Hot seating: characters and perspectives

- Respond*
- To themes: money
  - To characters: portrayal of characters

- Remediate*
- Short Story
  - Poster
  - Shape Poem
  - Graphic novel panel

- Reflect*
- Agree/disagree line walking debate



- Taking it further*
- Art & Design – creating an image of *The Bottle Imp*

## *CfE: Experiences and Outcomes*

- Listening and Talking: LIT 2-02a
- Reading: ENG 2-19a
- Writing: ENG 2-31a
- Art and Design: EXA 2-04a

## *Anti-racist Curriculum Principle*

See Breaking the Mould, Education Scotland

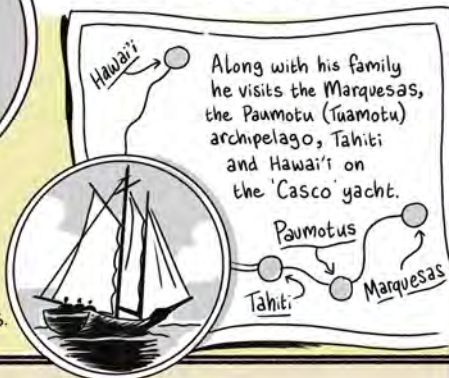
Principle 5: Our children and young people will be critical thinking global citizens that challenge discrimination and prejudice through an understanding and awareness of the behaviours, practices and processes that create injustice in the world.



# Stevenson in the Pacific

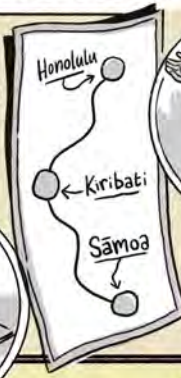


In 1888, Robert Louis Stevenson is paid to write a series of travel narratives for US and UK papers.



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'.



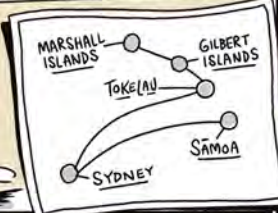
Stevenson befriends Hawaiian King Kalākaua who shares his notebooks containing Hawaiian legends.

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.



*Jack Brougham* is a freelance illustrator known for poster, comics and zine drawing and conference illustration. [www.jackbroughamdrawing.com](http://www.jackbroughamdrawing.com)



# The Bottle Imp

In this book you will find Solomon Enos's visual and verbal adaptation of 'The Bottle Imp', a short story by Robert Louis Stevenson set in the Pacific Islands.

The adaptation was commissioned as part of a project aimed at reworking Stevenson's Pacific writings for a contemporary audience. It is a fable which explores themes such as morality, happiness, greed and the corrupting power of money.

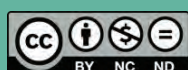
Along with a set of **accompanying resources**, carefully aligned with both the **Curriculum for Excellence** 'Experiences and Outcomes' and Education Scotland's Principles for an Anti-Racist Curriculum, the book provides a rich visual and verbal resource for teachers and students in Scottish schools working at **2nd Level** in **English** and **Art & Design**.

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