

Robinson Crusoe



by Daniel Defoe.

Daniel Defoe - [1660 - 1731]

Defoe was born in London and attended Morton's academy for Dissenters at Newington Green.

Daniel Defoe was an English writer, trader, journalist, pamphleteer and spy. He is most famous for his novel Robinson Crusoe, published in 1719, which is claimed to be second only to the Bible in its number of translations. He has been seen as one of the earliest proponents of the English novel, and helped to popularise the form in Britain with others such as Aphra Behn and Samuel Richardson. Defoe wrote many political tracts, was often in trouble with the authorities, and spent a period in prison. Intellectuals and political leaders paid attention to his fresh ideas and sometimes consulted him.

Defoe was a prolific and versatile writer, producing more than three hundred works, books, pamphlets, and journal on diverse topics, including politics, crime, religion, marriage, psychology and the Supernatural. He was also a pioneer of business journalism and economic journalism.

Robinson Crusoe is an Englishman from the Town York in the seventeenth century, the youngest son of a merchant of German Origin. Encouraged by his father to study law, Crusoe expresses his wish to go to sea instead. His family is against Crusoe going out to sea, and his father explains that it is better to seek a modest, secure life for oneself.

Initially, ^{Primarily} Robinson is committed to obeying his father, but ^{force, desire} he eventually ^{come-on} succumbs to temptation and ^{to make a start} embarks on a ship bound for London with a friend. When a storm ^{leads} causes ^{condition} the near deaths of Crusoe and his friend, the friend is ^{discourage} dissuaded from sea travel, but Crusoe still goes on to set himself up as merchant on a ship leaving London. This trip is financially successful, and Crusoe plans another, leaving his early profits in the care of a friendly widow.

^{happy} The second voyage does not prove as fortunate: the ship in the North African town of sallee. While on a fishing ^{journey} expedition, he and a slave boy break free and sail down the African Coast. ^{↳ voyage}

A kindly Portuguese captain picks them up, buys the slave boy from Crusoe, and takes Crusoe to Brazil.

In Brazil, Crusoe establishes himself as a plantation owner and soon becomes successful. Eager for slave labor and its economic advantages, he embarks on a slave-gathering

^{Journey}
expedition to West Africa but ends up shipwrecked off of the coast of Trinidad.

^{loss of a ship}
Crusoe soon learns he is the sole ^{one} survivor of the expedition and seeks ^{search} shelter and food for himself. He returns to the wreck's remains twelve times to salvage ^{to rescue} guns, powder, food, and other items.

Onshore, he finds goats he can graze for meat and builds himself a shelter. He ^{builds} erects a cross that he ^{enters} inscribes with the

date of his ^{appearance} arrival, September 1, 1659 and makes a notch every day in order never to lose track of time. He also keeps a journal of his lucky discovery of sprouting grain, and his household activities, nothing his attempts to make candles, his lucky discovery of sprouting grain ^{seed} and his construction of a cellar ^{a room}, among other events.

In June 1660, he falls ill and hallucinates ^{to affect with} that an angel visits, warning him to repent ^{regret}. Drinking tobacco-steeped ^{unmerciful} rum, Crusoe experiences a religious illumination ^{spiritual} and realizes that God has delivered him from his earlier sins ^{moral law}.

After recovering, Crusoe makes a survey of the area and discovers he is on an island. He finds a pleasant valley abounding in grapes, where he builds a shady retreat.

Crusoe begins to feel must belong to of the cannibals said to live in the region. Terrified, he arms himself and remains on the lookout for cannibals.

He also builds an underground celler in which to herd his goats at night and devises a way to cook underground.

One evening he hears gunshots and the next day he is able to see a ship wrecked on his coast. It is empty when he arrives on the scene to investigate. Crusoe once again thanks Providence for having been saved. Soon afterward, Crusoe discovers that the shore has been strewn with human carnage, apparently the remains of a cannibal feast. He is alarmed and continues to be vigilant. Later Crusoe catches sight of thirty cannibals heading for shore with their victims.

One of the victims is killed. Another one, waiting to be slaughtered, suddenly breaks free and runs toward Crusoe's dwelling. Crusoe protects him, killing one of the pursuers and injuring the other, whom the victim finally kills. Well-armed, Crusoe defeats most of the cannibals onshore. The victim vows total submission to Crusoe in gratitude for his liberation. Crusoe names him Friday, to commemorate the day on which his ~~life~~ was saved, and takes him as his servant.

Finding Friday cheerful and intelligent, Crusoe teaches him some English words and some elementary Christian concepts. Friday in turn, explains that the cannibals are divided into distinct nations and that they only eat their enemies.

Friday also informs Crusoe that the cannibals saved the men from the shipwreck Crusoe witnessed earlier, and that those men, Spaniards, are living nearby. Friday expresses a longing to return to his people, and Crusoe is upset at the prospect of losing Friday. Crusoe then entertains the idea of making contact with the Spaniards, and Friday admits that he would rather die than lose Crusoe. The two build a boat to visit the cannibals land together. Before they have a chance to leave, they are surprised by the arrival of twenty-one cannibals in canoes. The cannibals are holding three victims, one of whom is in European dress.

Friday and Crusoe kill most of the cannibals and release the European, a Spaniard, Friday is overjoyed to discover that another of the rescued victims is his father. The four men return to Crusoe's dwelling for food and rest. Crusoe prepares to welcome them into his community permanently. He sends Friday's father and the Spaniard out in a canoe to explore the nearby land.

Eight days later, the sight of an approaching English ship alarms Friday. Crusoe is suspicious. Friday and Crusoe watch as eleven men take three captives onshore in a boat. Nine of the men explore the land, leaving two to guard the captives. Friday and Crusoe overpower these men and release the captives.

One of whom is the ship, which has been taken in a meeting, Shattering to the remaining mutineers from different points Friday and Crusoe confuse and tie the men by making them run from place to place. Eventually they confront the mutineers, telling them that all ~~may~~ may escape with their lives except the ringleader. The men surrender.

Crusoe and the captain pretend that the island is an imperial territory and that the governor has spared their lives in order to send them all to England to face justice. Keeping five men as hostages, Crusoe sends the other men out to seize the ship. When the ship is brought in, Crusoe nearly faints.

On December 19, 1686

Crusoe boards the ship to return to England.

There, he finds his family is deceased except for two sisters. His widow friend has kept Crusoe's money safe, and after traveling to Lisbon, Crusoe learns from the Portuguese captain that his plantations in Brazilian lands. Wary of sea travel, Crusoe attempts to return to England by land but it is threatened by bad weather and wild animals in northern Spain. Finally arriving back in England, Crusoe receives word that the sale of his plantations has been completed and that he has made a considerable fortune.

After donating a portion to the king and his sisters, Crusoe is restless and considers returning to Brazil, but he is dissuaded by the thought that he would have to become Catholic. He marries, and his wife dies. Crusoe finally departs for the East Indies as a trader in 1694. He revisits his island, finding that the Spaniards are governing it well and that it has become a prosperous colony.