

"I'm not sure that I would be able to live for years without seeing anyone else like Robinson Crusoe did." Laura, 12



ROBINSON CRUSOE

Running away to sea brings adventure and wealth, but then come shipwreck and a desperate struggle for survival.

Defying his parents, Robinson Crusoe goes to sea. He is captured by pirates but escapes to Brazil. He makes a fortune using slave labour to grow tobacco and sugar. He sails to Africa to bring back more slaves but is shipwrecked on an uninhabited island.

Everyone else is drowned. For over twenty years he lives alone. He learns to hunt and fish and make shelter. Then the cannibals arrive. Will this be the end of his adventure – or the chance to escape?



ISBN 978-1-906230-71-5



9 781906 230715

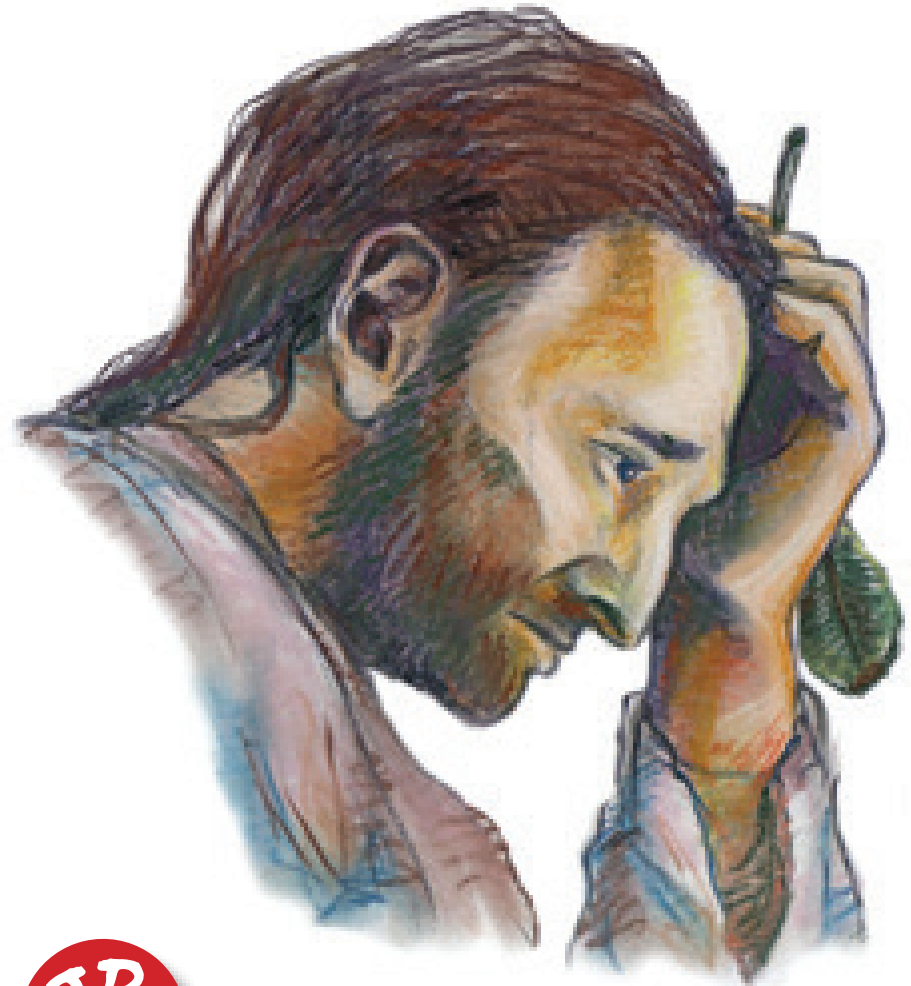
www.realreads.co.uk



ROBINSON CRUSOE

Daniel Defoe

DANIEL DEFOE



Retold by Margaret Elphinstone
Illustrated by Katy Elphinstone

ROBINSON CRUSOE

DANIEL DEFOE



www.realreads.co.uk

Retold by Margaret Elphinstone
Illustrated by Katy Elphinstone

Published by Real Reads Ltd
Newbury, Berkshire, UK
www.realreads.co.uk

Text copyright © Margaret Elphinstone 2013

Illustrations copyright © Katy Elphinstone 2013

The right of Margaret Elphinstone to be identified as author of
this book has been asserted by her in accordance with the
Copyright, Design and Patents Act 1988

First published in 2013

Reprinted 2014, 2015

All rights reserved

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any
form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including
photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval
system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

LEXILE® and the LEXILE® logo are trademarks of MetaMetrics,
Inc., and are registered in the United States and abroad. Copyright
© 2019 MetaMetrics, Inc. All rights reserved.

ISBN 978-1-906230-71-5



Lexile® level: 780L
Word count: 5,960

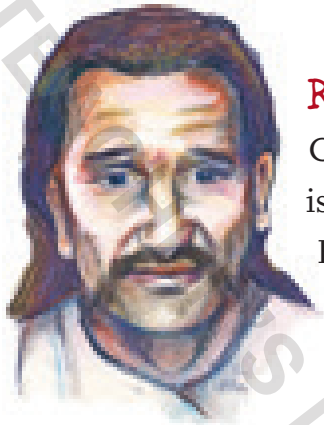
Printed in China by Wai Man Book Binding (China) Ltd
Designed by Lucy Guenot
Typeset by Bookcraft Ltd, Stroud, Gloucestershire

CONTENTS

The Characters	4
Robinson Crusoe	7
Taking things further	55



THE CHARACTERS



Robinson Crusoe

Crusoe, shipwrecked on an island, must survive alone.

How will he do it? Will he ever escape?

Robinson's parents

Crusoe's parents have already lost two sons. They try to persuade him not to go to sea.



The Brazilian planters

Like Crusoe himself, his friends in Brazil own plantations worked by slaves. Is their latest plan a good idea?



Crusoe's dog

Crusoe's dog also survived the shipwreck. What would Robinson do without his friend and companion?

Poll Parrot

Crusoe catches and tames a parrot. At last there is someone else on the island who can talk.



The Savages

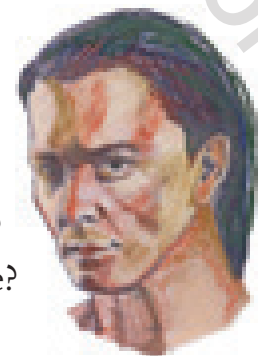
Crusoe discovers that cannibals sometimes hold feasts on the island.

Is he in terrible danger? What can he do?



Friday

What is Friday really like? Is he a dangerous savage? Should Crusoe trust him? Can he help Crusoe escape?





ROBINSON CRUSOE

My father wouldn't hear of me going to sea. Both my elder brothers had gone abroad and never come back. Naturally my parents wanted me to stay in York. But I hadn't learned any trade, and my head was filled with rambling thoughts. One day I found myself in Hull with a friend who was going to sea. I hadn't planned to run away, but it seemed too good an opportunity to miss. I sailed with my friend. It was the 1st of September 1651. I was eighteen years old.

The ship ran into a terrible storm. I thought God was punishing me for running away. The storm passed, and my friend teased me for my fears and gave me punch to drink. I forgot all about turning back. We suffered even worse storms; in the end our ship was wrecked near Yarmouth. Even my friend was frightened.



‘I think you’re some kind of Jonah,’ he said. ‘In the Bible, Jonah caused bad weather and shipwrecks. He brought bad luck to any ship he went aboard. You ought never to go to sea any more!’

I wish I’d listened to him, but I was ashamed to turn back. In London I signed on a ship bound for Africa. We were captured by Turkish pirates, who sold me as a house slave. After two years I was rescued by a Portuguese ship, which took me to Brazil.



reaching Friday's country in their own boat, and leaves out all the other characters involved in Crusoe's departure.

- After Crusoe returns to England, he goes back to Brazil with Friday to visit his plantation, and has more adventures there. He even revisits his island and meets the Spanish colonists who took over from the villainous English mutineers.

Back in time

Robinson Crusoe is set more than three hundred years ago, in the seventeenth century. People then had a very different idea of the geography of the world, of relations between different races, and of the importance of religion.

Europeans were still exploring the rest of the world, and there was fierce competition between European countries for access to the wealth of places like Africa, America and Asia. This competition led to a succession of wars.

Virtually everyone in Europe believed in a god who could influence all aspects of life and punish wrong-doers. Crusoe would have grown

up during the English Civil War, which led to King Charles being executed and a Protestant Commonwealth being established under Cromwell. Crusoe was a Protestant and this is reflected in his attitudes to religion, and his belief in self-sufficiency.

Crusoe works hard and is inventive. He shows a lot of initiative in improving his conditions and looking after himself. This reflects the individualism which is associated with being a Protestant. He is used to valuing everything in terms of money, so it is a shock to him to realise that money is useless on his island. He belongs to a European world where personal wealth, and therefore personal worth, is measured in money.

In those days no one questioned the rights and wrongs of slavery. Crusoe had been a slave himself, but he never compares his experiences with those of the slaves on his plantation. He automatically makes Friday his slave. Europeans assumed that they were superior to other races, just as they thought that Christianity was the only true religion and only Christians had a true god.