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Daniel Defoe

Excerpt

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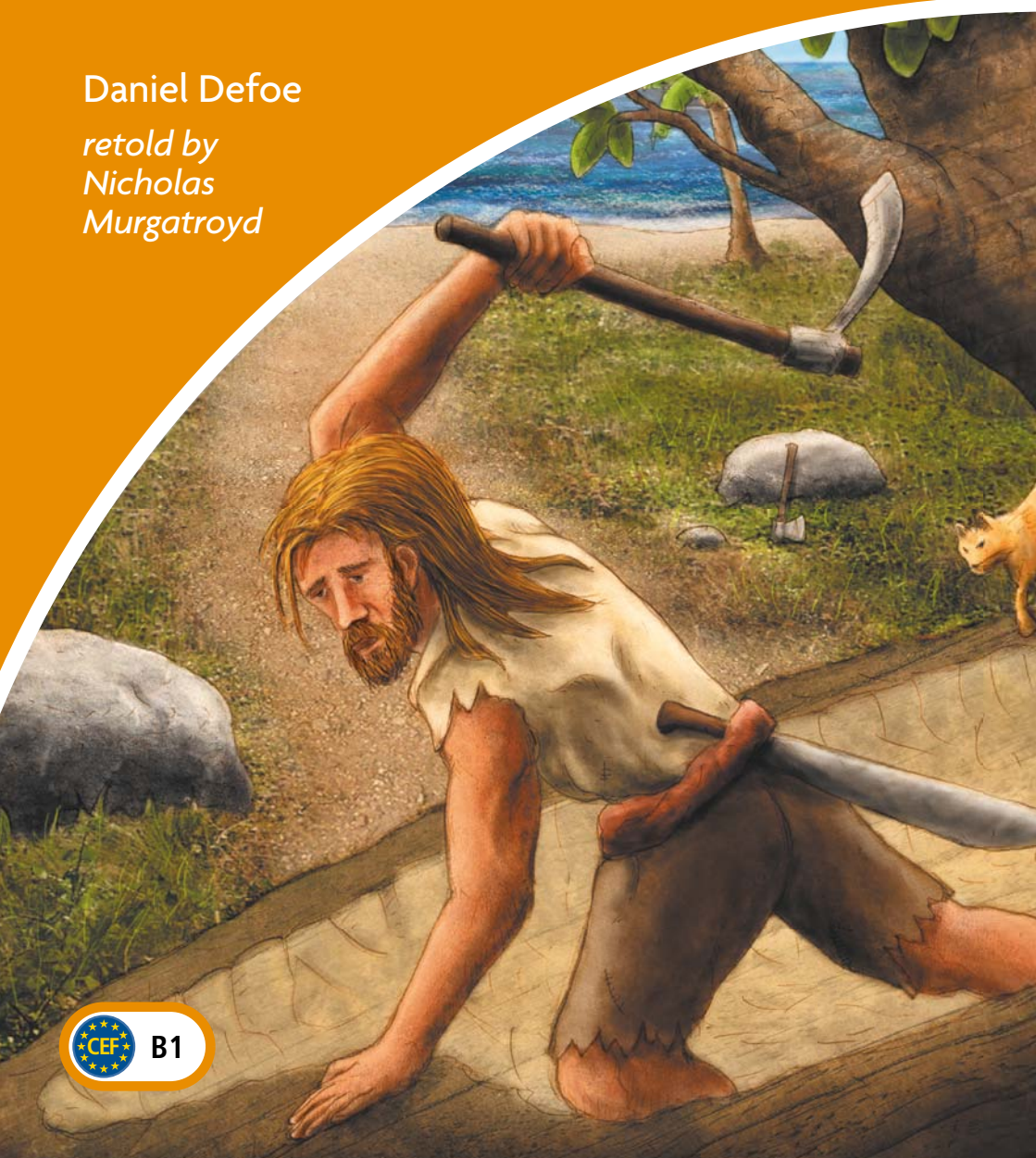


Cambridge  
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# Robinson Crusoe

Daniel Defoe

*retold by  
Nicholas  
Murgatroyd*



B1

## People in the story

**Robinson Crusoe:** an Englishman who wants to travel and see the world; he spends nearly thirty years on an island

**The pirates:** the people who attack Robinson's ship; he has to live with a pirate captain for two years

**The cannibals:** the people who sometimes cook and eat their prisoners on Robinson's island; Robinson lives in fear of them

**Friday:** a cannibal who becomes Friday's servant and friend

**The Spaniards:** the sailors who are shipwrecked near Robinson's island

## BEFORE YOU READ



- 1 Look at the cover and the pictures in the first two chapters. Do you think Robinson Crusoe is a pirate?
-

## Chapter 1

# My first voyage

I was born in York, England in 1632. My father was from Bremen in Germany and had moved to England for business. His family name was Kreutznaer, but English people aren't very comfortable with foreign names. Everyone started to call my father Crusoe instead of Kreutznaer, so eventually our family name became Crusoe. My first name was Robinson, which had been my mother's family name before she married my father. I had two older brothers, who left home when I was young. The oldest one was a soldier and died in a war, but I don't know what happened to my other brother: he left home and we never heard from him again.

My parents wanted me to go to university and become a lawyer, but I told them I wanted to become a sailor and see the world. I was sure I'd be able to travel and make money at the same time, but my father wanted me to stay at home.

He said, 'Why do you want to do such a dangerous thing? I told your brother to stay at home, but he never listened. He wanted to be a soldier and now he's dead. Travel won't make you happy. Everything you need for happiness is here in England. And it's safe here.'

Seeing that my parents didn't want me to travel, I promised to stay in England. However, making promises is much easier than keeping them. After a few weeks I forgot all the promises I'd made and went to speak to my mother about wanting to travel. I knew it would be easier to persuade her than my father, so I waited until we were alone together. I told her that I wanted to travel, but I promised her that I would return.

I said, ‘If I don’t like travelling, I will come home and become a lawyer.’

My mother was worried, but she still asked my father if I could go.

My father said, ‘He’ll be happiest if he stays at home. If he travels, he’ll be very unhappy. He mustn’t go.’

So I stayed at home for another year, but I didn’t become a lawyer and I couldn’t stop thinking about travelling. On 1 September 1651 I went to Hull, a large port<sup>1</sup> in Yorkshire, to see a friend. I was planning to return home after the visit, but when I saw how many ships were there, I started to think of travelling again. Some of the ships were huge and sailed to countries in South America and Africa, places I wanted to see. They carried things made in England and brought back foreign food and clothes. And the sailors in the port all looked very happy with their lives.

My friend in Hull had a ship and was sailing for London that day.

He said, ‘Come to London with me. You’ll see lots of interesting things.’

I didn’t think much about my parents and I forgot my father’s warning. Travelling was my biggest ambition. My friend was right: there was a whole world to see. So I got on my friend’s ship and we left for London.

It was one of the biggest mistakes of my life. The weather was fine when we left Hull, but after eight days it changed. We were near a port called Yarmouth when the blue sky was suddenly hidden by black clouds and a terrible storm began. I’d never seen anything like it: the ship was out of control. I said to myself, ‘You’re mad, Robinson Crusoe! You should have listened to your father. Now you’re going to die.’ Still, frightened as I was, I was hoping I’d live. I promised

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myself that if I lived, I'd return to my parents and never go on another ship.

Everyone was afraid they were going to die. We could see land and other ships, but it was impossible to reach them. Waves as high as mountains crashed into the ship and soon we started to sink.<sup>2</sup> As we were sinking, we saw a small boat with twelve men inside it. It was from one of the other ships. Someone was coming to save us!



The men in the boat tried hard to reach us, but the wind was very strong. Every time they tried to come to the side of our ship, the waves moved them away. Finally, we all managed to jump onto the boat, but the other ship was too far away to reach now. I was very frightened, but our captain said to the men who'd come to save us, 'We must try to get to land. Row to the nearest beach and I'll pay your captain for his boat.'

Everyone in the boat rowed as hard as they could. Eventually, we landed at Yarmouth. There were many people on the shore,<sup>3</sup> waiting to help shipwrecked<sup>4</sup> sailors, and they gave us a place to stay. After two or three days in Yarmouth I saw my friend again and he introduced me to his father, who asked me how I was.

I said, 'I'm better now, thank you. I was really frightened in the storm, but I'd never been to sea before. I'm sure it will be better in the future.'

My friend's father looked at me strangely. 'That was your first time at sea?' he asked me.

'Yes, it was,' I replied.

My friend's father looked very serious. 'I'm sorry, Robinson, but you must never go to sea again. Stay on land,' he said. 'There is something about you that's unlucky.'

In years to come I would often remember his words.

## LOOKING BACK

- 1 Check your answer to *Before you read* on page 6.

## ACTIVITIES

- 2 Complete the sentences with the places in the box.

Africa	London	Morocco
<u>Germany</u>	Brazil	the Caribbean islands

- Although Robinson was born in England, his father's family came from Germany.
  - After his first trip abroad, Robinson returns to .....
  - Robinson isn't a free man in the two years he spends in .....
  - Robinson goes on a Portuguese ship to .....
  - Robinson leaves his farm to go on another trip to .....
  - Robinson and his men are sailing towards ..... when they have to leave their ship during a storm.
- 3 Underline the correct words in each sentence.
- Robinson's parents wanted him to be a lawyer / soldier.
  - Robinson is on his way to London / Hull when his ship sinks.
  - Robinson comes back from his first trip abroad with three hundred / two hundred and sixty pounds more than he left with.
  - In Morocco, Robinson lives in a prison / house on the coast.
  - Robinson spends four / eight years in Brazil.
  - From the island, Robinson makes twelve / thirteen trips to the ship to get things.



**4** Match the two parts of the sentences.

- 1 Robinson's father wants him to stay at home because  e
- 2 Before he goes on his second trip abroad, Robinson leaves some money in England
- 3 Robinson manages to escape from the pirates
- 4 Robinson gets enough money to buy a farm in Brazil
- 5 On the way to the Caribbean, Robinson and the other sailors leave the ship because 
  - a by selling Xury.
  - b with his dead friend's wife.
  - c he thinks travelling is dangerous.
  - d they think they will die if they stay on it.
  - e when he's on a fishing trip.

**5** Answer the questions.

- 1 How does Robinson feel on his first morning on the island?  
*He feels sad when he thinks of his dead friends.*
- 2 What does Robinson take from the ship to the island?  
 .....
- 3 What happens to the ship at the end of Chapter 5?  
 .....

## LOOKING FORWARD

.....

**6** What do you think happens in the next five chapters?

Answer the questions.

- 1 What does Robinson eat and drink when all the food from the ship has gone?  
 .....
- 2 Is he happy on the island?  
 .....