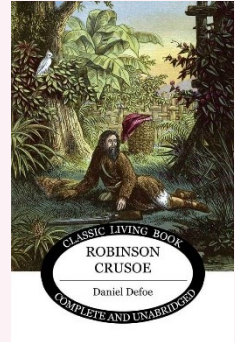




## TEEN'S BOOK CLUB GUIDE

# ROBINSON CRUSOE

By Daniel Defoe



“Poor Robin Crusoe! Where are you? Where have you been? How come you here?” – Poll the Parrot

### GENRE

Classic Literature

Realistic/Biographical Fiction

### THEMES

Providence

Self- Discovery

Repentance

Adventure

Contentment

**Self-Discovery:** The process of acquiring insight into one's character.

**Repentance:** The act of turning from sin.

### CHARACTERS

#### *Robinson Crusoe*

Crusoe is the narrator and protagonist of this biographical and fictional story. While his father has hopes of him becoming a lawyer, Crusoe dreams of adventure and glory outside of England. Despising his father's sound advice, Crusoe chooses a path of rebellion and disobedience; landing him in the position of being shipwrecked and utterly alone on an island in the Caribbean. During this forced isolation, Crusoe must confront his beliefs about God, contentment, good and evil, and learn true repentance.

## Friday

Friday is a young Caribbean native who is rescued by Crusoe on his shipwreck island, moments before a warring cannibal tribe is about to consume him. Friday, full of awe and gratitude, dedicates his life to Crusoe and becomes his companion and servant. Crusoe helps Friday to understand that cannibalism is wicked, and teaches him the ways of Christianity. Friday gladly accepts Jesus as his personal saviour and longs to return to his tribe to share the good news with his lost family and friends.

## STORYLINE

Robinson Crusoe yearns for the sea and adventure, finding his middle-class life and prospects in York, England, dull and unappealing. Giving in to the temptation to travel abroad to seek riches and glory, Robinson despises all wise counsel, as well as his conscience, to fulfil his desires. With a sense of foreboding and dread looming over him, Crusoe pushes those feelings aside and embarks on his journey. For a short time, he is successful, but his success is short-lived, and he finds himself shipwrecked, stranded, and entirely alone on an unknown island.

This is an adventure tale that explores the providence of God, self-discovery through forced isolation, contentment in all circumstances, and the value of true repentance.

## *A Note to the Reader*

Robinson Crusoe was first published in 1719, a time when culture and language were very different from today. Within the pages of this book, you will come across outdated and offensive terminology for people groups, as well as abhorrent practices of selling and buying people for slavery. It's important to consider this while reading, and to always remember that every human being has been made in God's image, and is, therefore, inherently valuable; all men and women, no matter their gender, heritage, skin colour, or abilities, are all equal in God's sight.

# 1 QUESTION ONE

What part of Robinson Crusoe's adventure did you most enjoy?

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# 2 QUESTION TWO

Crusoe wrestles with the idea of, "Why has God done this to me?". How did he eventually come to feel a deep sense of gratitude toward God's Providence, instead of bitterness and anger?

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# 3 QUESTION THREE

What did you find most interesting about Crusoe's solitary life on the island? Which skill did he acquire that you might like to learn?

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## 4 QUESTION FOUR

How did Crusoe, who rejected sound advice and his conscience early in the novel, come to discover the joy of true repentance?

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## 5 QUESTION FIVE

What impact did the footprint on the beach have on Crusoe? Discuss the tension between his desire for companionship and continued isolation.

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## 6 QUESTION SIX

When Crusoe is confronted by cannibalism, his initial reaction is to plot to kill the native people. Why does Crusoe ultimately decide against “murdering” these people? Does he believe God will punish their cannibalism?

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## 7 QUESTION SEVEN

Robinson considers how “He [God] has bestowed upon them [all people] the same powers, the same reason, the same affections, the same sentiments of kindness and obligation, the same passions and resentments of wrongs, the same sense of gratitude, sincerity, fidelity, and all the capacities of doing good and receiving good that He has given to us [European Christians].” Discuss the importance and significance of this discovery.

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## 8 QUESTION EIGHT

Friday becomes incredibly devoted to Crusoe and declares, “Me die when you die”. Discuss the positive and negative aspects of Friday and Crusoe’s relationship.

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## 9 QUESTION NINE

Evangelism is a theme in the story, and Crusoe comments that it is beautiful that the doctrine of the Gospel is easy to understand. Do you consider the Gospel easy to understand? Have you ever shared your faith with a non-Christian friend?

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10 QUESTION TEN

Upon Crusoe’s return to England, he compares his experience of being shipwrecked and eventually restored in wealth and blessing to that of Job from the Bible. What does this reveal about Crusoe's views of Providence? Does he consider his shipwreck an unlucky event? Or does he believe it was something else?

Lined area for writing an answer to the question.

NOTES

Lined area for taking notes.