



Leipziger

Robinson Crusoe

Daniel Defoe

Stimuliert by Michael West

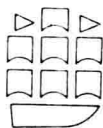
Revised by 1) K. Swain

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Simplified by Michael West

Revised by D K Swan



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Note

Words outside Stage 3 of New Method Supplementary
Readers are shown in a list on p.38

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1 *I go to sea*

I was born in the year 1632, in the city of York, of a good family. At a very early age I wanted to go to sea. My father was a wise man, and he begged me not to do so. For a time I decided not to think of it any more. But one day in the city of Hull I met a friend who was going to sea on his father's ship. He asked me to go with him. Then, without asking my father, without asking God's blessing, without any thought of the result, I went on board the ship.

2 *The ship is lost in the storm*

On the same day we left Hull, meaning to go to the African coast. We guided the ship as if we were going to the island of Fernando de Noronha. Then we passed to the east of that island. After a few days there came a fearful storm. The wind and the waves threw the ship this way and that for twelve days. The ship was badly broken and a lot of water was coming in. Then one of our men, early in the morning, cried out, 'Land!' Just after that, the ship ran on to some sand. The waves came over the ship, and we knew that very soon it would be broken to pieces. We had a small boat on board; we let the boat down into the water, and got into it. When we had gone some distance in the boat, a great wave came from behind. 'Oh, God!' we cried—and we were all thrown into the water.



3 *I am thrown up on the land*

A great wave took me and carried me on towards the shore: it left me on the land, badly hurt. I was very weak, but I got up on my feet and ran up to a dry place and lay there more dead than alive. After a time I was sick and threw up a great deal of sea water which had got into my stomach. Then I wanted to rest; but I dared not sleep on the ground for fear of being eaten by wild beasts.

So I climbed up into a tree, and remained there until morning. I was sure that all my friends had been killed and I alone had been saved. I was very tired and I quickly fell asleep.

4 *I go out to the ship*

When I woke, it was day. The sea was quiet, and the ship lay less than a kilometre from the shore. I had with me nothing—no food, nor anything with which I might get food. So I decided to go out to the ship to see what useful things I might find there. I took off my clothes and swam to the ship. I climbed through a hole in the side. The lower part was full of water, but the other parts were dry.

5 *Bringing things from the ship*

I found four large pieces of board and tied them together to make a raft. Then I put on this raft all the things that I might need from the ship. I took a large box of food, an axe and other things for cutting and shaping wood, seven guns and plenty of powder for the guns, pens and paper, some books, also needles and the few clothes that I could find. I took a small sail and fixed it in my raft. I then sailed towards the shore. When I came

near the shore, the front of the raft went up on to the sand, and all my goods began to fall off the end of the raft which was still in the water. I just saved them and held them back. After a lot of hard work I tied the things down, so that my hands were now free to work on the front of the raft and set it back into the water. Then I guided my raft into a little river. There I got all my goods safely on to the land.

6 *I am on an island*

My next work was to look at the country, and to find a proper place for a hut to store my goods in and keep them safe. There was a hill not more than two kilometres away. There were other hills, but it seemed to be the highest. I took my gun, and walked to the top of the hill. There I saw with great sadness that I was on an island. The sea was on all sides of me: there was no land to be seen, except two small islands about fourteen kilometres away to the west. I couldn't see any fields or huts on my island, nor anything to show that there were men on it. I saw plenty of birds, but I did not know their kinds, nor which were fit to eat. On my way back I shot at a great bird. I believe that this was the first gun that had ever been fired on the island. At the sound, great numbers of birds of hundreds of sorts flew up, making loud noises of crying and calling.

7 *I make a house to live in*

Still looking for a place for my hut, I found a level place on the side of a hill. There was a cave in the side of the hill at the back of this level place, but this cave was small and did not go far into the rock. I brought the sail from my raft, and made a tent on the level ground. Then

I drew a half-circle round the tent. In the days that followed, I cut down young trees and made a strong fence round this half-circle. The fence was nearly two metres high, made of posts with sharp points at the top. Then I began to cut away the rock, so as to make the cave larger; and I put the earth and stones inside the fence, so that it raised the ground by about half a metre.

8 *Finishing the house*

In this way I had two rooms: my tent in which I would live, and the cave as a store-room. There was no door in the fence, but I made a rough ladder with steps to go over the top, and, when I was in, I lifted the ladder over after me. So I was completely shut in and quite safe.

I then brought all the goods that I had taken from the ship, and put them in my store-room.

After I had been on the island about ten or twelve days, I thought that I should need some way of marking the days. So I set up a tall thick post, and cut on it in big letters:

I CAME ON SHORE HERE ON MAY 30, 1659

Each day I cut a small mark on the side of this post. Every seventh mark was larger than the others, meaning a new week. After thirty or thirty-one marks I made a line, meaning a new month.

9 *Some necessary things*

I now began making some things that I needed most. I greatly needed a chair and a table—without them I couldn't write or eat properly. Because I hadn't the proper things for making them, these cost me a great deal of hard work and trouble. For example, when I

wanted a board, I had no other way except to cut down a tree, and cut away the round part of the tree on each side with my axe. In this way I could make only one board out of a tree. But I had plenty of time, so I didn't mind.

I made a table and a chair, and I fixed boards all along one side of my store-room; on these I put all my stores and goods in order. Then I had everything ready at hand, and it was a great pleasure to me to see all my goods in order, and to find that I had such a stock of them.

10 *I make a lamp*

I didn't know what to do for light in the evening. So, as soon as it was dark, I was forced to go to bed. I might have made a good light with bees' wax, but I had no bees' wax. All I could do was this: whenever I killed and ate any animal, I set the fat on one side. I made a little cup of earth, dried in the sun, which I filled with the fat. With this I made a lamp. This gave me light, though not a clear good light.

11 *Discovering more of the island*

I had now been in this unhappy island for more than ten months. Having now made for myself a safe place to live in, I had a great desire to discover more about the rest of the island. I went up the little stream where I had first brought my raft on shore. On the bank of this stream I found grassy plains in which sugar was growing—but wild and not perfect. As I went farther up the stream, these plains ended, and there were more trees. Here I found very many kinds of fruit. I gathered a lot of this fruit because I had thought of a good use for it—that is, to dry it in the sun and keep it with my store of food.

12 *'Home' again*

I slept that night in a tree. On the next day I travelled on and came to an opening in the hills, where the country fell away to the west. Here the country appeared so fresh, so green and so full of flowers, that it looked like a planted garden, and I thought with some pleasure that I was king and lord of all this island. Having spent three days on this journey, I came 'home'—as I must now call my tent. I took with me the fruit which I had gathered: but, before I got there, many kinds were bad. I set out the rest to dry in the sun, and after some days I found that they had dried perfectly.

13 *The rains*

During this month there were heavy rains, so that I could not go out from my tent. For this reason it was not easy to get food.

I did go out twice. The first time, I killed an animal, and on the last day of the rain I caught a large fish. For the rest of the rainy season I ate my dried fruit, and food that I had taken from the ship.

During this time I worked at making my store-room larger. I also made baskets for carrying the earth out of the store-room and to keep food in.

I had no pots (except two very small ones) to hold any liquid. I hadn't a pot in which to boil anything, except one which I had taken from the ship—and that was too big.

14 *I make pots*

I looked all over the island, and at last I discovered a kind of clay of which a pot might be made. It would

make the reader laugh at me if I told what strange, ugly things I made, how many of the pots fell in, and how many fell out, how many broke and fell to pieces.

I worked very hard, but I couldn't make more than two large ugly things—I can't call them "jars"—in about two months' labour. But I made several little pots and cups, and these I was able to make better. I set wood all round the pots that I had made, and kept up a fire outside and on the top, till the pots were red with the heat. After five or six hours I began to let the fire go down slowly.

I watched my pots all night, so that the fire might not go down too quickly. In the morning I had three very good—I won't say 'beautiful'—pots, and two jars, all quite strong and useful.

No joy at so little a thing was ever equal to mine, when I found that I had made a pot which would bear the fire. I could not wait till they were cold, but I set one on the fire again with some water to boil some food for me.

15 *I grow some corn*

When I first came on the island, I was looking through my things, and I found a little bag. This bag had once held corn for feeding the hens on the ship; but the mice had found the bag, and had eaten a lot of the corn, and had made the rest of it dirty. I wanted to use the bag for something else, so I threw out the grain and dirt from the bag on one side of my house.

It was a little before the great rains when I threw this dirt away, and I hadn't thought about it again. But about a month after that, I saw some green plants growing up out of the ground. After a few more weeks I saw corn forming on the plants. I was greatly surprised, not knowing how it had come there. I went all over that part



of the island to see if there was some corn anywhere else; but I found none. Then I remembered cleaning the bag of hen-food. I saved that corn, and planted it again as seed. So, saving the grain each time and using it as seed, in time I had a good field of corn, enough to make bread for myself.

16 *I want a boat*

All this time I had been thinking of the islands that I had seen on the other side. I thought that if I could reach those islands, I might find a way of going farther, and perhaps even get home to England again. This made me think whether it was not possible to make a boat for myself—a boat like the ones the Indians make, cut out of a tree. I thought that I might cut out the centre of the tree with my axe, or burn it out with fire, so as to make a boat of it. But I forgot one thing: that I had no one to help me move the boat, when it was made, into the water.

17 *Making a boat*

I went to work on this boat more like a fool than any man ever did. I pleased myself with the plan, without ever deciding whether I was able to complete it. The trouble of getting it into the water came into my mind, but I gave myself this foolish answer to the question: 'Let me first make the boat; I am sure I shall find some way or other to move it when it is done.'

So I cut down a great tree. It was 1.8 metres across at the lower part, and 1.5 metres at the top before it went out into branches. I was twenty days cutting through it at the bottom, and fourteen more days cutting away the branches. After this it took me a month to make it

into the shape of a boat outside and three months more to cut out the inside. In the end I had made a very fine boat, big enough to carry ten men—big enough to carry me and all my goods.

18 *I can't get my boat into the water*

When I had finished this work, I was delighted with it. I just had to get it into the water. It lay about one hundred metres from the water; but the ground went up hill at first. So I decided to cut through the hill in order to make a road; but, when I had done that, things were no better: I couldn't move the boat at all.

Then I decided to bring the water up to the boat, since I couldn't take the boat to the water.

So I began this work. But when I began to make plans and thought how deep a hole I must make, and how broad, and how much earth must be thrown out, I found that it must be ten or twelve years before I could finish it. So at last, though with great sadness, I gave up the work.

19 *I find the mark of a man's foot*

It happened one day about noon after I had been on the island for several years. I was going along the shore, and I was greatly surprised to see the mark of a man's foot in the sand. I stood there like one who has seen a giant or some fearful thing. I listened; I looked round me: I couldn't hear anything or see anything. I went up the shore and down the shore, but I could see no mark except that one. I went to it again to see if it mightn't be a dream; but there it was, the perfect mark of every part of a foot. I couldn't think how it came there.

I went home to my tent looking behind me at every

two or three steps, thinking that every plant and tree at a distance was a man.

20 *I make my house stronger*

I didn't sleep that night. In the morning I got up out of my bed. 'Can it be the mark of my own foot?'

I wondered. I went to the shore again; but, when I came to measure the mark with my own foot, I found that my foot wasn't nearly so big.

I went back and made the fence of my home stronger. Then I made seven holes in it, so that I could put out all my guns at one time. I fixed the guns all ready pointed so that I could fire all the seven guns in two minutes. Fear made me do all this, and the mark of a man's foot: I had never seen any man come near the island.

21 *Cannibals!*

One day, when I had wandered more to the west part of the island than I had ever done yet, I thought I saw a boat on the sea at a great distance. But it was so far that I wasn't sure whether it was a boat or not. As I came down from the hill, I couldn't see it any more. I told myself that seeing the print of a man's foot was not such a strange thing in the island as I had thought. It must be common for boats from the other islands, when they were too far out at sea, to come over to this west side of the island to be safe from bad weather. I thought, too, that the wild men of these islands must often meet and fight in their boats, and those who had taken any prisoners might bring them over to this shore, to kill and eat them. Because the wild men of this part of the world do that: they are cannibals.

22 *Dead men's bones*

When I came down the hill to the shore at the south-west point of the island, I saw a fearful sight. It is not possible for me to find words for the fear and sickness of my mind at seeing the shore covered with heads, hands, feet, and bones from other parts of men's bodies. I noticed also a place where a fire had been made and a circle had been cut in the earth where, I supposed, these fearful cannibals sat down to feed upon the bodies of their fellow-men.

I was so much surprised by the sight of these things that I had no thought of any danger to myself from it for a long time. I could think only of the condition to which Man can fall. I turned my face away from the sight. My stomach grew sick, and I almost fell to the ground. I couldn't stay in the place one minute. So I went up the hill again as fast as I could, and walked on towards my own house.

23 *I keep watch*

On the next day I found a place on the side of the hill where I could safely wait till I saw any of their boats coming. I could then, unseen, go among some trees where I could sit and see all that they did, and point my gun at their heads. I was so near that, if I fired when they were standing close together, I should hit three or four of them at one shot.

Every morning for many days I went to this place on the hill. But I grew tired of this duty after I had kept watch for two or three months and seen nothing; so I stopped going.

It was now the season for gathering in my corn. For this reason I had to go out very early into the field. One morning, going out before it was full daylight, I was

surprised to see the light of a fire on the shore: it was about four kilometres away towards the end of the island. I went quickly up the hill, and began to look for the place.

24 *A fearful thing*

When I came to this place I saw that there were nine men. They were sitting round a small fire that they had made. They hadn't made the fire to warm them, because the weather was very hot, but—as I supposed—to cook some of their fearful food: their fellow-men. They began dancing: I could see their legs and arms moving. They had no clothes, no covering of any sort on them. After an hour or more they got into their boats, and began to go away.

I ran back to my house to get my gun. When I came back I saw their three boats all at sea together. Going down to the shore, I saw the marks which they had left behind them—the blood and bones of men eaten by these cannibals with joy and laughing. I was so angry at the sight that I began to think how I could kill the next party I saw there, however many they might be.

25 *Five boats*

A few years passed, and I saw no more of them. Then one morning I was surprised to see five boats all on shore together on my side of the island. The men had all gone away from the boats, and were out of my sight. But I knew that they always came four or six in a boat: so I knew that there must be twenty or thirty men. I set the guns ready at my house and made everything safe. Then I went up to the top of the hill. From here I could see that there were thirty men, and they had a