

Robinson Crusoe literary analysis

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Daniel Defoe's Robinson Crusoe (1719) is one of the most influential novels in English literature. The story presents the experience of a man isolated on a deserted island, forced to survive through intelligence, discipline, and faith. This novel reflects the values of the early modern period, particularly individualism and colonial expansion. Through Crusoe's journey, Defoe explores the relationship between man and nature. The novel can also be read as an early form of travel writing, mixing adventure with personal reflection.

Survival and the Construction of the Self In Robinson Crusoe, survival is not only physical but also psychological. Crusoe learns to organize his life by building shelter, cultivating food, and keeping records of his daily activities. These actions show how reason and labor help him maintain control over chaos. The island becomes a space of self-discovery, where Crusoe reconstructs his identity through work and reflection. As critics have noted, the novel reflects Protestant values such as discipline, self-reliance, and moral responsibility (**Watt, 1957**).

The narrative also presents a colonial perspective, as Crusoe sees the island as a territory to dominate and transform. This aspect links the novel to travel writing, where foreign spaces are described through the lens of European superiority Boehmer 2005

In conclusion, Robinson Crusoe is more than an adventure story; it is a reflection on survival, identity, and colonial ideology. Defoe uses isolation as a narrative tool to explore human resilience and self-construction. The novel remains important because it connects literature, history, and travel writing in a powerful and lasting way.

@bookdefoe1719, author = Defoe, Daniel, title = Robinson Crusoe, year = 1719, publisher = William Taylor, address = London

@bookwatt1957, author = Watt, Ian, title = The Rise of the Novel, year = 1957, publisher = University of California Press, address = Berkeley

@bookboehmer2005, author = Boehmer, Elleke, title = Colonial and Post-colonial Literature, year = 2005, publisher = Oxford University Press, address = Oxford