

1 The Enduring Myth of Robinson Crusoe

Why can the myth of Robinson be considered a real-life story?

1 Back to the origins of Robinson

A. Read the text. Then, answer the questions on

Worksheet n°39.

B. Write Robinson's next entry in his journal describing two objects he brought back from the ship.

2 The Arctic's real life Robinson



A. Listen to MP3 n°74 and pick out information about Ada Blackjack's situation. What makes her story similar to Robinson's?

B. How did Ada manage to keep the two predators at bay? Complete the following sentence to rephrase the incident:

"When Ada saw the two..."

C. What type of woman is Ada? Give two adjectives describing her and justify.



SEPTEMBER 30th, 1659

I, poor miserable Robinson Crusoe, being shipwrecked during a dreadful storm in the offing¹, came on shore on this dismal², unfortunate island, [...] all the rest of the ship's company being drowned, and myself almost dead.

5 [...] I had neither food, house, clothes, weapon, nor place to fly to; and in despair of any relief³, saw nothing but death before me – either that I should be devoured by wild beasts, murdered by savages, or starved to death for want of food. At the approach of night I slept in a tree, for fear of
10 wild creatures; but slept soundly, though it rained all night.

OCTOBER 1st

In the morning I saw, to my great surprise, the ship had floated with the high tide⁴, and was driven on shore again much nearer the island; which as it was some comfort on
15 one hand (for seeing her sit upright, and not broken in pieces, I hoped, [...] I might get on board, and get some food and necessities out of her for my relief) [...]. I spent great part of this day in perplexing myself on these things; but at length, seeing the ship almost dry, I went upon the
20 sand as near as I could, and then swam on board. This day also it continued raining, though with no wind at all.

FROM THE 1st OF OCTOBER TO THE 24th

All these days entirely spent in many several voyages to get all I could out of the ship, which I brought on shore every tide of flood upon rafts⁵.

1 au large • 2 dark • 3 soulagement • 4 marée haute
• 5 radeaux

Robinson Crusoe,
Daniel Defoe, 1719



YOUR TURN! 3 Imagine you are a castaway!

You are Robinson or Ada, and you are finally rescued by a ship.

During the voyage back home, you tell the captain about your life on the island.

HELP!

Tools

- I had to... + BV
- I needed to... + BV
- Crusoe /'kru:səʊ/
- Wrangel /'ræŋgəl/ island