

3 A Space Castaway

How can science fiction rewrite the myth of the castaway?

1 Stranded in space

- A. Read the text and answer the questions on **Worksheet n°41**.
B. What makes the character a faithful avatar of Robinson Crusoe? Justify.

For the record... I didn't die on Sol 6¹. Certainly the rest of the crew thought I did, and I can't blame them. Maybe there'll be a day of national mourning for me, and my Wikipedia page will say, "Mark Watney is the only human being to have died on Mars."
And it'll be right, probably. 'Cause I'll surely die here. Just not on Sol 6¹ when everyone thinks I did.
Let's see... where do I begin?
The Ares Program. Mankind reaching out to Mars to send people to another planet for the very first time and expand the horizons of humanity blah, blah, blah. The Ares 1 crew did their thing and came back heroes. They got the parades and fame and love of the world.
Ares 2 did the same thing, in a different location on Mars.
[...]
Ares 3. Well, that was my mission. Okay, not mine *per se*. Commander Lewis was in charge. I was just one of her

crew. [...] I would only be "in command" of the mission if I were the only remaining person.

20 What do you know? I'm in command.
[...]

So that's the situation. I'm stranded on Mars. I have no way to communicate with Hermes or Earth. Everyone thinks I'm dead. I'm in a Hab² designed to last thirty-one days.

25 If the oxygenator breaks down, I'll suffocate. If the water reclaimer breaks down, I'll die of thirst. If the Hab breaches, I'll just kind of explode. If none of those things happen, I'll eventually run out of food and starve to death.

1 day 6 of the mission • 2 artificial habitat

The Martian,
Andy Weir, 2011



YOUR TURN! 2 Make your own video log!

Online, watch a scene from *The Martian*.
Now imagine you are stranded in space!
Just like Mark Watney, make your own video log about your situation at the end of the third month of survival.
Do not forget to mention the conditions you live in and how you manage to survive.



HELP!

To describe a place

- barren /'bærən/ landscape: terre aride
- desert /'dezət/
- dry
- hostile /'hɒstail/
- uninhabitable /ˌʌnɪn'hæbɪtəbəl/

Survival

- drinking water
- food supplies /fu:d sə'plaɪz/
- greenhouse /'ɡri:nhaʊs/
- grow vegetables /grəʊ 'vedʒtəbəlz/
- ration
- run out of oxygen

YOUR PROJECT

Create a castaway's diary
You are stranded on an uncharted territory. Write about your survival experience!

- There will be at least 3 entries (3 different days).
- Use **Worksheet n°42** for help.