

Robinson Crusoe

A Reading A-Z Level Z2 Leveled Book
Word Count: 3,567

Connections

Writing

Imagine you are Robinson Crusoe. Create several journal entries based on what you are feeling while you are stranded. Be creative. Remember to include adjectives, adverbs, and sensory details.

Social Studies

Find clues in the story about the setting. Research locations around the world that have similar characteristics. Where do you think Robinson Crusoe is located? Use evidence to write a paragraph explaining your claim.

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A Selection from **Robinson Crusoe**



Adapted from the writing of Daniel Defoe
Illustrated by David Cockcroft

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Focus Question

How do Robinson Crusoe's survival skills help him while he is stranded?

Words to Know

abated	mortification
bilged	pensive
deliverance	prospect
desolate	Providence
diligence	provisions
expostulated	render
fortified	reprove
furlong	solaced
leagues	sustenance

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Correlation

LEVEL Z2

Fountas & Pinnell	Y-Z
Reading Recovery	N/A
DRA	70+

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In this classic novel, Robinson Crusoe, an English sailor exploring the Caribbean and South America, becomes stranded on a tropical island when his ship is blown off course and wrecked. This part of the story opens when Crusoe finds himself alone on the island, the only member of the ship's crew to survive.

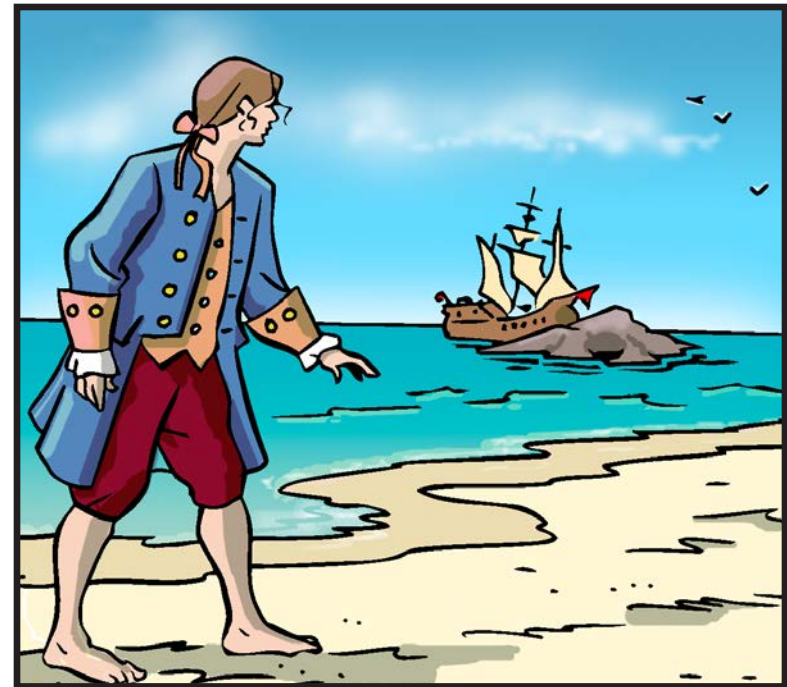
Shipwrecked

I cast my eyes to the stranded vessel, when, the breach and froth of the sea being so big, I could hardly see it, it lay so far off. Lord! How was it possible I could get on shore?

After I had **solaced** my mind with the comfortable part of my condition, I began to look round me to see what kind of place I was in and what was next to be done. I soon had a dreadful **deliverance** for I was wet, had no clothes, nor anything either to eat or drink to comfort me, neither did I see any **prospect** before me but that of perishing with hunger or of being devoured by wild beasts; I had no weapon either to hunt and kill any creature for my **sustenance**, or to defend myself against any other creature that might desire to kill me for theirs. This threw me into such terrible agonies of mind that, for a while, I ran about like a madman. Night coming upon me, I began, with a heavy heart, to consider what would be my lot if there were any ravenous beasts in that country, seeing as how at night they always come abroad for their prey.

All the remedy that offered to my thoughts at that time was to get up into a thick, bushy tree like a fir, but thorny, where I resolved to sit all night and consider the next day what death I should die, for as yet I saw no prospect of life. I walked about a **furlong** from the shore to see if I could find any fresh water to drink, which I did, to my great joy; having drunk, I went to the tree and, getting up into it, tried to place myself so that if I should sleep I might not fall.

Having cut me a short stick, like a truncheon, for my defense, I took up my lodging; and having been excessively fatigued, I fell fast asleep and slept as comfortably as, I believe, few could have done in my condition.



Luck

When I waked it was broad day, the weather clear, and the storm **abated**, so that the sea did not rage and swell as before. But that which surprised me most was that the ship was lifted off in the night from the sand where she lay and was driven

up almost as far as the rock which I first mentioned, where I had been so bruised by the wave dashing me against it. This being within about a mile from the shore where I was, and the ship seeming to stand upright still, I wished myself on board that at least I might have some necessary things for my use.

A little after noon I found the sea very calm, and the tide ebbed so far out, that I could come within a quarter of a mile of the ship; and here I found a fresh renewing of my grief, for I saw evidently, that if we had kept on board we would have been all safe, that is to say, we would have all got safe on shore. I would not have been so miserable as to be left entirely stripped of all comfort and company as I now was. This forced tears from my eyes again; but as there was little relief in that, I resolved, if possible, to get to the ship. I pulled off my clothes, for the weather was extremely hot, and took to the water.

But when I came to the ship, my difficulty was still greater to know how to get on board; for as she lay aground, and high out of the water, there was nothing within my reach to lay hold of. I swam round her twice, and the second time I spied a small piece of rope, hanging down by the fore-chains. With great difficulty I got hold of it and by the help of that rope got up into the

forecastle of the ship. Here I found that the ship was **bilged** and had a great deal of water in her hold, but that she lay so on the side of a bank that her stern lifted so that her quarter was free, and all that was in that part was dry; you may be sure my first work was to search and to see what was spoiled and what was free. And first I found that all the ship's **provisions** were dry and untouched by the water; and being very well disposed to eat, I went to the bread-room and filled my pockets with biscuit, and ate it as I went about other things, for I had no time to lose.



We had several spare yards, and two or three large spars of wood, and a spare topmast or two in the ship. I resolved to fall to work with these and flung as many of them overboard as I could manage for their weight, tying every one with a rope, that they might not drift away.

When this was done I went down the ship's side, and, pulling them to me, I tied four of them

fast together at both ends as well as I could, in the form of a raft; and laying two or three short pieces of plank upon them, crossways, I found I could walk upon it very well

My raft was now strong enough to bear any reasonable weight. Having considered well what I most wanted, I first got three of the seamen's chests, which I had broken open and emptied, and lowered them down upon my raft. The first of these I filled with provisions, namely, bread, rice, three Dutch cheeses, five pieces of dried goat's flesh, and a little remainder of European corn. There had been some barley and wheat together, but, to my great disappointment, I found afterwards that the rats had eaten or spoiled it all. While I was doing this, I found the tide began to flow, though very calm, and I had the **mortification** to see my coat, shirt, and waistcoat, which I had left on shore upon the sand, swim away. However, this put me upon rummaging for clothes, of which I found enough, but took no more than I wanted for present use; for I had other things which my eye was more upon; as first, tools to work with; and it was after long searching that I found out the carpenter's chest, which was indeed a very useful prize to me, and much more valuable than a shipload of gold would have been at that time.

My next care was for some ammunition and arms; there were two very good fowling-pieces in the great cabin, and two pistols; these I secured first, with some powder-horns, and a small bag of shot, and two old, rusty swords. I knew there were three barrels of powder in the ship, but knew not where our gunner had stowed them; but with much search I found them, two of them dry and good, though the third had taken water; those two I got to my raft. And now I thought myself pretty well freighted and began to think how I should get to shore with them, having neither sail, oar, nor rudder; and the least capful of wind would have upset all my navigation.



Afloat

I had three encouragements. 1. A smooth, calm sea. 2. The tide rising and setting in to the shore. 3. What little wind there was blew me towards the land. And thus, having found two or three broken oars belonging to the boat, I put to sea. For a mile or thereabouts my raft went very well, only that I found it drive a little distant from the place where I had landed before. I perceived that there was some indraft of water, and consequently I hoped

to find some creek or river there, which I might make use of as a port to get to land with my cargo.

As I imagined, so it was; there appeared before me a little opening of the land, and I found a strong current of the tide set into it, so I guided my raft as well as I could to keep in the middle of the stream.

But here I almost suffered a second shipwreck, which, if I had, I think verily would have broken my heart. My raft ran aground at one end upon a shoal, and not being aground at the other end, the smallest wave would have sent all my cargo off into the water. I did my utmost by setting my back against the chests to keep them in their places, but could not thrust off the raft with all my strength. I dared not stir from the posture I was in, but holding up the chests with all my might, stood in that manner near half an hour. In time the rising of the tide floated my raft again. At length I found myself in the mouth of a little river, with land on both sides and a strong current or tide running up. I looked on both sides for a proper place to get to shore.

At length I spied a little cove on the right shore of the creek, to which, with great pain and difficulty, I guided my raft, and at last got so near as that, reaching ground with my oar, I could

thrust her directly in; but here I almost dipped all my cargo in the sea again, for that shore lying pretty steep, there was no place to land. If one end of my float ran on shore, it would lie so high and the other sink lower, as before, that it would endanger my cargo again.

All that I could do was to wait till the tide was at the highest, keeping the raft with my oar like an anchor to hold the side of it fast to the shore, near a flat piece of ground, which I expected the water would flow over; and so it did. As soon as I found water enough, I thrust her on upon that flat piece of ground and there fastened or moored her. Thus I lay till the water ebbed away and left my raft and all my cargo safe on shore.

Shelter

My next work was to view the country and seek a proper place for my habitation and where to stow my goods to secure them from whatever might happen. Where I was, I yet knew not; whether on the continent, or on an island; whether inhabited, or not inhabited; whether in danger of wild beasts, or not. There was a hill, not above a mile from me, which rose up very steep and high, and which seemed to overtop some other hills, which lay as in a ridge from it, northward. I took out one of the fowling-pieces and one of the



pistols, and a horn of powder; and thus armed, I travelled for discovery up to the top of that hill. After I had with great labor and difficulty got to the top, I saw to my great affliction that I was on an island surrounded on all sides by the sea, no land to be seen, except some rocks which lay a great way off, and two small islands, which lay about three **leagues** to the west.

Contented with this discovery, I came back to my raft and fell to work to bring my cargo on shore, which took up the rest of that day; and

what to do with myself at night, I knew not, or, indeed, where to rest; for I was afraid to lie down on the ground, not knowing but some wild beast might devour me, though, as I afterwards found, there was really no need for those fears.

I now began to consider that I might yet get a great many things out of the ship, which would be useful to me, and particularly some of the rigging and sails, and such other things as might come to land; and I resolved to make another voyage on board the vessel, if possible. And as I knew that the first storm that blew must necessarily break her all in pieces, I resolved to set all other things apart till I got everything out of the ship that I could get. . . .

Storm

I had been now thirteen days on shore, and had been eleven times on board the ship; in which time I had brought away all that one pair of hands could well be supposed capable to bring. I believe had the calm weather held, I should have brought away the whole ship piece by piece. But preparing the twelfth time to go on board, I found the wind began to rise. However, at low water I went on board, and though I thought I had rummaged the cabin so effectually as that nothing more could be found, yet I discovered a locker with drawers in it.

In one drawer I found two or three razors, and one pair of large scissors, with some ten or a dozen good knives and forks; in another, I found some thirty-six pounds value in money, some European coin, some Brazil, some pieces of eight, some gold, some silver.



I smiled to myself at the sight of this money. "O drug!" said I aloud, "what art thou good for? Thou art not worth to me, no, not the taking off of the ground; one of those knives is worth all this heap. I have no manner of use for thee; even remain where thou art, and go to the bottom as a creature whose life is not worth saving." However, upon second thoughts, I took it away.

I began to think of making another raft; but while I was preparing this, I found the sky overcast, and the wind began to rise. In a quarter of an hour it blew a fresh gale from the shore. It

presently occurred to me that it was in vain to make a raft with the wind off shore, and that it was my business to be gone before the tide of flood began; otherwise I might not be able to reach the shore at all. Accordingly I let myself down into the water and swam across the channel, which lay between the ship and the sands. Even that was difficult enough, partly with the weight of the things I had about me and partly because of the roughness of the water; the wind rose very hastily, and before it was quite high water it blew a storm.

But I was gotten home to my little tent, where I lay with all my wealth about me very secure. It blew very hard all that night, and in the morning when I looked out, behold, no more ship was to be seen. I was a little surprised, but recovered myself with the satisfactory reflection that I had lost no time, nor lacked any **diligence** to get everything out of her that could be useful to me. Indeed there was little left in her that I might have brought away if I had had more time.

I now gave up any more thoughts of the ship, or of anything out of her, except what might drive on there from her wreck, as indeed several pieces of her afterwards did; but those things were of small use to me.



Home

I soon found the place I was in was not fit for my settlement, particularly because it was upon a low, marshy ground near the sea and, I believed, would not be wholesome; and more particularly because there was no fresh water near it. So I resolved to find a more healthy and more convenient spot of ground.

I consulted several things in my situation, which I found would be proper for me. First, health and fresh water; second, shelter from the heat of the sun; third, security from ravenous

creatures, whether men or beasts; fourth, a view to the sea, so that if God sent any ship in sight I might not lose any advantage for my deliverance.

In search of a place proper for this, I found a little plain on the side of a rising hill, which was as steep as a house-side, so that nothing could come down upon me from the top; on the side of this rock there was a hollow place, worn a little way in, like the entrance or door of a cave.

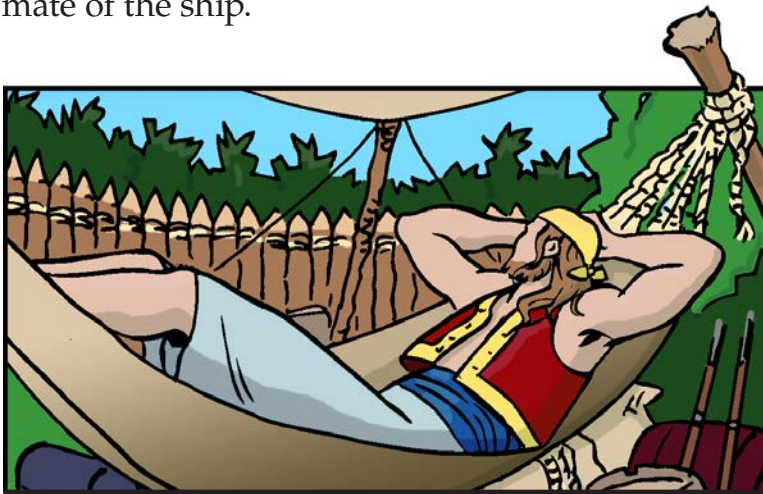
On the flat of the green, just before this hollow place, I resolved to pitch my tent. This plain was not above a hundred yards broad, and about twice as long, and lay like a green before my door, and at the end of it descended irregularly every way down into the low grounds by the seaside. It was on the north side of the hill, so that I was sheltered from the heat every day, till it came to near sunset.

Before I set up my tent, I drew a half circle before the hollow place. In this half circle I pitched two rows of strong stakes, driving them into the ground till they stood very firm, the biggest end being out of the ground about five feet and a half, and sharpened on the top.

This fence was so strong that neither man nor beast could get into it or over it. This cost me a great deal of time and labor.

The entrance into this place I made to be not by a door but by a short ladder to go over the top; which, when I was in, I lifted over after me, and so I was completely fenced in and **fortified**, as I thought, from all the world, and consequently slept secure in the night, which otherwise I could not have done; though as it appeared afterward, there was no need of all this caution.

Into this fence or fortress, with infinite labor, I carried all my riches, all my provisions, ammunition, and stores. I made a large tent to preserve me from the rains. I made a smaller tent within and covered the uppermost with a large tarpaulin, which I had saved among the sails. And now I lay no more for a while in the bed which I had brought on shore, but in a hammock, which was indeed a very good one, and belonged to the mate of the ship.



Into this tent I brought all my provisions and everything that would spoil by the wet. When I had done this, I began to work my way into the rock. Thus I made me a cave just behind my tent, which served me like a cellar to my house.



Having now fixed my habitation, I found it absolutely necessary to provide a place to make a fire in and fuel to burn; and what I did for that, as also how I enlarged my cave, and what conveniences I made, I shall give a full account of in its place. But I must first give some little account of myself and of my thoughts about living, which it may well be supposed were not a few.

Hope

I had a dismal prospect of my condition; for as I was cast away upon that island after having been driven by a violent storm quite out of the course of our intended voyage, and some hundreds of leagues out of the ordinary course of the trade of mankind, I had great reason to consider it my fate that in this **desolate** place, and in this desolate manner, I should end my life. The tears would run plentifully down my face when I made these reflections, and sometimes I would ask myself why **Providence** should thus completely ruin its creatures and **render** them so absolutely miserable, so without help abandoned, so entirely depressed, that it could hardly be rational to be thankful for such a life.



But something always returned swift upon me to check these thoughts and to **reprove** me; and particularly one day, walking with my gun in my hand by the seaside, I was very **pensive** upon the subject of my present condition, when reason, as it were, **expostulated** with me t'other way, thus: "Well, you are in a desolate condition it is true, but pray remember, where are the rest of you? Did not you come eleven of you in the boat? Where are the ten? Why were not they saved, and you lost? Why were you singled out? Is it better to be here, or there?" And then I pointed to the sea. All evils are to be considered with the good that is in them, and with what worse attends them.

If you would like to read more of Robinson Crusoe's adventures, ask your librarian for the book Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe.



Glossary

abated (<i>v.</i>)	stopped or decreased in strength or intensity (p. 6)
bilged (<i>v.</i>)	to become damaged so as to no longer be watertight (p. 8)
deliverance (<i>n.</i>)	a rescue from a bad or dangerous situation (p. 5)
desolate (<i>adj.</i>)	empty, alone, and unwelcoming (p. 21)
diligence (<i>n.</i>)	a disciplined, careful effort (p. 16)
expostulated (<i>v.</i>)	reasoned or argued against something (p. 22)
fortified (<i>v.</i>)	made stronger or more resistant to attack (p. 19)
furlong (<i>n.</i>)	a unit of measure equal to 220 yards (201 m) (p. 5)
leagues (<i>n.</i>)	units of measure; about 5 kilometers or 3 miles (p. 13)
mortification (<i>n.</i>)	extreme embarrassment (p. 9)
pensive (<i>adv.</i>)	quietly or sadly thoughtful (p. 22)

prospect (<i>n.</i>)	an idea of the future; the predicted outcome (p. 5)
Providence (<i>n.</i>)	guidance or care that comes from God (p. 21)
provisions (<i>n.</i>)	supplies, especially those taken on a journey (p. 8)
render (<i>v.</i>)	to cause someone or something to end up a certain way (p. 21)
reprove (<i>v.</i>)	to scold; to correct gently (p. 22)
solaced (<i>v.</i>)	comforted; made less sad (p. 5)
sustenance (<i>n.</i>)	something that nourishes or gives support (p. 5)

