

Robinson Crusoe

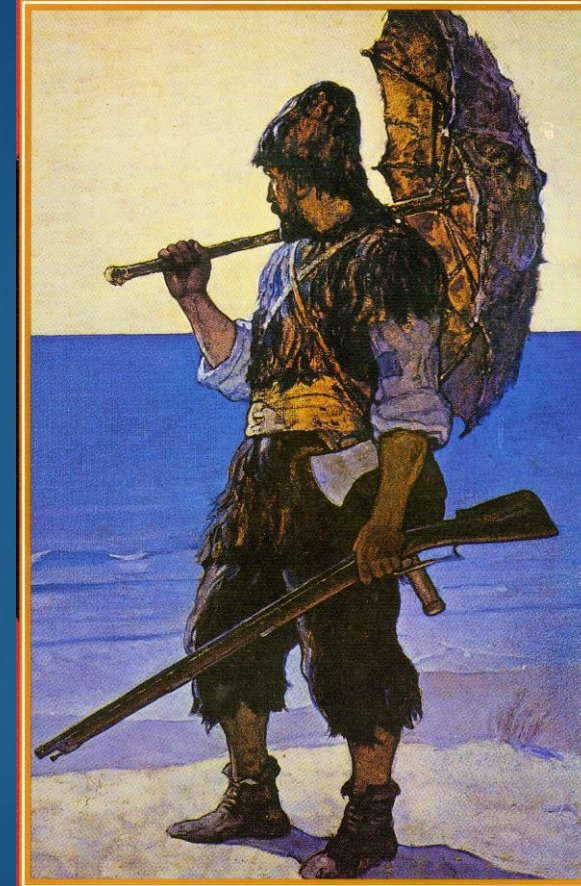
MAIN ASPECTS OF THE PLOT OF THE NOVEL



THE
L I F E
AND
STRANGE SURPRIZING
ADVENTURES
OF
ROBINSON CRUSOE,
OF YORK, MARINER:
Who lived Eight and Twenty Years,
all alone in an un-inhabited Island on the
Coast of AMERICA, near the Mouth of
the Great River of OROONOQUE;
Having been cast on Shore by Shipwreck, where-
in all the Men perished but himself.
WITH
An Account how he was at last strangely deli-
ver'd by PYRATES.
Written by Himself.
L O N D O N:
Printed for W. TAYLOR at the Shop in Patern-Noter-
Row. MDCCXIX.

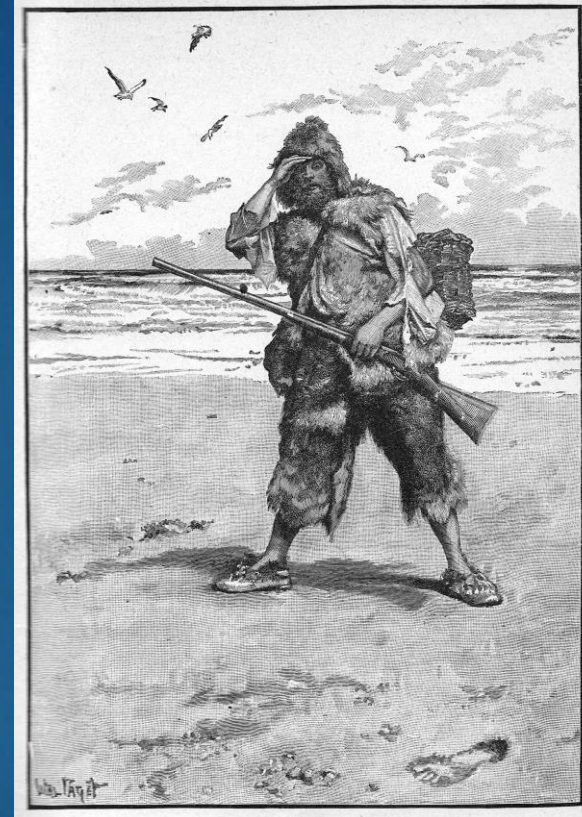
Title page from the first edition

- ▶ Crusoe (corrupted name from the German name "Kreutznaer") embark for a sea voyage in August 1651, against the wishes of his parents, who wanted him to attend a career in law. After a tumultuous journey where his ship is wrecked in a storm, his passion for the sea remains so strong that he starts out to sea again. This journey, too, ends in disaster, as the ship is taken over by pirates and Crusoe is enslaved. Two years later, he escapes in a boat; a captain of a Portuguese ship of the west coast of Africa rescues him. The ship is headed in Brazil where he obtain a plantation.
- ▶ Years later, Crusoe joins an expedition to bring slaves from Africa, but he is shipwrecked in a storm about forty miles out to sea on an island (which he calls the Island of Despair) near the mouth of the Orinoco river on 30 September 1659. He sees penguins and seals on the island. As for his arrival there, only he and three animals, the captain's dog and two cats, survive the shipwreck. Overcoming his despair, he retrieves arms, tools and other supplies from the ship before it breaks apart and sinks. He builds a confined habitat near a cave which he excavates. By making marks in a wooden cross, he creates a calendar. By using tools saved from the ship, and some which he makes himself, he hunts, grows barley and rice, dries grapes to make raisins, learns to make pottery and raises goats. He also adopts a small parrot. He reads the Bible and becomes religious, thanking God for his fate in which nothing is missing but human society.

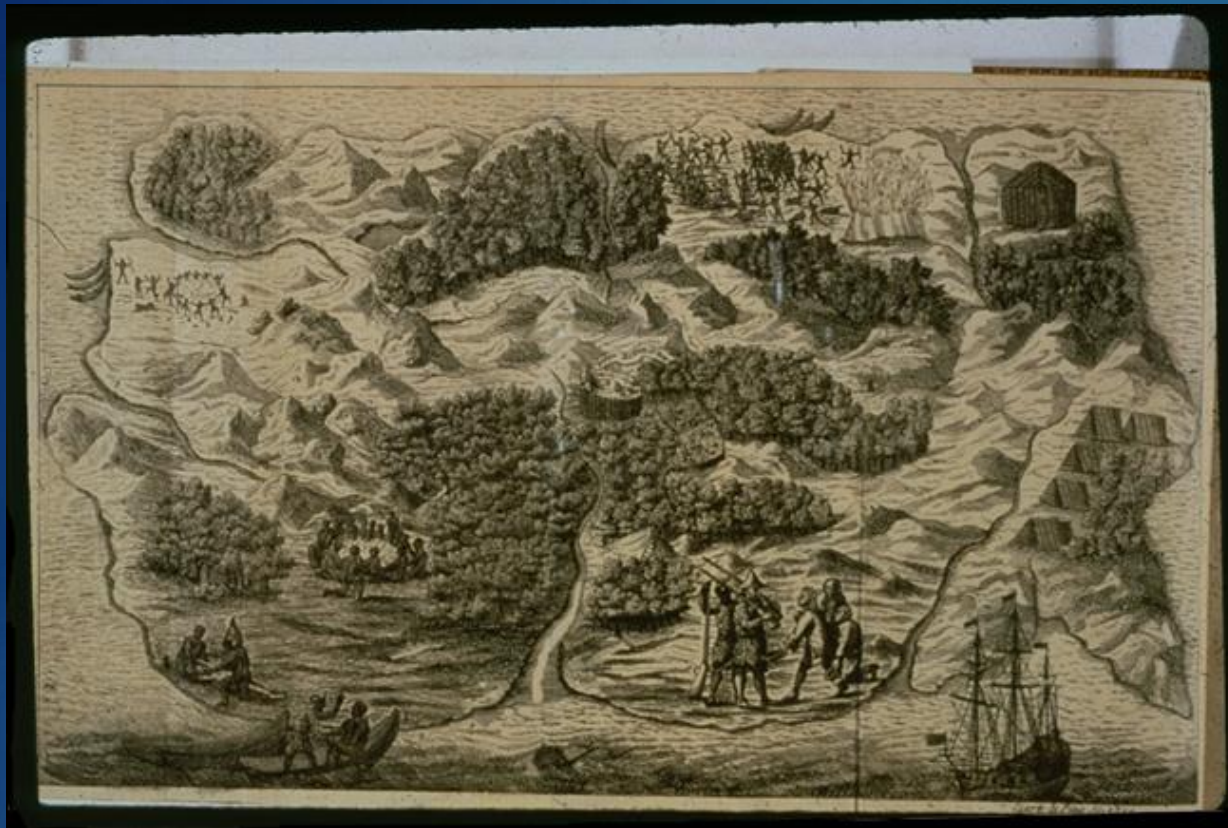


Robinson depicted by Newell Convers Wyeth

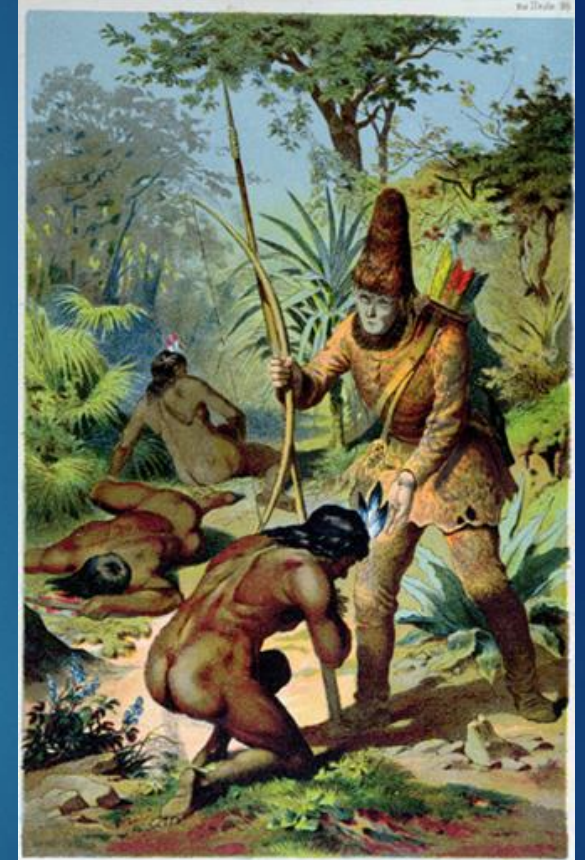
- ▶ More years pass and Crusoe discovers native cannibals, who occasionally visit the island to kill and eat prisoners. At first he plans to kill them for committing an horror but later realizes he has no right to do so, as the cannibals do not knowingly commit a crime. He dreams of obtaining one or two servants by freeing some prisoners; when a prisoner escapes, Crusoe helps him, naming his new companion "Friday" after the day of the week he appeared. Crusoe then teaches him English and converts him to Christianity.
- ▶ After more natives arrive to take part in a cannibal feast, Crusoe and Friday kill most of the natives and save two prisoners. One is Friday's father and the other is a Spaniard, who informs Crusoe about other Spaniards shipwrecked on the mainland. The Spaniard wants return to the mainland with Friday's father and bring back the others, build a ship, and sail to a Spanish port.
- ▶ Before the Spaniard return, an English ship appears; rebellious have expropriate the vessel and intend to leave their captain on the island. Crusoe and the ship's captain strike a deal in which Crusoe helps the captain and the loyal sailors retake the ship and leave the worst rebellious on the island. Before embarking for England, Crusoe shows the rebellious how he survived on the island and states that there will be more men coming. Crusoe leaves the island 19 December 1686 and arrives in England on 11 June 1687. He learns that his family believed him dead; as a result, he was left nothing in his father's will. Crusoe departs for Lisbon to reclaim the profits of his estate in Brazil, which has granted him much wealth. In conclusion, he transports his wealth overland to England from Portugal to avoid travelling by sea. Friday accompanies him and, during the journey, they endure one last adventure together as they fight off famished wolves while crossing the Pyrennees.



Robinson finds an imprint of a feet on the beach. Draw of Walter Paget.



Pictorial map of Crusoe's island, the "Island of Despair", showing incidents from the book



Robinson saves Friday



REALIZZATO DA: JOHN THENASSERIL, GIANLUCA BELINTENDE, FEDERICO
TOSCANO, GIANLUCA DE MARIA