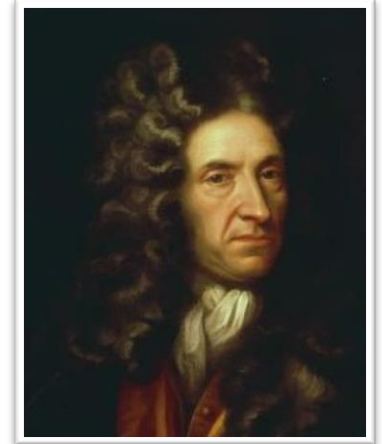


Daniel Defoe - Robinson Crusoe

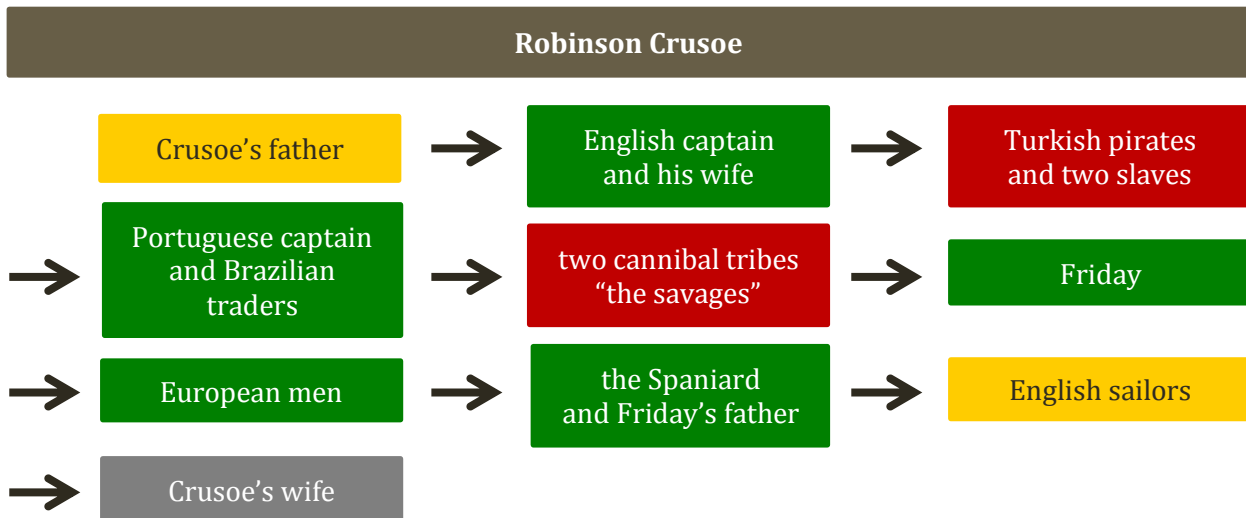
- adventure story
- first published in 1719 by William Taylor
- setting
 - from 1651 to 1694
 - York, Hull, London, Guinea, Sallee, Brazil, a lonely island, Lisbon, and overland from Lisbon toward England
- sequels
 - The Farther Adventures of Robinson Crusoe
 - Serious Reflections During the Life and Surprising Adventures of Robinson Crusoe



Daniel Defoe

- born as Daniel Foe ca. 1660
- died on the 5th May 1731
- merchant, close ally and a secret agent of the king
- arrested for debts, collector of taxes on bottles, owner of a tile and brick factory
- first novel 1719: The Life And Strange Surprising Adventures Of Robinson Crusoe

Characters



Plot

Robinson Crusoe is a young man born in York who plans to become a sailor even though his father is dissuading him from doing so. At the age of 19 he would like to go from Hull to London by ship. The crew escapes in a boat because of a heavy storm, reaches the coast and gets to London by foot. Crusoe starts a journey to Guinea by ship after an offer of a captain who teaches him how to be a sailor. On his second trip to Africa he gets enslaved by Turkish pirates but can flee with two other slaves. He goes on board a Portuguese ship which takes him to Brazil where he becomes an owner of a sugar plantation. On a journey to Guinea in order to buy slaves the ship gets off course and goes aground on a sandbar. The crew tries to escape by boat but it is upset by a wave and he is the only survivor who comes to shore.

He gets things from the boat and brings them to his tent which is fenced and located near a cave. Crusoe builds some important tools and other things as well as another fenced tent. He sows barley and rice, bakes bread and cake and breeds goats. He discovers a land, a human footprint and bones and a fire pit. When the cannibals come, one captive flees. Crusoe rescues him and calls him "Friday". He teaches him to speak, to stop eating human flesh, and to be a Protestant. Friday tells him about his tribe and that he will be willing to go back if Crusoe comes with him. As Robinson sees this as a way to escape from the island, they build a boat. The cannibals come back with a Spaniard and Friday's father as victims who Friday and Crusoe rescue. The latter instructs them to go home and take the European men from the tribe to the island in order to escape together. An English boat arrives with a part of a mutinous crew who captures three men including the captain. The mutinous sailors get murdered or captured and the ship is occupied by Crusoe and his companions.

Crusoe leaves the island after over 28 years together with Friday and loyal sailors and arrives in England where he recognises his parents' death. He goes to Lisbon by ship where he gets the earnings of his plantation in Brazil, supports the Portuguese captain and the English captain's widow financially, goes back to England overland, sells his plantation and marries. After his wife's death he starts a new journey which includes visiting the island and Brazil.

Robinson Crusoe

- feelings of guilt over his disobedience, inventive, perseverant, courageous, generous
- rebellious, irrational, incapable of deep feelings, goes overboard in his need of ego-boosts
- development: becomes a religious man whose world view is based on providence

Religion

- vague belief in religion during the novel
- first deeper contact with religion by randomly opening his Bible
- feels guided by his fate
- prays to God and trusts him

Moral

- confronted with the cannibals, he wrestles with the problem of judging them
- wants to murder the cannibals
- sees cannibalisms as a part of their culture and judging unjustified

Source

- Defoe, Daniel: Robinson Crusoe. 4th edition, New York 2008. Oxford World's Classics.