

Robinson Crusoe Key Facts

Writer: Daniel Defoe | Generated: Jan 26, 2026

Full Title: Robinson Crusoe

Author: Daniel Defoe (1660-1731)

Titles of the Author: Novelist, Journalist, Pamphleteer, Pioneer of the English Novel

Source: Inspired by real survival stories, especially the story of Alexander Selkirk

Written Time: Around 1718-1719

First Published: 25 April 1719

Published Dates: 1719 (first edition); sequels "The Farther Adventures of Robinson Crusoe" (1719) and "Serious Reflections" (1720)

Total Parts: 3 Parts (original "Robinson Crusoe", and two sequels)

Type of Work: Novel

Genre: Adventure / Survival / Realistic Fiction

Point of View: First Person (narrated by Robinson Crusoe)

Climax: Crusoe is rescued from the island after 28 years of isolation

Setting:

Time Setting: Middle to late 17th century

Place Setting: England, Africa, Brazil, and a deserted island near the mouth of the Orinoco River, South America

Background: "Robinson Crusoe" was written in the early eighteenth century. At that time, England was growing as a world trading and colonial power. Many ships traveled around the world for trade and exploration. People were curious about faraway lands and unknown places. Stories of real sailors and castaways became popular with the public. The story of Alexander Selkirk, a sailor who survived alone on an island, inspired Daniel Defoe. Many people in England liked tales of adventure, survival, and travel. "Robinson Crusoe" tells the story of a

man who is shipwrecked on a deserted island. He must use his skills and courage to survive for many years. The book shows how a person can live alone and overcome great problems. Defoe wanted readers to see the values of hard work, faith, and self-reliance. The novel became famous for its realism and practical lessons.

Key Notes

Novel: "Robinson Crusoe" is considered one of the first English novels. It is a long story told in simple language. The novel is based on the personal experiences and adventures of one main character

Adventure and Survival: The story is about Crusoe's shipwreck on a deserted island. He must find food, build shelter, and stay safe alone. Crusoe's struggle to survive shows courage and creativity.

Self-Reliance: Crusoe depends on himself for everything. He learns new skills, grows crops, and makes tools by himself. The story teaches the value of independence and hard work.

Faith: Religion is important in the novel. Crusoe often reads the Bible and prays for help. His faith gives him hope and strength during hard times.

Realism: "Robinson Crusoe" is known for its realistic details. Defoe describes Crusoe's day-to-day life, work, and problems. The story feels true and practical.

Colonialism: The novel shows how Europeans saw new lands and people. Crusoe calls the island "his" and teaches Friday, a local man, Western ways. This represents the colonial views of Defoe's time.