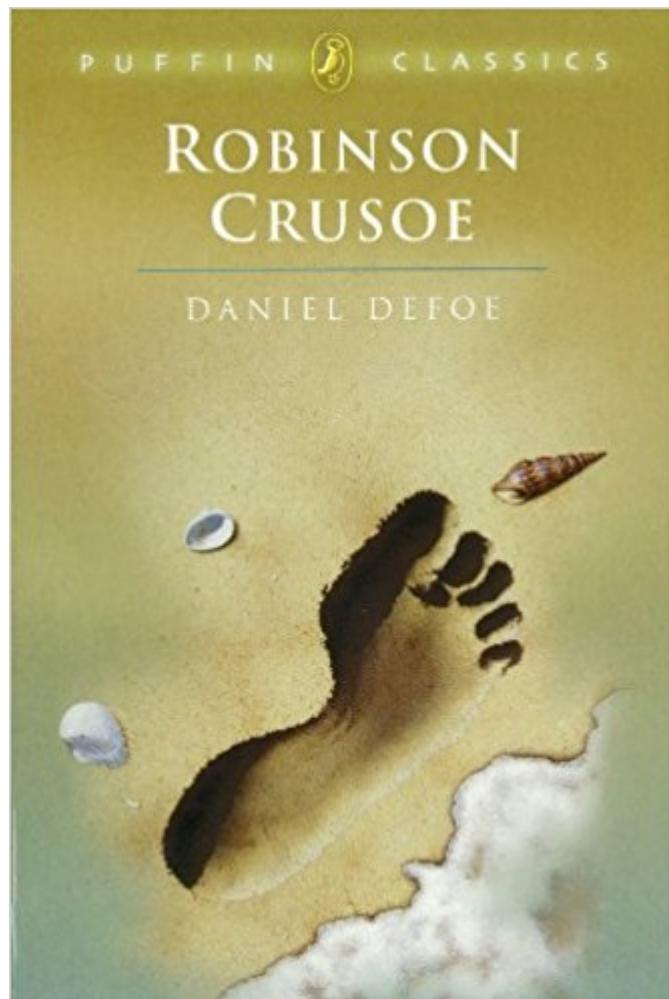


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# Robinson Crusoe



## **Synopsis**

After surviving a terrible shipwreck, Robinson Crusoe discovers he is the only human on an island far from any shipping routes or rescue. At first he is devastated, but slowly, with patience and imagination, he transforms his island into a tropical paradise. For twenty-four years he lives with no human companionship - until one fateful day, when he discovers he is not alone... Puffin Classics edition has been specially abridged.

## **Book Information**

Series: Puffin Classics

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## **Customer Reviews**

Grade 7 Up-Defoe's classic novel of shipwreck and survival, now nearly 300 years old, is abridged competently in this recording. The flavor of the 18th century language is retained, but the plot moves along at a pace more appealing to 21st century ears. The reader, Martin Shaw, has a pleasant voice, but unfortunately tends to trail off at the ends of sentences, losing whole words. As with all abridgements, large sections of the story and entire characters are omitted, but since most of the book tells of Crusoe's solitary sojourn on the island, this is not a major problem. This version is no substitute for the original, but it would be a supplemental purchase in libraries where abridgements are popular. Sarah Flowers, Santa Clara County Library, Morgan Hill, CA Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr. 4-7. The latest title in the Classic Starts series simplifies Defoe's famous survival adventure story, one of the first novels ever written, reworking the tortuous prose into a relaxed, chatty style ("I

felt awful") with short sentences that will be accessible to a grade-school audience. True to the 1719 original, the first-person narrative relates how Crusoe defies his parents, runs away to sea, has various adventures, and survives alone on a desert island until he finds a native man whom Robinson calls Friday. The big difference here is that the two men become friends, pals, and equals. There is not a racist word, nothing about Defoe's "savages." For contrast, to spark classroom discussion, pair this with Timothy Meis' retelling, discussed in Focus: "Survivor" (BKL Mr 1 03), which stays true to the prejudice in the original. Hazel RochmanCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

My mom bought this scholastic rendition for me when I was in the 5th grade. It may have been one of the 99 cent books at the time. I thought it looked dumb and wouldn't read it. Until that eventful day I ran out of books to read and had no choice but to pick it up. I couldn't put it down. One of the most memorable books I ever read. I gave the very same book to my oldest kids in the 5th grade to read. They grudgingly picked it up as well, and they too fell in love with it. My son is in the 5th grade this year. The copy from my childhood was now falling apart. I searched to find the same one. Luckily he was excited to read. More so when he heard the history of why we all love it. He also fell in love with it. Loaned it to my nephew in the 5th grade as well, he also loved it. Thank you to my sweet mom who probably had no clue what she'd start by buying a cheap scholastic book order book. Truly a classic everyone should read :)

For anyone who is not familiar with the Penguin Clothbound Classics editions, you're missing out on something wonderful. These are well produced clothbound editions, much better quality than most "hardbound" books now. The price is very low--if you buy them when they first come out...drat that I missed the Madame Bovary and Crime and Punishment releases that now cost hundreds of dollars. The price is typically lower than other "hardbound" books; in fact, the price is not that much more than the price of the Penguin Paperback edition of the work, but this copy will last a lifetime. As with the other Penguin Clothbound Classic editions, this too includes introductory material and appendices typical of other Penguin editions. I hope Penguin continues to release titles in the Clothbound Classics series, and I wish it would release more titles per year in the series.

This is a third to fourth reading level of the original. It gets the children reading and thinking while keeping the story line on a level they could follow. I used to believe that that classics should be read only when old enough to understand them. However, I prefer that my children read these classics

rather than some of the garbage that is out there today. It turns out that my children are really enjoying the book and we've had some nice discussions afterwards!

For those only familiar with the more "abridged" versions of the story that are popularly printed, this version is the original. It's less a story of a man castaway on a remote island than the story of a man railing at a god he professes not to believe in--complaining about having to live with the consequences of his decisions and blaming that same god for giving him a hard life. Those unfamiliar with the original text and context should also be aware that the racism of the times comes through very clearly in Crusoe's thoughts about and treatment of the "natives" he encounters. Generally I'm a big fan of NOT abridging classic texts and I'm sure there's merit in this well-known classic but I found it hard, slow reading.

Robinson Crusoe is a classic. However, I have always found the middle of the book very boring. Defoe spends, in my opinion, too much time discussing the mundane activities Crusoe performs for survival rather than developing his character. Defoe is also a proponent of slavery because he writes numerous times about Crusoe's desire to obtain servants and going on a journey to obtain slaves. Besides my couple personal issues it is a wonderful book and a must read classic.

Read this because it was referenced in another novel, Crusoe's Daughter. Since I had never read it and it's considered a classic, I thought I should read it. There were quite a few surprises to me. I thought I knew the general plot, but I had no knowledge of any details. It was worth my time to have read it.

What a great story. There is so much more to it than a person would realize. Most people would know about the Island part of the story. Yet the Island is only a section of the book. The whole adventure is quite long with twists and turns. The old English style takes a bit to get used to, however the reader soon adapts, and the writing is really very good. I read the book via Kindle so the dictionary came in handy to understand some words that have fallen out of use in today's English. Also, it gives an excellent insight to the times the book is set in. The best book I've read this year.

I finished this a couple months ago and really enjoyed it. If nothing else, this classic is historically interesting for revealing the worldview of a 17th-century Englishman. The world was far more

interconnected even in that day that we might imagine. Crusoe's forays into Portugal, Morocco, Africa and Brazil speak to that. I came away with a greater appreciation for the problem solving skills, critical thinking, creativity, and physical strength that pre-modern humans had to draw on daily. As moderns, most of us plop ourselves in front of the computer screen or television and lead a comparatively easy life. The inspiration in this story is Crusoe's ability to find the positive in any situation. He starts out grumbling about his isolation on the island, and his dim prospects for any rescue. He comes to see though, that he alone was saved from drowning in the shipwreck. So he comes to appreciate the very fact of life. He also comes to appreciate how he has been provided for, and that the simple things in life are most important. He comes to an increasingly deepening awareness of and faith in God. One of the only items salvaged from the ship was a Bible. Crusoe's thoughts on God and his interaction with the biblical text show how central religious faith was to the author, and the pride of place it held in most Europeans' lives at that time.

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