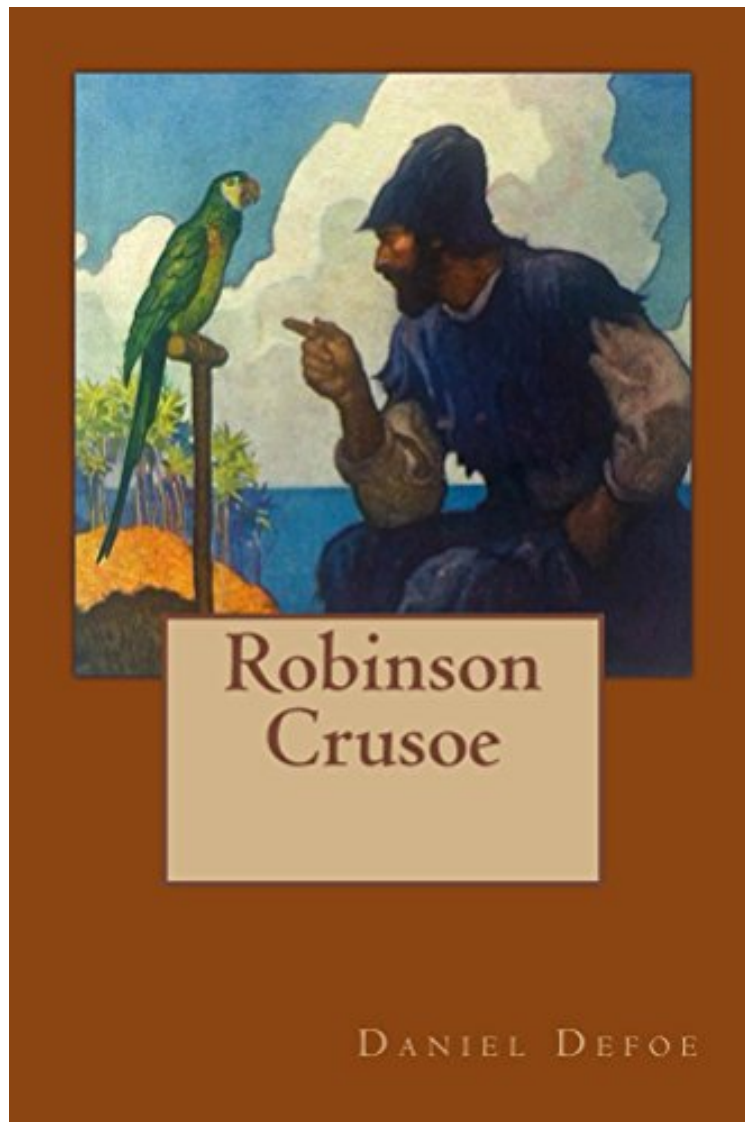


(Mobile book) Robinson Crusoe (English Edition)

Robinson Crusoe (English Edition)

Von Daniel Defoe

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Von Daniel Defoe : Robinson Crusoe (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Robinson Crusoe (English Edition):

Kurzbeschreibung Complete digitally restored reprint (facsimile) of the original edition of 1920 with excellent resolution and outstanding readability. Illustrated with 16 pictures by Newell Convers Wyeth (1882-1945). Converted to eBook by .com, Inc. or its affiliates. This automated conversion process results in limited functionality of eBooks. We don't guarantee for optimal reading and presentation quality. The converted file is designed for the same printed book. Therefore, we would like to point out that the typeface on most readers can't be adjusted, in particular, the font size can't be changed. However, we want you not to withhold this eBook. We recommend the print edition. Thank you for your understanding.

This is one of the world's greatest and most popular novels of adventure. The story of a modest, never-say-die hero battling for survival on a desert island had captivated readers ever since its publication in 1719. This sensitive abridgement presents all the book's major incidents in Daniel Defoe's own words, thereby capturing the essence of this 18th-century classic for today's readers. However, as you would expect being a Dorling Kindersley book, there is much more to this edition than an expert retelling of the story. The fascinating themes of Robinson Crusoe and its historical and geographical background are also explored, with insights into Defoe's extraordinary life and turbulent times. The innovative use of photography and illustration includes a unique, specially researched map of Crusoe's exotic, imaginary island which puts Crusoe's plight into perspective. The additional material also re-creates the hazardous life of the 17th-century sailor and explores the long-lasting impact this book has had on world culture.

(Ages 8 to 12) From Booklist One of the first novels ever written, Daniel Defoe's Robinson Crusoe (1719), the classic adventure story of a man marooned on an island for nearly 30 years, is part of our culture. From Scott O'Dell's *Island of the Blue Dolphins* (1960) to the recent movie *Castaway*, the elemental situation of the person suddenly alone, who must make a life in a dangerous environment, continues to enthrall all ages. Yet few adults, never mind young people, can wade through Defoe's lengthy tome with its convoluted eighteenth-century prose. So here's a shortened storybook version--retold by Timothy Meis in accessible style, yet true to the spirit of the original and the time when it was first published--in a large picture-book format with clear type, high-quality paper, and more than a dozen unforgettable narrative paintings by Wyeth, first published in 1920 and newly reproduced here in glowing color. The story begins with the universal quest: the young man in Britain, torn between his safe home and his hunger for adventure, breaks away from his loving father and sails away into the unknown. After a series of harrowing escapes, he's shipwrecked on a desert island. His lively first-person account shows how his intelligence and education help him survive for many years, and how he uses technology, including guns and tools salvaged from the ship. He sets up home, reads the Bible, finds a parrot as a pet, and even devises a calendar to keep track of time. Then one day he finds a human footprint: "Was it someone who could save me and take me back to civilization? Or was it a savage who landed here?" When some "savages" arrive in several canoes, he uses his guns to get rid of them, and he rescues one of their captives, a handsome fellow with very dark skin. Delighted to have a companion at last, Crusoe names the newcomer Friday (since Crusoe found him on Friday). Crusoe teaches "my man Friday" to speak English, fire a gun, carve a canoe, and clothe his nakedness, and they live happily together. Later they rescue a white man and Friday's father from a group of "savages," and, eventually, they all return to their homes. Defoe is said to have based his novel on the true adventures of Alexander Selkirk (who spent four or five years on an island in the South Pacific) and on accounts of other castaways of the time. The survival adventure is still enthralling. But what about the racism? This is clearly the classic colonialist story, but whose history is it? And how will young people read it today? Is it just boring, politically correct nitpicking to object to the use of the word "savages" throughout the book and even on the book flap? Yes, there are some bad guys among the whites, but even they are called "men"; the dark-skinned people are always known as "savages." How do we talk about this story today? The guns and tools make Crusoe boss, but wouldn't Friday have been able to teach the newcomer some survival skills? Does it never occur to Crusoe to learn Friday's own name and language? Who discovered whom? Wyeth's clear, action-packed illustrations are magnificent. But there's one shockingly jarring scene of Friday groveling in gratitude at Crusoe's feet. When the whites say thanks, they embrace each other. So, no, the objections are not just P. C. sermonizing. The racism is highly offensive. But the fact that the story is so widely known and has such elemental appeal makes this an excellent book for discussion, especially in classes studying the history of exploration and discovery. Louise Erdrich addressed a similar problem [BKL Ap 1 99] when she commented that although she had loved the Little House books as a child, in rereading them as an adult, she was shocked to recognize that "not only was there no consciousness about the displaced people whose land the newcomers were taking, but also that there was a fair amount of racism." Still, she disagrees with censorship of any kind: "The best way is for good teachers and parents to install racism radar detectors so that kids can make their own judgments, because they're going to have to." Robinson Crusoe is part of the fine Scribner Storybook Classic series that includes *The Last of the Mohicans* and *Robin Hood*, all of which bring readers to Wyeth's paintings. *Treasure Island* will be out later this year. Hazel Rochman Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved