

ROBINSON CRUSOE

DANIEL DEFOE was born in London in 1660, the son of a tallow-chandler. He was educated for the Presbyterian ministry at Newington Dissenting Academy, but quickly abandoned this intention. Thereafter he embarked on a life of several careers and great complexity. He was captured by Algerian pirates and took part in Monmouth's Rebellion; his early engagement in commerce ended in bankruptcy but he later dealt in ship-insurance, wool, oysters, and linen; he became a secret agent, a political pamphleteer and was several times arrested. He died of a lethargy in 1731.

Defoe was the author of works in many genres, ranging over politics, economics, history, biography and crime. Among his best-known novels are *Robinson Crusoe* (1719), *Moll Flanders* (1722), and *Roxana* (1724).

Vocabulary

- tallow-chandler: person who makes or sells candles
- commerce: trade
- pamphlet: a small book on a question of current interest
- genre: kind, style, category
- mariner: sailor
- perish: be destroyed, come to an end
- comely: pleasant to look at
- limb: arm, leg
- reckon: estimate, suppose
- countenance: face including appearance and expression
- surlly: bad-tempered and unfriendly
- tawny: brownish yellow
- slumber: sleep peacefully and comfortably
- subjection: being under control
- servitude: being forced to work for others and having no freedom
- submission: acceptance of another's power or authority
- earthen: made of earth
- sop: soak

THE LIFE AND STRANGE SURPRIZING ADVENTURES OF

Robinson Crusoe,

OF YORK, MARINER:

Who lived Eight and Twenty Years, all alone in an uninhabited Island on the Coast of America, near the Mouth of the Great River of Orinocoque;

Having been cast on Shore by Shipwreck, wherein all the Men perished but himself

BY THE

An Account how he was at last as strangely deliver'd by PYRATES.

Written by Himself.

He was a comely handsome Fellow, perfectly well made; with straight strong Limbs, not too large; tall and well shap'd, and as I reckon, about twenty six Years of Age. He had a very good Countenance, not a fierce and surlly Aspect; but seem'd to have something very manly in his Face, and yet he had all the Sweetness and Softness of an *European* in his Countenance too, especially when he smil'd. His Hair was long and black, not curl'd like Wool; his Forehead very high, and large, and a great Vivacity and sparkling Sharpness in his Eyes. The Colour of his Skin was not quite black, but very tawny; and yet not of an ugly yellow nauseous tawny, as the *Brazilians*, and *Virginians*, and other Natives of *America* are; but of a bright kind of a dun olive Colour, that had in it something very agreeable; tho' not ~~not~~ very easy to describe. His Face was round, and plump; his Nose small, not flat like the Negroes, a very good Mouth, thin Lips, and his fine Teeth well set, and white as Ivory. After he had slumber'd, rather than slept, about half an Hour, he wak'd again, and comes out of the Cave to me; for I had been milking my Goats, which I had in the Enclosure just by: When he espy'd me, he came running to me, laying himself down again upon the Ground, with all the possible Signs of an humble thankful Disposition, making a many antick¹ Gestures to show it: At last he lays his Head flat upon the Ground, close to my Foot, and sets my other Foot upon his

Head, as he had done before; and after this, made all the Signs to me of Subjection, Servitude, and Submission imaginable, to let me know, how he would serve me as long as he liv'd; I understood him in many Things, and let him know, I was very well pleas'd with him; in a little Time I began to speak to him, and teach him to speak to me; and first, I made him know his Name should be *Friday*, which was the Day I sav'd his Life; I call'd him so, for the Memory of the Time; I likewise taught him to say *Master*, and then let him know, that was to be my Name; I likewise taught him to say, Yes, and NO, and to know the Meaning of them; I gave him some Milk, in an earthen Pot, and let him see me Drink it before him, and sop my Bread in it; and I gave him a Cake of Bread, to do the like, which he quickly comply'd with, and made Signs that it was very good for him.

Questions

1. Describe the stranger's physical appearance.
2. What was the stranger doing while Crusoe was taking a close look at him?
3. What happened when Crusoe was milking the goats?
4. According to Crusoe, in which ways did the stranger express his servitude and submission?
5. As time went by, what did Crusoe teach the stranger?
6. What would their names be from now on? What is strange about this?
7. What does Friday learn from Crusoe?