



Robinson Crusoe & Swiss Family Robinson

SUMMARY OF RESOURCES

Copy of MAP

**EXTRACTS FOR USE:
IN SCHOOLS (Comprehension)
IN LIBRARIES (Pre-reading task)**



SUMMARY OF RESOURCES

TEACHING LEVEL: ages 11-13 [Years 7 and 8 in the UK]

If using the book as a whole class reader (we would only recommend this with high-ability pupils) then we recommend the abridged Puffin versions of each.

Daniel Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe*, Puffin Classics, 2019. **ISBN:** 9780141377636.

NOTE: Some detailed passages used here for comprehension are NOT in the Puffin edition.

Johann Wyss, *The Swiss Family Robinson*. Trans. William H. G. Kingston. Puffin Classics, 2004. **ISBN:** 9780141325309

There is also an attractive easy-read graphic novel version of each book by Resolve:

Robinson Crusoe (abridged by Martin Powell) **ISBN** 1474703887

Swiss Family Robinson (abridged by Martin Powell) **ISBN:** 9781406224986

However, teaching could work equally well in terms of using the shorter or longer extracts from each text as a way of introducing pupils to 18th and 19th Century literature – or this alongside the easy reader. In this case one could simply use the whole resource across 5 weeks as a special unit.

SUMMARY: *Robinson Crusoe* (1719). Narrated in the first person by Crusoe.

After going to sea against his father's wishes and after many voyages, some successful, Crusoe is shipwrecked on a remote island off the South American coast in 1659 where he is marooned for 27 years. He goes back and forth to the wreck to get all he can from it. He builds a highly defended shelter (although he is nearly killed when an inner cave collapses). He hunts wild goat on the island and plants seeds and crops from Europe. He has various moments of religious revelation and gradually comes to see his solitude as a means of bringing him close to God. After many years alone, he finds out that others do visit the island (the famous footprint in the sand reveals this). He rescues a victim of cannibalism and calls him "Friday" and later rescues Friday's father and a Spaniard. When the island is visited by an English ship in a state of mutiny he helps the Captain regain his ship and is taken back to England.

SUMMARY: *Swiss Family Robinson* (1812). Narrated in the first person by the Father.

One of many "Robinsonades" written in the 18th and 19th Centuries, this takes the same story and shipwreck elements but applies it to a Swiss family consisting of a mother, father and four boys (Fritz (14) Ernest (12); Jack (10) and Franz (6)). Luckily the ship they were on is fully stocked with seeds and livestock and provides them with all they need for long term survival. They create a first tent house on the shore then find a giant tree inland and build a

treehouse in it to keep them safe. Various wild animals inhabit the island and there are also different regions including an acorn wood, sugarcane, bamboo etc. The father is very inventive and describes making different items in great detail. He also constantly seeks to teach his sons how to live in nature. Later they build further dwellings in a cave and a farm. They have no desire to escape and return to the world and are not rescued.

Neither book has specific chapters and headings but both follow the same basic structure of the shipwreck narrative and tasks are related to different stages of this.

[PRE-READING TASK]

Swiss Family Robinson: Shipwreck

Robinson Crusoe: Shipwreck

EXTRACT 1: STRIPPING THE WRECK

Swiss Family Robinson

Robinson Crusoe

IN GAME TASK

**Get to island start point;
move objects to Tree house**

EXTRACT 2: PLACE-NAMING

Swiss Family Robinson

IN GAME TASK

Explore SFR island; go to RC island

EXTRACT 3: A HOME FROM HOME

Swiss Family Robinson – Grotto house

Robinson Crusoe – Summer house

IN GAME TASK

Build a new home

EXTRACT 4: MAKING

Swiss Family Robinson – Canoe

Robinson Crusoe – Canoe

IN GAME TASK

**Make your own ship; travel by
boat**

EXTRACT 5: MINI-ADVENTURE

Short extracts from each stage above:

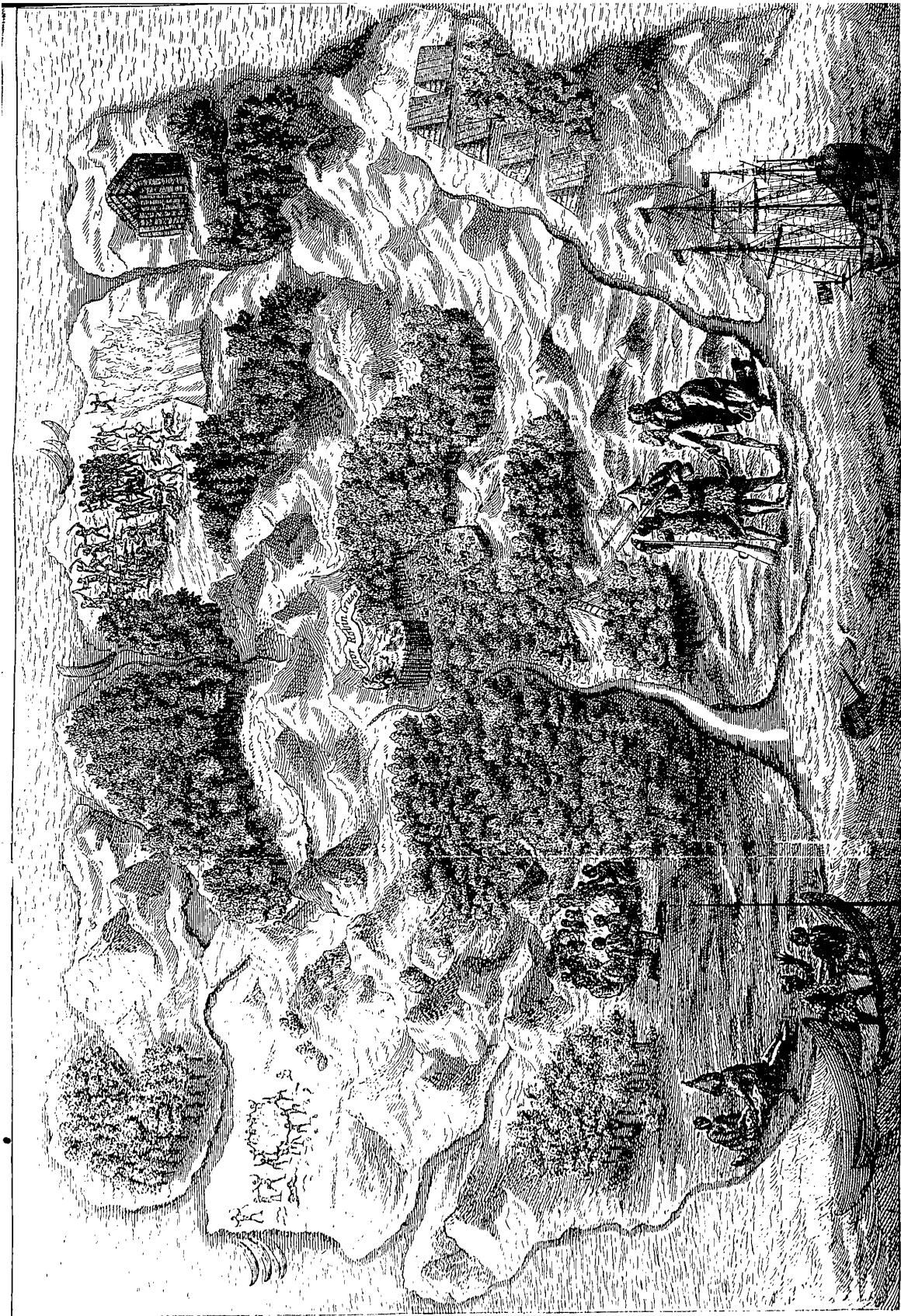
- Shipwreck
- Stripping the Wreck
- Exploring
- Rescue

IN GAME TASK

**Make your own island base
and write a Journal**

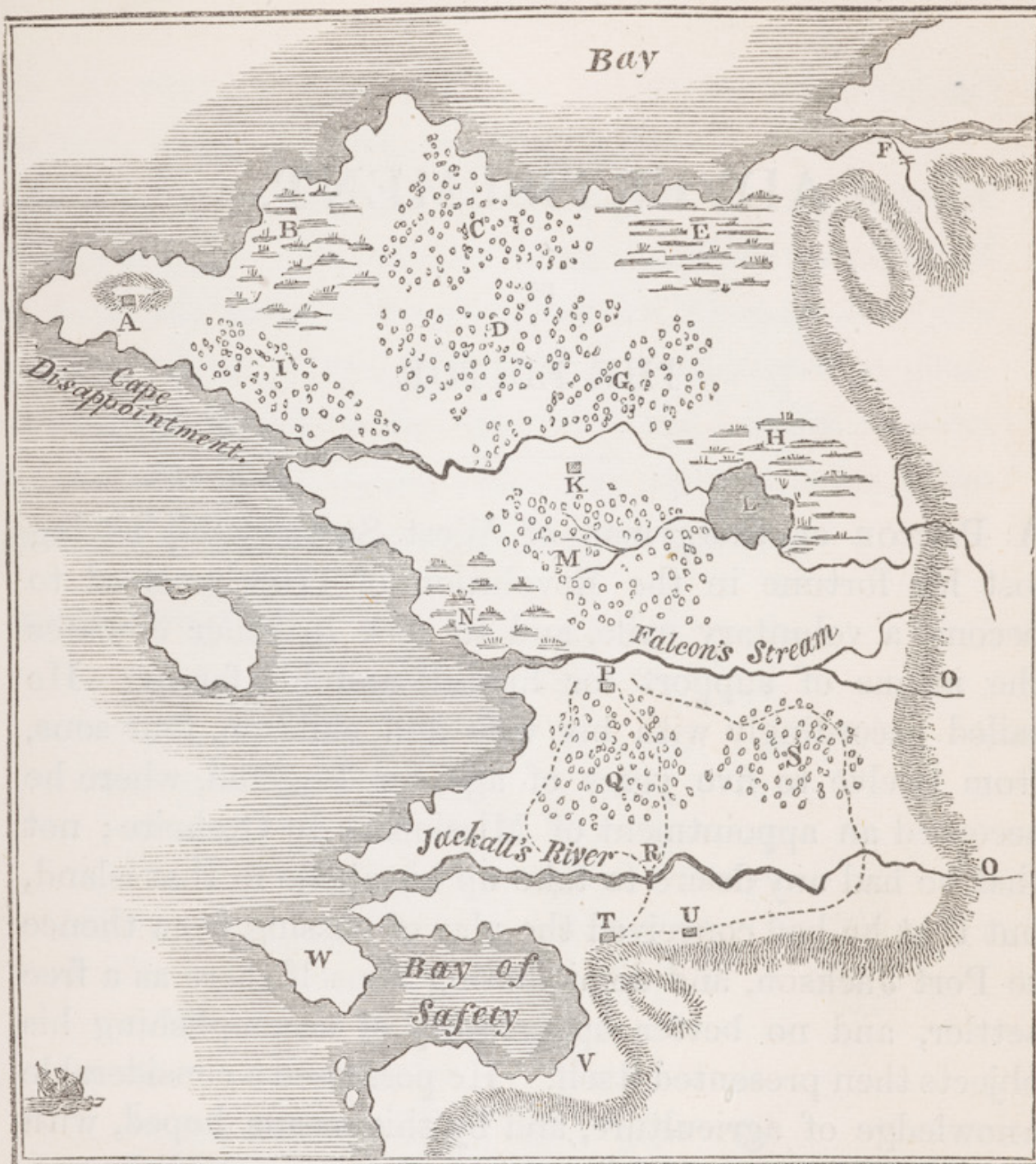
KEY PASSAGES FOR COMPREHENSION WORK OR DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTED IN THE EXTRACTS. [More advanced vocab also highlighted for special attention]

NOTE: Librarians and other non-curricular hosts may wish to use the abridged comprehension tasks that appear from p.24 onwards.



Clark & Pine Sc. 1719.

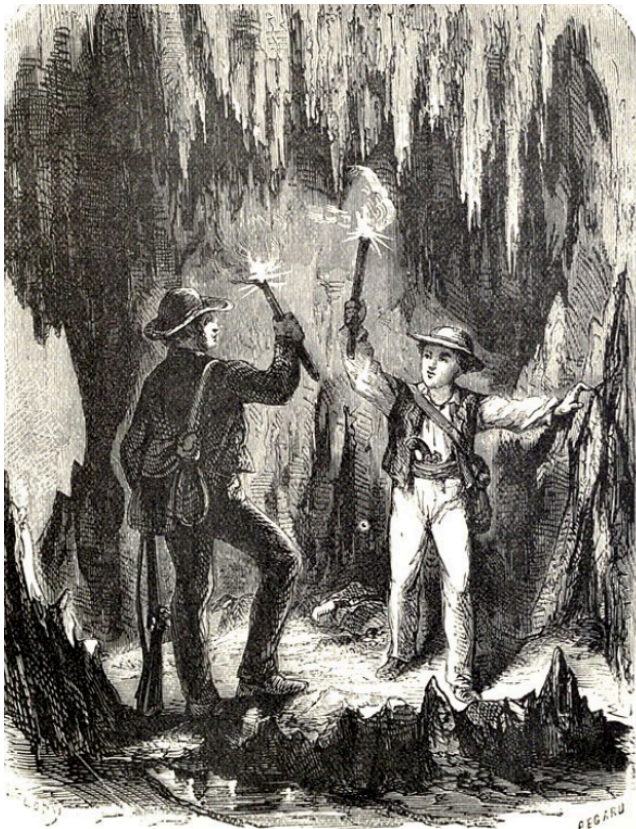
THE ISLE OF ROBINSON CRUSOE

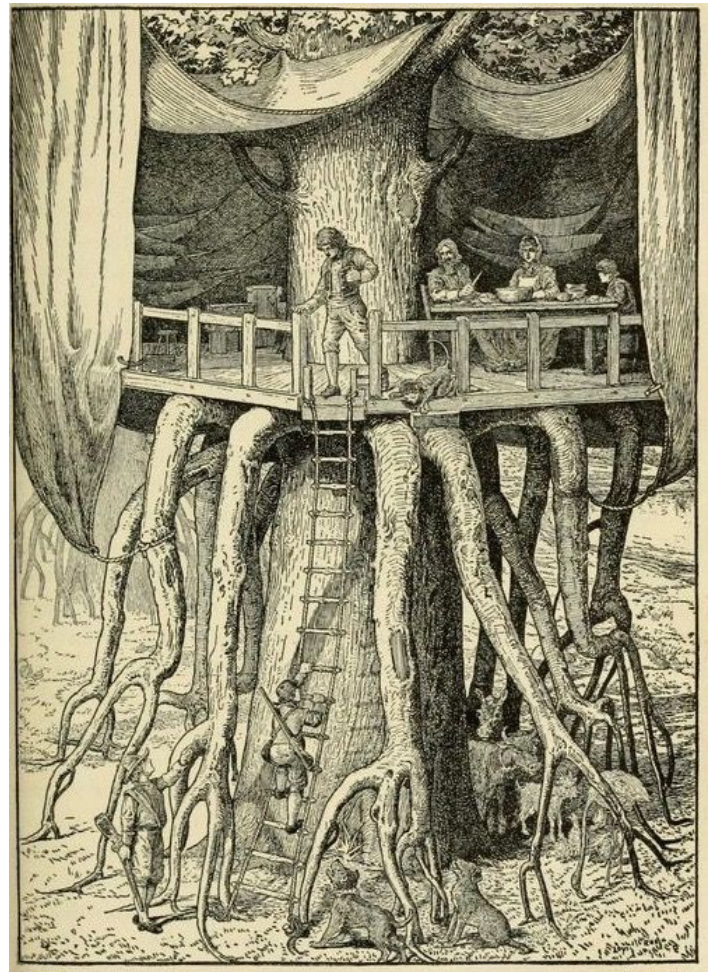


SETTLEMENT OF THE SWISS PASTOR AND HIS FAMILY IN THE
DESERT ISLAND.

A. Arcadia
B. Sugar-Canes
C. Cabbage Palm Wood
D. Gourd Wood
E. Bamboos
F. Pass-Drawbridge
G. Acorn Wood
H. Rice Marsh
I. Monkey Wood
K. The Farm
L. Lake

M. Cotton Wood
N. Flamingo Marsh
O. Cascade
P. Falcon's Nest
Q. Palm Cocoa Wood
R. Family Bridge
S. Potatoe Plantation
T. Tent House
U. Grotto
V. Marsh
W. Shark's Island





PREPARATORY PRE-READING TASK: SHIPWRECKS

[NOTE: There is no in-game activity corresponding to this first reading]

Swiss Family Robinson: Shipwreck

For many days we had been **tempest-tossed**. Six times had the darkness closed over a wild and terrific scene, and returning light as often brought but renewed distress, for the raging storm increased in fury, until on the seventh day all hope was lost.

We were driven completely out of our course; no conjecture could be formed as to our whereabouts. The crew had lost heart, and were utterly exhausted by **incessant** labour. The riven masts had gone by the board, leaks had been sprung in every direction, and the water, which rushed in, gained upon us rapidly.

Instead of reckless oaths, the seamen now uttered frantic cries to God for mercy, mingled with strange and often **ludicrous** vows, to be performed should deliverance be granted. Every man on board alternately commended his soul to his Creator, and strove to bethink himself of some means of saving his life. My heart sank as I looked round upon my family in the midst of these horrors . . .

Amid the roar of the thundering waves I suddenly heard the cry of "Land! land!", while at the same instant the ship struck with a frightful shock, which threw everyone to the deck, and seemed to threaten her immediate destruction. Dreadful sounds **betokened** the breaking up of the ship, and the roaring waters poured in on all sides. Then the voice of the captain was heard above the tumult, shouting,

"Lower away the boats! We are lost!"

"Lost!" I exclaimed, and the word went like a dagger to my heart; but seeing my children's terror renewed, I composed myself, calling out cheerfully, "Take courage, my boys! We are all above water yet. There is the land not far off, let us do our best to reach it. You know God helps those that help themselves! Remain with your mother, while I go on deck to see what is best to be done now." With that, I left them and went on deck. . . .

Casting my eyes despairingly around, I became gradually aware that our position was by no means hopeless, inasmuch as the stern of the ship containing our cabin was jammed between two high rocks, and was partly raised from among the breakers which dashed the fore-part to pieces. As the clouds of mist and rain drove past, I could make out, through **rents** in the vaporious curtain, a line of rocky coast, and, rugged as it was, my heart bounded towards it as a sign of help in the hour of need.

(Puffin edition, p. 1-3)

QUESTIONS

- How long did the storm that caused the shipwreck last?
- Why did the sailors call to God? Why were their vows ludicrous? What do you think they might have been saying?
- Describe the different feelings of the father across this passage using adjectives.

Robinson Crusoe: Shipwreck

And now our case was very dismal indeed; for we all saw plainly that the sea went so high that the boat could not live, and that we should be inevitably drowned. As to making sail, we had none, nor if we had could we have done anything with it; so we worked at the oar towards the land, **though with heavy hearts, like men going to execution**; for we all knew that when the boat came near the shore she would be dashed in a thousand pieces by the breakers. . . .

After we had rowed, or rather driven about a league and a half, as we reckoned it, a raging wave, mountain-like, came rolling astern of us. It took us with such a fury, that it overset the boat at once; and separating us as well from the boat as from one another, gave us not time hardly to say, "O God!" for we were all swallowed up in a moment.

Nothing can describe the confusion of thought which I felt when I sunk into the water; for though I swam very well, yet I could not deliver myself from the waves so as to draw breath, till that wave having driven me, or rather carried me, a vast way on towards the shore, and having spent itself, went back, and left me upon the land almost dry, but half dead with the water I took in. I had so much presence of mind, as well as breath left, that seeing myself nearer land than I expected, I got upon my feet, and **endeavoured** to make on towards the land as fast as I could before another wave should return and take me up again; but I soon found it was impossible to avoid it; for I saw the sea come after me **as high as a great hill, and as furious as an enemy**, which I had no means or strength to contend with: my business was to hold my breath, and raise myself upon the water, if I could; and so by swimming to preserve my breathing, and pilot myself towards the shore, if possible; my greatest concern now being that the sea, as it would carry me a great way towards the shore when it came on, might not carry me back again with it when it gave back towards the sea.

The wave that came upon me again, buried me at once twenty or thirty feet deep in its own body, and I could feel myself carried with a mighty force and swiftness towards the shore—a very great way; but I held my breath, and assisted myself to swim still forward with all my might. I was ready to burst with holding my breath, when, as I felt myself rising up, so, to my immediate relief, I found my head and hands shoot out above the surface of the water; and though it was not two seconds of time that I could keep myself so, yet it relieved me greatly, gave me breath, and new courage. I was covered again with water a good while, but not so long but I held it out; and finding the water had spent itself, and began to return, I struck forward against the return of the waves, and felt ground again with my feet. I stood still a few moments to recover breath, and till the water went from me, and then took to my heels and ran with what strength I had farther towards the shore. But neither would this deliver me from the fury of the sea, which came pouring in after me again; and twice more I was lifted up by the waves and carried forward as before, the shore being very flat. (*Puffin Edition*, p. 35-6)

QUESTIONS

- How far from land were the men in the boat?
- Why was the land as frightening as the sea?
- How does Crusoe manage to survive?
- Look at three examples of the use of METAPHOR and SIMILE in this passage. How effective are they?

⚙️ FULL EXTRACT 1 ⚙️

SESSION 1: STRIPPING THE WRECK

Swiss Family Robinson: Stripping the Wreck

Away we all went to see what was to be found, I myself proceeding to examine, as of greatest consequence, the supplies of provisions and fresh water within our reach . . . My wife took her youngest son, Franz, to help her to attend to the unfortunate animals on board, who were in a pitiful **plight**, having been neglected for several days.

Fritz hastened to the arms chest, Ernest to look for tools. . . . When we **reassembled** in the cabin, we all displayed our treasures. Fritz brought a couple of guns, shot belt, powder-flasks, and plenty of bullets. Ernest produced a cap full of nails, a pair of large scissors, an axe, and a hammer, while pincers, chisels and augers stuck out of all his pockets.

Little Franz carried a box and eagerly began to show us the “nice sharp little hooks” it contained. “Well, done, Franz!” cried I, “these fish hooks, which you the youngest have found, may contribute more than anything else in the ship to save our lives by **procuring** food for us. Fritz and Ernest, you have chosen well.”

“Will you praise me too?” said my dear wife. “I have nothing to show, but I can give you good news. Some useful animals are still alive: a cow, a donkey, two goats, six sheep, a ram, and a fine sow. . . .”

“Let the poor animals we must leave behind, be well fed, and put plenty of **fodder** within their reach: in a few days we may be able to return, and save them likewise. After that, collect everything you can think of which may be of use to us.’ . . .

All being ready, we cast off, and moved away from the wreck. My good, brave wife sat in the first compartment of the boat; next her was Franz, a sweet-tempered, affectionate little boy, nearly six years old. Then came Fritz, a handsome, spirited young fellow of fourteen; the two centre tubs contained the valuable cargo; then came our bold, thoughtless Jack; next him Ernest, my second son, intelligent, well-informed, and rather **indolent**. I myself, the anxious, loving father, stood in the stern, **endeavouring** to guide the raft with its precious burden to a safe landing-place.

(*Puffin Edition*, p. 6-11)

First Base: Tent House

All hands then briskly fell to the work of unloading, and, oh, how rich we felt ourselves as we did so! The poultry we left at liberty to **forage** for themselves, and we set about finding a suitable place to erect a tent in which to pass the night. This we speedily did; thrusting a long **spar** into a hole in the rock, and supporting the other end by a pole firmly planted in the ground, we formed a framework over which we stretched the sailcloth we had brought; besides fastening this down with pegs, we placed our heavy chests and boxes on the border of the canvas, and arranged hooks so as to be able to close up the entrance during the night.

When this was accomplished, the boys ran to collect moss and grass, to spread in the tent for our beds, while I arranged a fireplace with some large flat stones, near the brook which flowed close by. Dry twigs and seaweed were soon in a blaze on the hearth, I filled the iron pot with water, and giving my wife several cakes of the portable soup, she established herself as our cook, with little Franz to help her. (*Puffin Edition* p. 13)

QUESTIONS

- Make a list of everything the family finds in the wreck. Now put this in order of importance.
- IF you were shipwrecked today what would you try to save? What would be the 5 most important things? (Children do in pairs first – then compare and whittle down to 5).

Robinson Crusoe: Stripping the Wreck

My first work was to search and to see what was spoiled and what was free. And, first, I found that all the ship's provisions were dry and untouched by the water, and being very well disposed to eat, I went to the bread room and filled my pockets with biscuit, and ate it as I went about other things, for I had no time to lose. I also found some rum in the great cabin, of which I took a large **dram**, and which I had, indeed, need enough of to spirit me for what was before me. Now I wanted nothing but a boat to furnish myself with many things which I foresaw would be very necessary to me.

It was in vain to sit still and wish for what was not to be had; and this extremity roused my application. We had several spare yards, and two or three large spars of wood, and a spare topmast or two in the ship; I resolved to fall to work with these, and I flung as many of them overboard as I could manage for their weight, tying every one with a rope, that they might not drive away. When this was done I went down the ship's side, and pulling them to me, I tied four of them together at both ends as well as I could, in the form of a raft, and laying two or three short pieces of plank upon them crossways, I found I could walk upon it very well, but that it was not able to bear any great weight, the pieces being too light. So I went to work, and with the carpenter's saw I cut a spare topmast into three lengths, and added them to my raft, with a great deal of labour and pains. But the hope of furnishing myself with necessaries encouraged me to go beyond what I should have been able to have done upon another occasion.

My raft was now strong enough to bear any reasonable weight. My next care was what to load it with, and how to preserve what I laid upon it from the surf of the sea; but I was not long considering this. I first laid all the planks or boards upon it that I could get, and having considered well what I most wanted, I got three of the seamen's chests, which I had broken open, and emptied, and lowered them down upon my raft; the first of these I filled with provisions—viz. bread, rice, three Dutch cheeses, five pieces of dried goat's flesh (which we lived much upon), and a little remainder of European corn, which had been laid by for some fowls which we brought to sea with us, but the fowls were killed. There had been some barley and wheat together; but, to my great disappointment, I found afterwards that the rats had eaten or spoiled it all. As for liquors, I found several cases of bottles belonging to our skipper, in which were some cordial waters; and, in all, about five or six gallons of rack. These I stowed by themselves, there being no need to put them into the chest, nor any room for them. And it was after long searching that I found out the carpenter's chest, which was, indeed, a very useful prize to me, and much more valuable than a shipload of gold would have been at that time. I got it down to my raft, whole as it was, without losing time to look into it, for I knew in general what it contained. . . (Passages not in Puffin edition 37-8)

I found about thirty-six pounds value in money, some European coin, some Brasil, some pieces of Eight, some gold, some silver. I smiled to myself at the sight of this money. "What art thou good for?" I said aloud. "Thou art not worth to me, no, not the taking off of the ground; one of those knives is worth all this heap. I have no manner of use for thee, remain where thou art and go to the bottom as a creature whose life is not worth saving." However, upon second thoughts I took it away. (Puffin, 43)

First Base: Thorny Tree

All that remedy that offered to my thoughts at that time, was, to get up into a thick bushy tree like a fir, but thorny, which grew near me, and where I resolved to sit all night and consider the next day what death I should die, for as yet I saw no prospect of life . . . I went to the tree, and getting up into it, endeavoured to place myself so as that if I should sleep I might not fall; and having cut me a short stick like a truncheon, for my defence, I took up my lodging . . . [Puffin, 40]

QUESTIONS

- Make a list of everything Crusoe finds in order of importance. Compare this with Swiss Family Robinson. Why does he laugh at the money?
- Compare Crusoe's first night on shore with SFR. What are the advantages and disadvantages of each of their first bases?

⚙️ FULL EXTRACT 2 ⚙️

SESSION 2: PLACE-NAMING AND EXPLORING

Robinson Crusoe

I had now been in this unhappy island above ten months; all possibility of deliverance from this condition seemed to be entirely taken from me; and I firmly believed that no human shape had ever set foot upon that place. Having now secured my habitation, as I thought, fully to my mind, I had a great desire to make a more perfect discovery of the island, and to see what other productions I might find, which I yet knew nothing of.

It was on the 15th of July that I began to take a more particular survey of the island itself. I went up the creek first, where I had brought my rafts on shore; I found, after I came about two miles up, that the tide did not flow any higher, and that it was no more than a little brook of running water, and very fresh and good; but this being the dry season, there was hardly any water in some parts of it, at least not enough to run in any stream, so as it could be perceived.

On the banks of this brook I found many pleasant meadows, plain, smooth, and covered with grass; and on the rising parts of them, next to the higher grounds, where the water, as it might be supposed, never overflowed, I found a great deal of tobacco, green, and growing to a great and very strong stalk.

The next day, the 16th, I went up the same way again; and after going something further than I had gone the day before, I found the brook and the meadows began to cease, and the country become more woody than before; in this part I found different fruits, and particularly I found melons upon the ground in great **abundance**, and grapes upon the trees; the vines had spread indeed over the trees, and the clusters of grapes were just now in their prime, very ripe and rich.

I spent all that evening there, and went not back to my habitation; which, by the way, was the first night, as I might say, I had lain from home. In the night, I took my first **contrivance**, and got up in a tree, where I slept well; and the next morning proceeded upon my discovery; travelling nearly four miles, as I might judge by the length of the valley, keeping still due north, with a ridge of hills on the south and north-side of me. At the end of this march I came to an opening, where the country seemed to descend to the west, and a little spring of fresh water, which issued out of the side of the hill by me, ran the other way, that is, due east; and the country appeared so fresh, so green, so **flourishing**, everything being in a constant **verdure** or flourish of spring that it looked like a planted garden.

I descended a little on the side of that delicious vale, surveying it with a secret kind of pleasure (though mixed with my other afflicting thoughts) to think that this was all my own; that I was king and lord of all this country indefeasibly, and had a right of possession; and if I could convey it, I might have it in inheritance as completely as any lord of a manor in England. (Puffin, 77-8)

QUESTIONS

Use the map of Robinson Crusoe's island to try and work out where he goes. Draw his route onto it. How easy or hard was this?

Swiss Family Robinson

During the meal I interested the boys very much by proposing to decide on suitable names for the different spots we had visited on this coast. "For," said I, "it will become more and more **troublesome** to explain what we mean, unless we do so. Besides which, we shall feel much more at home if we can talk as people do in inhabited countries: instead of saying, for instance, 'the little island at the mouth of our bay, where we found the dead shark', 'the large stream near our tent, across which we made the bridge', 'that wood where we found cocoanuts, and caught the monkey', and so on. Let us begin by naming the bay in which we landed. What shall we call it?"

"Oyster Bay," said Fritz.

"No, no!—Lobster Bay," cried Jack, "In memory of the old fellow who took a fancy to my leg!"

"I think," observed his mother, "that, in token of gratitude for our escape, we should call it Safety Bay."

This name met with general **approbation**, and was **forthwith** fixed upon.

Other names were quickly chosen. Our first place of abode we called Tentholm; the islet in the bay, Shark's Island; and the reedy swamp, Flamingo Marsh. It was some time before the serious question of a name for our leafy castle could be decided. But finally it was entitled Falconholm; and we then rapidly named the few remaining points: Prospect Hill, the eminence we first ascended; Cape Disappointment, from whose rocky heights we had strained our eyes in vain search for our ship's company; and Jackal's River, as a name for the large stream at our landing place, concluded our geographical **nomenclature**. (*Puffin Edition* p. 85-6)

QUESTIONS

- What reason does the father give for wanting to name places on the island?
- Look at the suggestions for the bay in which they landed – what does each suggestion offer? Do you agree with the final name they choose and the reason for it?
- How important are names – how do you feel about your own name?
- Why else do we name places and people?

Crusoe's List of Good and Evil: [ALSO found in CHEST on RC island]

Evil.

I am cast upon a horrible, desolate island, **void** of all hope of recovery.

I am singled out and separated, as it were, from all the world, to be miserable.

I am divided from mankind—a **solitaire**; one **banished** from human society.

I have not clothes to cover me.

I am without any defence, or means to resist any violence of man or beast.

I have no soul to speak to, or relieve me.

Good.

But I am alive, and not drowned, as all my ship's company was.

But I am singled out, too, from all the ship's crew, to be spared from death; and He that miraculously saved me from death can deliver me from this condition.

But I am not starved and perishing on a barren place, affording no sustenance.

But I am in a hot climate, where if I had clothes I could hardly wear them.

But I am cast on an island where I see no wild beasts to hurt me, as I saw on the coast of Africa; and what if I had been shipwrecked there?

But God wonderfully sent the ship in near enough to the shore, that I have got out as many necessary things as will either supply my wants or enable me to supply myself, even as long as I live. (Puffin, p. 50-1)

QUESTIONS

- Why does Crusoe use the terms "Evil" and "Good" for his list? What other terms could he have used?
- What does it mean to be "void of all hope of recovery." Why does he describe himself as "a solitaire"?
- Are any of the "Evils" potentially "Good"?
- Is there anything missing from his list that you would want to add to it?

FULL EXTRACT 3

SESSION 3: A HOME FROM HOME

Swiss Family Robinson: The Grotto

[After living in Tree house for some time the family discover a large cave]

Our attention was now fully occupied with this new house. Light and air were to be admitted, so we hewed a row of windows in the rock, where we fitted the window-cases we had brought from the officers' cabins. We brought the door, too, from Falconholm, and fitted it in the **aperture** we had made for the opening in the trunk of the tree I determined to conceal with bark, as less likely to attract the notice of wild beasts or savages should they approach during our absence.

The cave itself we divided into four parts: in front, a large compartment into which the door opened, subdivided into our sitting, eating and sleeping apartments; the right-hand division, containing our kitchen and workshop, and the left our stables; behind all this, in the dark recess of the cave, was our storehouse and powder-magazine.

Having already undergone one rainy season, we knew well its discomforts, and thought of many useful arrangements in the laying-out of our dwelling. We did not intend to be again smoke-dried; we, therefore, contrived a properly built fireplace and chimney; our stable arrangements, too, were better, and plenty of space was left in our workshop that we should not be hampered in even the most extensive operations. (p.188-9)

. . . . We levelled the floors first with clay; then spread gravel mixed with melted gypsum over that, producing a smooth hard surface, which did very well for most of the apartments; but I was ambitious of having one or two carpets, and set about making a kind of felt in the following way.

I spread out a large piece of sailcloth, and covered it equally all over with a strong liquid, made of glue and isinglass, which saturated it thoroughly. On it we then laid wool and hair from the sheep and goats, which had been carefully cleaned and prepared, and rolled and beat it until it adhered tolerably smoothly to the cloth. Finally it became, when perfectly dry, a covering for the floor of our sitting-room by no means to be despised. (p.206-7)

An adjoining chamber was kitted up as a forge, with fire-place, bellows, and anvil, complete, all which we had found in the ship, packed together, and ready to set up.

Our rocky home was greatly improved by a wide porch which I made along the whole front of our rooms and entrances, by levelling the ground to form a terrace, and sheltering it with a verandah of bamboo, supported by pillars of the same. (p. 235)

QUESTIONS

- What advantages does the cave offer Swiss Family Robinson over Tent House or Tree House?
- Draw a sketch of their new cave home as best you can from the description given above.

Robinson Crusoe: *Building the Country House*

When I came home from this journey, I contemplated with great pleasure the fruitfulness of that valley, and the pleasantness of the situation; the security from storms on that side of the water, and the wood, and concluded that I had pitched upon a place to fix my **abode** which was by far the worst part of the country. Upon the whole, I began to consider of removing my **habitation**, and looking out for a place equally safe as where I now was situated, if possible, in that pleasant, fruitful part of the island.

This thought ran long in my head, and I was exceeding fond of it for some time, the pleasantness of the place tempting me; but when I came to a nearer view of it, I considered that I was now by the sea-side, where it was at least possible that something might happen to my advantage, and, by the same ill fate that brought me **hither** might bring some other unhappy wretches to the same place; and though it was scarce probable that any such thing should ever happen, yet to enclose myself among the hills and woods in the centre of the island was to anticipate my bondage, and to render such an affair not only improbable, but impossible; and that therefore I ought not by any means to remove.

However, I was so **enamoured** of this place, that I spent much of my time there for the whole of the remaining part of the month of July; and though upon second thoughts, I **resolved** not to remove, yet I built me a little kind of a **bower**, and surrounded it at a distance with a strong fence, being a double hedge, as high as I could reach, well staked and filled between with brushwood; and here I lay very secure, sometimes two or three nights together; always going over it with a ladder, as before; so that I fancied now I had my country house and my sea-coast house; and this work took me up to the beginning of August. (Puffin, p. 80-1)

I kept the hedge which circled it in constantly fitted up to its usual height, the ladder standing always on the inside. . . . In the middle of this I had my tent always standing, being a piece of sail spread over poles set up for that purpose . . . and under this I had made me a couch. (Puffin, 120)

QUESTIONS

- Why does Robinson Crusoe think about moving to a new home on the island?
- Why does he decide not to move in the end?
- What are the key factors determining the design of his house?

Robinson Crusoe: Planting Crops

I was now, in the months of November and December, expecting my crop of barley and rice. The ground I had manured and dug up for them was not great; for, as I observed, my seed of each was not above the quantity of half a peck, for I had lost one whole crop by sowing in the dry season. But now my crop promised very well, when on a sudden I found I was in danger of losing it all again by enemies of several sorts, which it was scarcely possible to keep from it; as, first, the goats, and wild creatures which I called hares, who, tasting the sweetness of the blade, lay in it night and day, as soon as it came up, and eat it so close, that it could get no time to shoot up into stalk.

This I saw no **remedy** for but by making an enclosure about it with a hedge; which I did with a great deal of **toil**, and the more, because it required speed. However, as my arable land was but small, suited to my crop, I got it totally well fenced in about three weeks' time; and shooting some of the creatures in the daytime, I set my dog to guard it in the night, tying him up to a stake at the gate, where he would stand and bark all night long; so in a little time the enemies **forsook** the place, and the corn grew very strong and well, and began to ripen apace.

But as the beasts ruined me before, while my corn was **in the blade**, so the birds were as likely to ruin me now, when it was **in the ear**; for, going along by the place to see how it **throve**, I saw my little crop surrounded with fowls, of I know not how many sorts, who stood, as it were, watching till I should be gone. I immediately let fly among them, for I always had my gun with me. I had no sooner shot, but there rose up a little cloud of fowls, which I had not seen at all, from among the corn itself.

This touched me sensibly, for I foresaw that in a few days they would **devour** all my hopes; that I should be starved, and never be able to raise a crop at all; and what to do I could not tell . . .

I stayed by it to load my gun, and then coming away, I could easily see the thieves sitting upon all the trees about me, as if they only waited till I was gone away, and the event proved it to be so; for as I walked off, as if I was gone, I was no sooner out of their sight than they dropped down one by one into the corn again. I was so **provoked**, that I could not have patience to stay till more came on, knowing that every grain that they ate now was, as it might be said, a peck-loaf to me in the consequence; but coming up to the hedge, I fired again, and killed three of them. This was what I wished for; so I took them up, and served them as we serve **notorious** thieves in England—hanged them in chains, for a terror to others. (Passage not in Puffin edition)

QUESTIONS

- How does Robinson Crusoe protect his crops? What different techniques does he use?
- Can you think of any other way he might have done this?
- Do you think his actions are justified or not? Can you defend him?

⚙️ FULL EXTRACT 4 ⚙️

SESSION 4: MAKING

Swiss Family Robinson: Making a Rope Ladder to get into the Tree house

Fritz had obtained two coils of cord each about forty feet in length; these we stretched on the ground side by side. Then Fritz cut the bamboos into pieces of two feet for the steps of the ladder, and as he handed them to me, I passed them through knots which I had prepared in the ropes, while Jack fixed each end with a nail driven through the wood. When the ladder was finished, I carried over the bough a rope by which it might be hauled up. This done, I fixed the lower end of the ladder firmly to the ground . . . and all was ready for ascent. (78)

Swiss Family Robinson: Building a Canoe

My chief object in undertaking this expedition had been to discover some tree from whose bark I could hope to make a useful light boat or canoe. **Hitherto** I had met with none at all fit for my purpose, but, not despairing of success, I began, when the cottage was built, to examine carefully the surrounding woods, and, after considerable trouble, came upon two magnificent tall straight trees, the bark of which seemed something like that of the birch.

Selecting one whose trunk was, to a great height, free from branches, we attached to one of the lower of these boughs the rope ladder we had with us, and, Fritz ascending it, cut the bark through in a circle; I did the same at the foot of the tree, and then, from between the circles, we took a narrow **perpendicular** slip of bark entirely out, so that we could introduce the proper tools by which gradually to loosen and raise the main part, so as finally to separate it from the tree uninjured and entire. This we found possible, because the bark was moist and flexible.

Great care and **exertion** were necessary, as the bark became detached, to support it, until the whole was ready to be let gently down upon the grass. This seemed a great achievement; but our work was by no means ended, nor could we venture to desist from it, until, while the material was soft and **pliable**, we had formed it into the shape we desired for the canoe.

In order to do this, I cut a long triangular piece out of each end of the roll, and, placing the sloping parts one over the other, I drew the ends into a pointed form and secured them with pegs and glue. This successful proceeding had, however, widened the boat, and made it too flat in the middle, so that it was necessary to put ropes round it, and tighten them until the proper shape was restored, before we could allow it to dry in the sun. . . .

We vigorously resumed the task of finishing the canoe. The arrangements, I flattered myself, were carried out in a manner quite worthy of a shipbuilder; a mast, sails and paddles were fitted, but my final touch, although I prized it highly and considered it a grand and original idea, would no doubt have excited only ridicule and contempt had it been seen by a naval man. My contrivance was this: I had a couple of large air-tight bags, made of the skins of the dog-fish, well **tarred and pitched**, inflated, and made fast on each side of the boat, just above the level of the water. These floats, however much she might be loaded, would effectually prevent either the sinking or **capsizing** of my craft. (p. 201-3)

QUESTIONS

- How do Fritz and his father work together to make the canoe?
- Do you think it is well-designed and would work? Would you have done anything differently?
- In your own words list the key stages of making the bark canoe.

Robinson Crusoe: Building a Canoe

This at length put me upon thinking whether it was not possible to make myself a canoe, or *periagua*, such as the natives of those climates make, even without tools, or, as I might say, without hands, of the trunk of a great tree.

I went to work upon this boat the most like a fool that ever man did who had any of his senses awake. I pleased myself with the design, without determining whether I was ever able to undertake it; not but that the difficulty of launching my boat came often into my head; but I put a stop to my inquiries into it by this foolish answer which I gave myself— “Let me first make it; I warrant I will find some way or other to get it along when it is done.”

This was a most **preposterous** method; but the eagerness of my fancy prevailed, and to work I went. I felled a cedar-tree, and I question much whether Solomon ever had such a one for the building of the Temple at Jerusalem; it was five feet ten inches diameter at the lower part next the stump, and four feet eleven inches diameter at the end of twenty-two feet; after which it lessened for a while, and then parted into branches. It was not without infinite labour that I felled this tree; I was twenty days **hacking and hewing** at it at the bottom; I was fourteen more getting the branches and limbs and the vast spreading head cut off, which I hacked and hewed through with axe and hatchet, and **inexpressible** labour; after this, it cost me a month to shape it and dub it to a proportion, and to something like the bottom of a boat, that it might swim upright as it ought to do.

It cost me near three months more to clear the inside, and work it out so as to make an exact boat of it; this I did, indeed, without fire, by mere mallet and chisel, and by the dint of hard labour, till I had brought it to be a very handsome *periagua*, and big enough to have carried six-and-twenty men, and consequently big enough to have carried me and all my cargo.

One would have thought I could not have had the least reflection upon my mind of my circumstances while I was making this boat, but I should have immediately thought how I should get it into the sea; but my thoughts were so intent upon my voyage over the sea in it, that I never once considered how I should get it off the land: and it was really, in its own nature, more easy for me to guide it over forty-five miles of sea than about forty-five fathoms of land, where it lay, to set it afloat in the water.

But all my devices to get it into the water failed me; though they cost me infinite labour too. But the first inconvenience was, it was up Hill towards the Creek . . . Then I measured the distance of ground and resolved to cut a dock or canal, to bring the water up to the canoe, seeing I could not bring the canoe down into the water . . .

(Not in Puffin edition)

QUESTIONS

- Why is it so much harder for Robinson Crusoe than for Swiss Family Robinson to make the canoe?
- How long does it take him altogether?
- What three things does he do wrong?
- How do you think he felt when he finally accepted that he could not use it?



FULL EXTRACT 5

SESSION 5: Mini-Island Adventure

CRUSOE'S JOURNAL

From the 1st of October to the 24th. All these days entirely spent in many several voyages to get all I could out of the ship, which I brought on shore every tide of flood, upon rafts. Much rain also in the days, though with some intervals of fair weather; but it seems this was the rainy season.

Oct. 20. I **overset** my raft, and all the goods I had got upon it; but, being in shoal water, and the things being chiefly heavy, I recovered many of them when the tide was out.

Oct. 25. It rained all night and all day, with some gusts of wind; during which time the ship broke in pieces, the wind blowing a little harder than before, and was no more to be seen, except the wreck of her, and that only at low water. I spent this day in covering and securing the goods which I had saved, that the rain might not spoil them.

Oct. 26. I walked about the shore almost all day, to find out a place to fix my **habitation**, greatly concerned to secure myself from any attack in the night, either from wild beasts or men. Towards night, I fixed upon a proper place, under a rock, and marked out a semicircle for my **encampment**; which I resolved to strengthen with a work, wall, or fortification, made of double piles, lined within with cables, and without with turf.

From the 26th to the 30th I worked very hard in carrying all my goods to my new habitation, though some part of the time it rained exceedingly hard. (Puffin, 56-7)

May 4. I went a fishing, but caught not one fish that I dared eat till I was weary with my sport.

May 5. Worked on the wreck, cut another beam asunder and brought three great fir planks off from the decks which I tied together and made swim on shore when the tide of flood came on.

May 6. Worked on the wreck, got several iron bolts out of her and other pieces of iron work.

June 17. I spent in cooking the Turtle; I found in her three-score eggs; and her flesh was to me at that time the most savoury and pleasant that I ever tasted in my life.

June 18. Rained all day, and stayed within.

June 19. Very ill, and shivering, as if the Weather had been cold.

June 20. No rest all Night, violent Pains in my head, and feverish.

June 21. Very ill, frightened almost to death with apprehension of my sad condition, to be sick, and no help. [Puffin, 67-8]

QUESTIONS

- What kind of writing is a Journal? What is it for? Why does Crusoe write it?
- How is it different from reading what happens as a story?
- What happens to you if you fall ill on a desert island? Why is Crusoe so frightened?
- What characteristics of the Journal form can you pick out from these extracts?

MINI-ADVENTURE EXTRACTS

1. Shipwreck and washed ashore

The wave that came upon me again buried me at once twenty or thirty feet deep in its own body, and I could feel myself carried with a mighty force and swiftness towards the shore—a very great way; but I held my breath, and assisted myself to swim still forward with all my might. I was ready to burst with holding my breath, when, as I felt myself rising up, so, to my immediate relief, I found my head and hands shoot out above the surface of the water; and though it was not two seconds of time that I could keep myself so, yet it relieved me greatly, gave me breath, and new courage. I was covered again with water a good while, but not so long but I held it out; and finding the water had spent itself, and began to return, I struck forward against the return of the waves, and felt ground again with my feet. I stood still a few moments to recover breath, and till the waters went from me, and then took to my heels and ran with what strength I had further towards the shore. But neither would this deliver me from the fury of the sea, which came pouring in after me again; and twice more I was lifted up by the waves and carried forward as before, the shore being very flat. (*Robinson Crusoe*, 37)



2. Making a base

All hands then briskly fell to the work of unloading, and, oh, how rich we felt ourselves as we did so! The poultry we left at liberty to **forage** for themselves, and we set about finding a suitable place to erect a tent in which to pass the night. This we speedily did; thrusting a long spar into a hole in the rock, and supporting the other end by a pole firmly planted in the ground, we formed a framework over which we stretched the sailcloth we had brought; besides fastening this down with pegs, we placed our heavy chests and boxes on the border of the canvas, and arranged hooks so as to be able to close up the entrance during the night.

When this was accomplished, the boys ran to collect moss and grass, to spread in the tent for our beds, while I arranged a fireplace with some large flat stones, near the brook which flowed close by. Dry twigs and seaweed were soon in a blaze on the hearth, I filled the iron pot with water, and giving my wife several cakes of the portable soup, she established herself as our cook, with little Franz to help her. (*Swiss Family Robinson*, 13)



3. Exploring

When I came home from this journey, I contemplated with great pleasure the fruitfulness of that valley, and the pleasantness of the situation; the security from storms on that side of the water, and the wood: and concluded that I had pitched upon a place to fix my **abode** which was by far the worst part of the country. Upon the whole, I began to consider of removing my habitation, and looking out for a place equally safe as where now I was situated, if possible, in that pleasant, fruitful part of the island. (*Robinson Crusoe*, 80)



4. Rescue

I knew the captain's voice, when climbing up to the top of the hill, there he stood, and pointing to the ship, he embraced me in his arms. "My dear friend and **deliverer**," says he "there's your ship, for she is yours and so are we and all that belong to her." I cast my eyes to the ship, and there she rode within little more than a half a mile of the shore. . . The captain had brought the Pinnace in near the Place where I at first landed my rafts, and so landed just at my door.

I was at first ready to sink down with the surprise. For I saw my **deliverance** indeed visibly put into my hands, all things easy, and a large ship just ready to carry me away whither I pleased to go. I held fast by him or I should have fallen to the ground. (*Robinson Crusoe*, 258-9)

QUESTIONS

- For each mini-extract draw a picture to illustrate it and create a sequence. Write three adjectives that describe this stage of the experience.

❁❁❁❁❁❁

ABRIDGED EXTRACTS



NOTE: These correspond to the **highlighted** sections of the full extracts.

If time allows try and use the full extracts. If however, you wish to do the minimum pre-read then use these shorter ones.

Questions for comprehension are the same as for full extracts.



PREPARATORY READING TASK: SHIPWRECKS

[NOTE: NO In-Game activity linked to this reading]

Swiss Family Robinson

We were driven completely out of our course; no conjecture could be formed as to our whereabouts. The crew had lost heart, and were utterly exhausted by **incessant** labour. The riven masts had gone by the board, leaks had been sprung in every direction, and the water, which rushed in, gained upon us rapidly.

Amid the roar of the thundering waves I suddenly heard the cry of "Land! land!", while at the same instant the ship struck with a frightful shock, which threw everyone to the deck, and seemed to threaten her immediate destruction. Dreadful sounds **betokened** the breaking up of the ship, and the roaring waters poured in on all sides. Then the voice of the captain was heard above the tumult, shouting, "Lower away the boats! We are lost!"

QUESTIONS

- How long did the storm that caused the shipwreck last?
- Why did the sailors call to God? Why were their vows ludicrous? What do you think they might have been saying?
- Describe the different feelings of the father across this passage using adjectives.

Robinson Crusoe

Nothing can describe the confusion of thought which I felt when I sunk into the water; for though I swam very well, yet I could not deliver myself from the waves so as to draw breath, till that wave having driven me, or rather carried me, a vast way on towards the shore, and having spent itself, went back, and left me upon the land almost dry, but half dead with the water I took in. I had so much presence of mind, as well as breath left, that seeing myself nearer land than I expected, I got upon my feet, and **endeavoured** to make on towards the land as fast as I could before another wave should return and take me up again; but I soon found it was impossible to avoid it; for I saw the sea come after me **as high as a great hill, and as furious as an enemy**, which I had no means or strength to contend with: my business was to hold my breath, and raise myself upon the water, if I could; and so by swimming to preserve my breathing, and pilot myself towards the shore, if possible; my greatest concern now being that the sea, as it would carry me a great way towards the shore when it came on, might not carry me back again with it when it gave back towards the sea.

QUESTIONS

- How far from land were the men in the boat?
- Why was the land as frightening as the sea?
- How does Crusoe manage to survive?
- Look at three examples of the use of METAPHOR and SIMILE in this passage. How effective are they?

EXTRACT 1: STRIPPING THE WRECK

Swiss Family Robinson

Away we all went to see what was to be found, I myself proceeding to examine, as of greatest consequence, the supplies of provisions and fresh water within our reach.

My wife took her youngest son, Franz, to help her to attend to the unfortunate animals on board, who were in a pitiful **plight**, having been neglected for several days.

Fritz hastened to the arms chest, Ernest to look for tools. . . . When we reassembled in the cabin, we all displayed our treasures. Fritz brought a couple of guns, shot belt, powder-flasks, and plenty of bullets. Ernest produced a cap full of nails, a pair of large scissors, an axe, and a hammer, while pincers, chisels and augers stuck out of all his pockets.

Little Franz carried a box and eagerly began to show us the “nice sharp little hooks” it contained. “Well, done, Franz!” cried I, “these fish hooks, which you the youngest have found, may contribute more than anything else in the ship to save our lives by **procuring** food for us. Fritz and Ernest, you have chosen well.”

Tent House

All hands then briskly fell to the work of unloading, and, oh, how rich we felt ourselves as we did so! The poultry we left at liberty to **forage** for themselves, and set about finding a suitable place to erect a tent in which to pass the night. This we speedily did; thrusting a long spar into a hole in the rock, and supporting the other end by a pole firmly planted in the ground, we formed a framework over which we stretched the sailcloth we had brought; besides fastening this down with pegs, we placed our heavy chests and boxes on the border of the canvas, and arranged hooks so as to be able to close up the entrance during the night.

When this was accomplished, the boys ran to collect moss and grass, to spread in the tent for our beds, while I arranged a fireplace, surrounded by large flat stones, near the brook which flowed close by. Dry twigs and seaweed were soon in a blaze on the hearth, I filled the iron pot with water, and after I gave my wife several cakes of the portable soup, she established herself as our cook, with little Franz to help her. (p. 15)

QUESTIONS

- Make a list of everything the family finds in the wreck. Now put this in order of importance.
- IF you were shipwrecked today what would you try to save? What would be the 5 most important things? (Children do in pairs first – then compare and whittle down to 5).

Robinson Crusoe: Stripping the Wreck

My raft was now strong enough to bear any reasonable weight. My next care was what to load it with, and how to preserve what I laid upon it from the surf of the sea; but I was not long considering this. I first laid all the planks or boards upon it that I could get, and having considered well what I most wanted, I got three of the seamen's chests, which I had broken open, and emptied, and lowered them down upon my raft; the first of these I filled with provisions—viz. bread, rice, three Dutch cheeses, five pieces of dried goat's flesh (which we lived much upon), and a little remainder of European corn, which had been laid by for some fowls which we brought to sea with us, but the fowls were killed. There had been some barley and wheat together; but, to my great disappointment, I found afterwards that the rats had eaten or spoiled it all. As for liquors, I found several cases of bottles belonging to our skipper, in which were some cordial waters; and, in all, about five or six gallons of rack. These I stowed by themselves, there being no need to put them into the chest, nor any room for them. And it was after long searching that I found out the carpenter's chest, which was, indeed, a very useful prize to me, and much more valuable than a shipload of gold would have been at that time. I got it down to my raft, whole as it was, without losing time to look into it, for I knew in general what it contained. (Passages not in Puffin edition 37-8)

QUESTIONS

- Make a list of everything Crusoe finds in order of importance. Compare this with Swiss Family Robinson. Why does he laugh at the money?
- Compare Crusoe's first night on shore with SFR. What are the advantages and disadvantages of each of their first bases?

EXTRACT 2: PLACE-NAMING AND EXPLORING

Swiss Family Robinson

During the meal I interested the boys very much by proposing to decide on suitable names for the different spots we had visited on this coast. "For," said I, "it will become more and more **troublesome** to explain what we mean, unless we do so. Besides which, we shall feel much more at home if we can talk as people do in inhabited countries: instead of saying, for instance, 'the little island at the mouth of our bay, where we found the dead shark', 'the large stream near our tent, across which we made the bridge', 'that wood where we found cocoanuts, and caught the monkey', and so on. Let us begin by naming the bay in which we landed. What shall we call it?"

"Oyster Bay," said Fritz.

"No, no!—Lobster Bay," cried Jack, "In memory of the old fellow who took a fancy to my leg!"

"I think," observed his mother, "that, in token of gratitude for our escape, we should call it Safety Bay."

This name met with general **approbation**, and was **forthwith** fixed upon.

Other names were quickly chosen. Our first place of abode we called Tentholm; the islet in the bay, Shark's Island; and the reedy swamp, Flamingo Marsh. It was some time before the serious question of a name for our leafy castle could be decided. But finally it was entitled Falconholm; and we then rapidly named the few remaining points: Prospect Hill, the eminence we first ascended; Cape Disappointment, from whose rocky heights we had strained our eyes in vain search for our ship's company; and Jackal's River, as a name for the large stream at our landing place, concluded our geographical **nomenclature**. (*Puffin Edition* p. 85-6)

QUESTIONS

- What reason does the father give for wanting to name places on the island?
- Look at the suggestions for the bay in which they landed – what does each suggestion offer? Do you agree with the final name they choose and the reason for it?
- How important are names – how do you feel about your own name?
- Why else do we name places and people?

Crusoe's List of Good and Evil: [ALSO found in CHEST on RC island]

<i>Evil.</i>	<i>Good.</i>
I am cast upon a horrible, desolate island, void of all hope of recovery.	But I am alive, and not drowned, as all my ship's company was.
I am singled out and separated, as it were, from all the world, to be miserable.	But I am singled out, too, from all the ship's crew, to be spared from death; and He that miraculously saved me from death can deliver me from this condition.
I am divided from mankind—a solitaire ; one banished from human society.	But I am not starved and perishing on a barren place, affording no sustenance.
I have not clothes to cover me.	But I am in a hot climate, where if I had clothes I could hardly wear them.
I am without any defence, or means to resist any violence of man or beast.	But I am cast on an island where I see no wild beasts to hurt me, as I saw on the coast of Africa; and what if I had been shipwrecked there?
I have no soul to speak to, or relieve me.	But God wonderfully sent the ship in near enough to the shore, that I have got out as many necessary things as will either supply my wants or enable me to supply myself, even as long as I live. (Puffin, p. 50-1)

QUESTIONS

- Why does Crusoe use the terms "Evil" and "Good" for his list? What other terms could he have used?
- What does it mean to be "void of all hope of recovery." Why does he describe himself as "a solitaire"?
- Are any of the "Evils" potentially "Good"?
- Is there anything missing from his list that you would want to add to it?



EXTRACT 3: A HOME FROM HOME



Swiss Family Robinson: The Grotto

[After living in Tree house for some time the family discover a large cave]

The cave itself we divided into four parts: in front, a large compartment into which the door opened, subdivided into our sitting, eating and sleeping apartments; the right-hand division, containing our kitchen and workshop, and the left our stables; behind all this, in the dark recess of the cave, was our storehouse and powder-magazine.

Having already undergone one rainy season, we knew well its discomforts, and thought of many useful arrangements in the laying-out of our dwelling. We did not intend to be again smoke-dried; we, therefore, contrived a properly built fireplace and chimney; our stable arrangements, too, were better, and plenty of space was left in our workshop that we should not be hampered in even the most extensive operations. (p.188-9)

. . . We levelled the floors first with clay; then spread gravel mixed with melted gypsum over that, producing a smooth hard surface, which did very well for most of the apartments; but I was ambitious of having one or two carpets, and set about making a kind of felt in the following way.

I spread out a large piece of sailcloth, and covered it equally all over with a strong liquid, made of glue and isinglass, which saturated it thoroughly. On it we then laid wool and hair from the sheep and goats, which had been carefully cleaned and prepared, and rolled and beat it until it adhered tolerably smoothly to the cloth. Finally it became, when perfectly dry, a covering for the floor of our sitting-room by no means to be despised. (p.206-7)

An adjoining chamber was kitted up as a forge, with fire-place, bellows, and anvil, complete, all which we had found in the ship, packed together, and ready to set up.

Our rocky home was greatly improved by a wide porch which I made along the whole front of our rooms and entrances, by levelling the ground to form a terrace, and sheltering it with a verandah of bamboo, supported by pillars of the same. (p. 235)

QUESTIONS

- What advantages does the cave offer Swiss Family Robinson over Tent House or Tree House?
- Draw a sketch of their new cave home as best you can from the description given above.

Robinson Crusoe: *Building the Country House*

This thought ran long in my head, and I was exceeding fond of it for some time, the pleasantness of the place tempting me; but when I came to a nearer view of it, I considered that I was now by the sea-side, where it was at least possible that something might happen to my advantage, and, by the same ill fate that brought me **hither** might bring some other unhappy wretches to the same place; and though it was scarce probable that any such thing should ever happen, yet to enclose myself among the hills and woods in the centre of the island was to anticipate my bondage, and to render such an affair not only improbable, but impossible; and that therefore I ought not by any means to remove.

However, I was so **enamoured** of this place, that I spent much of my time there for the whole of the remaining part of the month of July; and though upon second thoughts, I **resolved** not to remove, yet I built me a little kind of a **bower**, and surrounded it at a distance with a strong fence, being a double hedge, as high as I could reach, well staked and filled between with brushwood; and here I lay very secure, sometimes two or three nights together; always going over it with a ladder, as before; so that I fancied now I had my country house and my sea-coast house; and this work took me up to the beginning of August. (Puffin, p. 80-1)

I kept the hedge which circled it in constantly fitted up to its usual height, the ladder standing always on the inside. . . . In the middle of this I had my tent always standing, being a piece of sail spread over poles set up for that purpose . . . and under this I had made me a couch. (Puffin, 120)

Robinson Crusoe: *Planting Crops*

I was now, in the months of November and December, expecting my crop of barley and rice. The ground I had manured and dug up for them was not great; for, as I observed, my seed of each was not above the quantity of half a peck, for I had lost one whole crop by sowing in the dry season. But now my crop promised very well, when on a sudden I found I was in danger of losing it all again by enemies of several sorts, which it was scarcely possible to keep from it; as, first, the goats, and wild creatures which I called hares, who, tasting the sweetness of the blade, lay in it night and day, as soon as it came up, and eat it so close, that it could get no time to shoot up into stalk.

But as the beasts ruined me before, while my corn was **in the blade**, so the birds were as likely to ruin me now, when it was **in the ear**; for, going along by the place to see how it **throve**, I saw my little crop surrounded with fowls, of I know not how many sorts, who stood, as it were, watching till I should be gone. I immediately let fly among them, for I always had my gun with me. I had no sooner shot, but there rose up a little cloud of fowls, which I had not seen at all, from among the corn itself.

This touched me sensibly, for I foresaw that in a few days they would **devour** all my hopes; that I should be starved, and never be able to raise a crop at all; and what to do I could not tell. . . .

QUESTIONS

- How does Robinson Crusoe protect his crops? What different techniques does he use?
- Can you think of any other way he might have done this?
- Do you think his actions are justified or not? Can you defend him?

⚙️ EXTRACT 4: MAKING ⚙️

Robinson Crusoe: Building a canoe

I went to work upon this boat the most like a fool that ever man did who had any of his senses awake. I pleased myself with the design, without determining whether I was ever able to undertake it; not but that the difficulty of launching my boat came often into my head; but I put a stop to my inquiries into it by this foolish answer which I gave myself— “Let me first make it; I warrant I will find some way or other to get it along when it is done.”

This was a most **preposterous** method; but the eagerness of my fancy prevailed, and to work I went. I felled a cedar-tree, and I question much whether Solomon ever had such a one for the building of the Temple at Jerusalem; it was five feet ten inches diameter at the lower part next the stump, and four feet eleven inches diameter at the end of twenty-two feet; after which it lessened for a while, and then parted into branches. It was not without infinite labour that I felled this tree; I was twenty days **hacking and hewing** at it at the bottom; I was fourteen more getting the branches and limbs and the vast spreading head cut off, which I hacked and hewed through with axe and hatchet, and **inexpressible** labour; after this, it cost me a month to shape it and dub it to a proportion, and to something like the bottom of a boat, that it might swim upright as it ought to do.

It cost me near three months more to clear the inside, and work it out so as to make an exact boat of it; this I did, indeed, without fire, by mere mallet and chisel, and by the dint of hard labour, till I had brought it to be a very handsome *periagua*, and big enough to have carried six-and-twenty men, and consequently big enough to have carried me and all my cargo.

One would have thought I could not have had the least reflection upon my mind of my circumstances while I was making this boat, but I should have immediately thought how I should get it into the sea; but my thoughts were so intent upon my voyage over the sea in it, that I never once considered how I should get it off the land: and it was really, in its own nature, more easy for me to guide it over forty-five miles of sea than about forty-five fathoms of land, where it lay, to set it afloat in the water.

But all my devices to get it into the water failed me; though they cost me infinite labour too. But the first inconvenience was, it was up Hill towards the Creek . . . Then I measured the distance of ground and resolved to cut a dock or canal, to bring the water up to the canoe, seeing I could not bring the canoe down into the water . . .

(Not in Puffin edition)

QUESTIONS

- Why is it so much harder for Robinson Crusoe than for Swiss Family Robinson to make the canoe?
- How long does it take him altogether?
- What three things does he do wrong?
- How do you think he felt when he finally accepted that he could not use it?

EXTRACT 5: Mini-Island Adventure

CRUSOE'S JOURNAL

From the 1st of October to the 24th. All these days entirely spent in many several voyages to get all I could out of the ship, which I brought on shore every tide of flood, upon rafts. Much rain also in the days, though with some intervals of fair weather; but it seems this was the rainy season.

Oct. 20. I **overset** my raft, and all the goods I had got upon it; but, being in shoal water, and the things being chiefly heavy, I recovered many of them when the tide was out.

Oct. 25. It rained all night and all day, with some gusts of wind; during which time the ship broke in pieces, the wind blowing a little harder than before, and was no more to be seen, except the wreck of her, and that only at low water. I spent this day in covering and securing the goods which I had saved, that the rain might not spoil them.

Oct. 26. I walked about the shore almost all day, to find out a place to fix my **habitation**, greatly concerned to secure myself from any attack in the night, either from wild beasts or men. Towards night, I fixed upon a proper place, under a rock, and marked out a semicircle for my **encampment**; which I resolved to strengthen with a work, wall, or fortification, made of double piles, lined within with cables, and without with turf.

From the 26th to the 30th I worked very hard in carrying all my goods to my new habitation, though some part of the time it rained exceedingly hard. (Puffin, 56-7)

May 4. I went a fishing, but caught not one fish that I dared eat till I was weary with my sport.

May 5. Worked on the wreck, cut another beam asunder and brought three great fir planks off from the decks which I tied together and made swim on shore when the tide of flood came on.

May 6. Worked on the wreck, got several iron bolts out of her and other pieces of iron work.

June 17. I spent in cooking the Turtle; I found in her three-score eggs; and her flesh was to me at that time the most savoury and pleasant that I ever tasted in my life.

June 18. Rained all day, and stayed within.

June 19. Very ill, and shivering, as if the Weather had been cold.

June 20. No rest all Night, violent Pains in my head, and feverish.

June 21. Very ill, frightened almost to death with apprehension of my sad condition, to be sick, and no help. [Puffin, 67-8]

QUESTIONS

- What kind of writing is a Journal? What is it for? Why does Crusoe write it?
- How is it different from reading what happens as a story?
- What happens to you if you fall ill on a desert island? Why is Crusoe so frightened?
- What characteristics of the Journal form can you pick out from these extracts?