Robinson Crusoe (Notes)

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SYNOPSIS

Robinson Crusoe is an exciting and remarkable story about an Englishman who was shipwrecked on an uninhabited island for 28 years. Crusoe ran from home to become a sailor and a sea merchant. He had adventures at sea and in Brazil and the Canary Islands, before being the sole survivor of a shipwreck.

Crusoe spent many years living on the island before he made a horrible discovery. He discovered that some cannibals were using the island for their ritual sacrifices which involved the eating of human flesh of the victims. Crusoe was able to save one of the victims. This man was named Friday, because he was rescued on a Friday. Crusoe was also able to save Friday's father and a Spaniard, on another occasion. Crusoe also helped an English captain regain control of his ship. This English captain took Crusoe back to England. After several years, Crusoe became restless and set off for the sea again.

PLOT

1. Exposition

The story starts with a young Robinson Crusoe running away from home and becoming a sailor. He manages to trade successfully in Guinea. He finds a way to escape from the Turkish pirates and he becomes a slave. He manages to survive alone on a desert island for many years. Crusoe does not give up. He makes plans to escape and carries them out.

2. Rising action

After farming for some time, Crusoe sets sail for Guinea. However, his ship is destroyed in a violent storm and Crusoe is the only survivor. He lives on an uninhabited island. Crusoe creates a comfortable life on the island. He discovers that some cannibals use the island to hold their gruesome feasts and he fears for his life.

3. Climax

Crusoe observes a ritual where two men are about to be sacrificed - when he is captured and made a slave by the Turkish captain. He saves Crusoe's life. He helps Crusoe fight the cannibals. He stays with Crusoe for many years on the island. He helps Crusoe

4. Falling action

Cruoe rescues two other men from becoming human sacrifices. He also helps an English captain regain control of his ship. Crusoe returns to England.

5. Resolution

After being in England for several years, he gets married and has three children. He lives for a life at sea and visits the island where he was shipwrecked for 28 years.

SETTING

Time - 1659 - 1686 there about
Place - A desert island, South of the Carribean Sea
The city of York, in England
Guinea
Morocco
Brazil

CHARACTERS, CHARACTERISTICS AND EVIDENCE

MAIN CHARACTERS

1. ROBINSON CRUSOE

PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Crusoe ages from a young man of 18 to a mature man of 53.

PERSONALITY

Adventurous

He is willing to take risks and is not afraid to try new things. At 18, he runs away from home to become a sailor. He becomes a trader and sails to Africa. He is captured by pirates and made a slave. He escapes but does not return to England. Instead, he becomes a farmer in Brazil. At the end of the story, he decides to roam the seas because his quiet life in England is making him restless.

Intelligent and well-educated

His parents give him a good education because they want him to become a lawyer. He learns Mathematics and Navigation while sailing to Guinea. He finds a way to escape from the Turkish captain.

Courageous

He rescues Friday and others from the cannibals.

Determined

He manages to survive alone on a desert island for many years.

PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Young (is about 26 years old), tall and well-built, has olive skin, a small nose, lively intelligent eyes and fine white teeth.

PERSONALITY

Faithful and loyal

He stays with Crusoe for many years on the island. He helps Crusoe fight the cannibals and the mutineers.

Intelligent

He learns to speak English and how to use a gun.

Courageous

He saves Crusoe's life. He helps Crusoe fight the cannibals.

Curious

He is willing to learn new things and asks questions.

MINOR CHARACTERS

1. THE FIRST ENGLISH CAPTAIN

PERSONALITY

A good teacher, honest and kind

2. THE SPANISH CAPTAIN

PERSONALITY

Kind - He rescues Crusoe from the Turkish Captain.

3. THE TURKISH CAPTAIN

PERSONALITY

Kind - Crusoe says he is not a bad master.

THEME

1. MAN AND NATURE

- Crusoe has to do many things for himself while living on the island. He usually succeeds when he works with Nature, for example, when he tries to build a home for himself.

- Crusoe adapts to life on the island by using whatever Nature provides. He gets food and shelter by using trees and plants on the island.

- Through the novel, we see how Nature always wins against man. Crusoe does not get to Guinea from Brazil because there is a severe storm. Crusoe cannot sail around the island in his canoe because there is a storm.

2. COURAGE AND DETERMINATION

- Crusoe is determined to become a sailor even though his parents want him to become a lawyer. He runs away from home to London where he is able to fulfill his dreams. He meets with many difficulties but he never gives up hope.

- When he is captured and made a slave by the Turkish captain, Crusoe does not give up. He makes plans to escape and carries them out.

- Although he is shipwrecked and alone on the desert island, Crusoe is not discouraged. He salvaged everything that he can from his ship to help him survive on the island. He adapts to life on the island and learns to do many things in order to survive.

- Crusoe shows great courage when he fights the cannibals and saves several people's lives.

3. FRIENDSHIP AND LOYALTY

- While living on the island, Crusoe and Friday become friends. They learn to respect and trust each other.

- Through his friendship with Friday, Crusoe learns that differences, such as race, religion and the colour of one's skin, are not important because people all share the same feelings and needs.

MORAL VALUES AND EXAMPLES

Courageous and determined

- Crusoe leaves his home at the young age of 18 to become a sailor.

- Crusoe saves Friday, Friday's father and two other men from the cannibals at the risk of his own life.

- Crusoe helps the English captain to regain control of his ship from the mutineers.

Friendly and loyal

- Friday is faithful companion to Crusoe.

- Crusoe's friends in Brazil take care of his farm and give him money from its sale.

Show gratitude

- Friday is grateful to Crusoe for saving his life. He becomes Crusoe's faithful and trusted companion.

- The English captain is grateful to Crusoe for saving him and his loyal crew.

Hardworking

- Crusoe works hard to achieve his dream of becoming a sailor.

- His hard work and perseverance helps Crusoe to survive on the island for such a long time. He builds his own home, grows his own food and makes utensils and tools to help him survive.

POINT OF VIEW

In Robinson Crusoe, the first person point of view is used throughout the story. The story is told from the central character's point of view.

EXERCISE 1 (PRONOUNS)

Change the underlined nouns into appropriate pronouns.

EXAMPLES OF USAGE:

1. Nobody knows what has happened to them.
2. Someone has taken the money.
3. Does anyone know how cook fish curry?
4. Everyone was told to revise the topic.
5. Somebody is being tortured in that room.

EXERCISE 2 (PRONOUNS)

Fill in the blanks with suitable pronouns.

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