

# **“THE JOURNAL” DANIEL DEFOE**

**exercises pag. 167 – 168 – 169 es. from 1 to 8**

---

**Pag. 167**

**es. 1**

- 1. What would you do if you were shipwrecked on a desert island and found yourself in Robinson's situation?**

If I was in the same situation as Robinson, I would certainly look for food and shelter first, as he did. After which I would look for weapons for defense and for the search of other food. Surely I would try to survive as the protagonist did without panic and fear.

- 2. What would you miss most?**

I would miss the approach with people; I think it is very difficult to find such an extreme situation without the help and strength of anyone.

- 3. What do you think you would appreciate?**

Surely in an experience at the limits of survival I would appreciate the importance of food and understand that they don't waste things. I would definitely appreciate a lot more the life I'm living.

**Pag. 168**

**es.2**

1. Robinson managed to reach the shore after the shipwreck.
2. He looked for food.
3. He found shelter in a tree in order to spend the night.
4. He built a fence around his tent.
5. He swam to the ship to get some provisions.
6. He tries to store the goods so as not to have them spoilt by the rain.
7. He continued to carry goods from the ship to the shore.
8. The raft overturned and he had to recover many of the goods when the tide was low.
9. He found the right place to built his house.
10. He carried all the goods to his 'house'.
11. He slept in his new fortification.

**es.3**

Daniel Defoe chooses this setting to underline some ideals that emerged during that period among the bourgeois classes: entrepreneurship, dynamism, individualism and mobility.

es.4

The novel has been written in first person and it was based about a real experience of Alexander Selkirk a seaman who in 1704 was put ashore on the desert island of Juan Fernandez in the Pacific Ocean. The advantages of writing in first person are a lots: the author can describe in detail the feelings' protagonist and also the author can give a vision of the story from the point of view of the protagonist.

es.5

**How are the events described?**

The events describes in chronological order, typical of the novel's structure.

es.6

- 1. There is a moment when he seems upset. Find where this happens and explain the reason for his sadness. How does he end his reflection?**

In the second paragraph Robinson tells of the loss of his companions and the discomfort that this fact has brought.

- 2. Provide examples of his change of mood by quoting from the text.** (in the text)

- 3. What sentences emphasise Robinson's efforts to survive?**

Robinson often repeats the word “all” to indicate the duration of the rain which makes the scene almost infinite.

- 4. What kind of man is Robinson?**

Robinson is a strong and determinate man; he is not dominated by fear and discomfort even if he lives in a situation of limitation. In the extract the intelligent reader can notice its survival spirit from the fortifications that he builds and the intelligent and ingenious ideas that lead to shelter from rain and animal attacks.

es.7

The sea represents Robinson's greatest obstacle which can not be overcome given cause his human limitation.

The ship, like the fortification, represents Robinson's salvation as they are food and security venues. In particular the ship also represents the bankruptcy that led Robinson in this situation.

**Pag.169**

es.8

As I said before, in my opinion, the most difficult problem for Robinson in the desert

island is that he could not talk to anyone. Although at first it may be a not-for-nothing thing, after it turns out to be a real torture since Robinson had no one to consider his own fears and feelings. For this reason, Robinson decides to keep a diary, a sort of memory, writing them in order to “talk” with someone and to vent their emotions.