**The Journal**

Daniel Defoe

**Robinson Crusoe (1719)**

Chapter V, Builds a House

*The following extract is from the second section of the novel. Robinson finds himself shipwrecked on a desert island and begins to keep a journal.*

SEPTEMBER 30, 1659. - I, poor miserable Robinson Crusoe, being   
shipwrecked during a dreadful storm in the offing, came on shore on   
this dismal, unfortunate island, which I called "The Island of   
Despair"; all the rest of the ship's company being drowned, and   
myself almost dead.

All the rest of the day I spent in afflicting myself at the dismal   
circumstances I was brought to - viz. I had neither food, house,   
clothes, weapon, nor place to fly to; and in despair of any relief,   
saw nothing but death before me - either that I should be devoured   
by wild beasts, murdered by savages, or starved to death for want   
of food. At the approach of night I slept in a tree, for fear of   
wild creatures; but slept soundly, though it rained all night.   
  
OCTOBER 1. - In the morning I saw, to my great surprise, the ship   
had floated with the high tide, and was driven on shore again much   
nearer the island; which, as it was some comfort, on one hand -   
for, seeing her set upright, and not broken to pieces, I hoped, if   
the wind abated, I might get on board, and get some food and   
necessaries out of her for my relief - so, on the other hand, it   
renewed my grief at the loss of my comrades, who, I imagined, if we   
had all stayed on board, might have saved the ship, or, at least,   
that they would not have been all drowned as they were; and that,   
had the men been saved, we might perhaps have built us a boat out   
of the ruins of the ship to have carried us to some other part of   
the world. I spent great part of this day in perplexing myself on   
these things; but at length, seeing the ship almost dry, I went   
upon the sand as near as I could, and then swam on board. This day   
also it continued raining, though with no wind at all.   
  
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.   
  
The 31st, in the morning, I went out into the island with my gun,   
to seek for some food, and discover the country; when I killed a   
she-goat, and her kid followed me home, which I afterwards killed   
also, because it would not feed.   
  
NOVEMBER 1. - I set up my tent under a rock, and lay there for the   
first night; making it as large as I could, with stakes driven in   
to swing my hammock upon.   
  
NOV. 2. - I set up all my chests and boards, and the pieces of   
timber which made my rafts, and with them formed a fence round me,   
a little within the place I had marked out for my fortification.

**2- Read the extract and reorder the events by numbering them from 1 to 11.**

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

**3- Find references to the setting in time and place**

**4- Decide. Who tells the story? What do you call the kind of narrative technique where the narrator and the protagonist are the same person? What are its advantages?**

Robinson himself tells the story. The text is written is first person; this narrative technique is called diary. Its advantages are that the reader can easily identify himself with the protagonist of the story.

**5-Tick the correct answer. How are the events described?**

-Through flashbacks

**-In chronological order**

-Through flashforwards

**6- Focus on the character of Robinson. He manages to overcome the obstacles he is faced with thanks to his physical and rational efforts.**

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

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for, seeing her set upright, and not broken to pieces, I hoped, if   
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these things; but at length, seeing the ship almost dry, I went   
upon the sand as near as I could, and then swam on board. This day   
also it continued raining, though with no wind at all. 

Robinson regrets not having done enough to save his comrades and wonders whether he would have been able to build a boat to leave the island if the other men had survived.

1. Provide examples of his change of mood by quoting from the text.

… as it was some comfort, on one hand - …- on the other…

I, poor miserable Robinson Crusoe …

To my great surprise…

1. What sentences emphasise Robinson’s efforts to survive?

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,   
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to seek for some food…

1. Does Robinson have time for intellectual speculation?

From this text it seems as if Robinson hadn’t any time for intellectual speculation; indeed he is more interested in surviving rather than in reflecting about cultural and intellectual matters.

**7- Describe. The main lexical items in this extract are the sea, the ship and the fortification. What are they connected with?**

The sea - Separation between Robinson and the civil world

The ship – the civil world

The fortification – Robinson’s refuge from the wild beasts and the savages on the island