



CEC READING LIBRARY • GRADE 5 • R3 CHALLENGE

Swiss Family Robinson

12 Chapters

Day 1-12

Q4 W33-W36

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 1: The Storm

VOCABULARY family, storm, ship, together

The Robinson family was sailing across the ocean to start a new life. There was Father, Mother, and their four young sons: Fritz, Ernest, Jack, and little Francis. The sea had been calm for days, and the boys played games on deck. Then, without warning, a violent storm struck. Black clouds swallowed the sun, and waves as tall as hills slammed against the ship. The wooden planks began to groan and break apart. The terrified crew grabbed the lifeboats and rowed away, leaving the family alone on a sinking ship in the middle of a raging sea. The boys clung to their mother and cried. But Father refused to let despair win. "Do not give up," he said, "because we have each other." ★ **"The family worked together."** Through that long, terrifying night, they held on and helped one another, and the first crisis proved that their unity would be their greatest weapon.

THINK What did the crew do?

Chapter 2: Supplies From the Wreck

VOCABULARY supplies, raft, tools, ship

When the storm finally passed, the morning sun showed a surprising sight. Their ship had lodged between two great rocks, and it had not sunk. The vessel was badly damaged and could break apart at any moment, but it still held a treasure of supplies. Father gathered his family on the tilted deck. "Everyone has a job," he said. Fritz and Ernest hauled tools and heavy ropes. Mother carefully preserved food and fresh water. Even little Francis carried a small bag of seeds and a sack of cloth. They found sacks of grain, hammers, saws, and a few friendly animals, too. ★ **"The family worked together to survive."** Together they built a sturdy raft out of barrels and planks and loaded it with everything they needed to start life on the nearby island. When everyone does his part, even impossible tasks become possible.

THINK What was the raft made of?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 3: The First Night

VOCABULARY island, jungle, campfire, together

The raft bumped gently against a sandy shore, and the Robinson family stepped onto the island. It felt strange to stand on land that did not move. Strange bird calls echoed from the dense green jungle that stretched far inland, and monkeys chattered in the high branches. The boys stared with wide eyes. As darkness fell, Father built a campfire, and they gathered beneath the canopy of a massive tree. The children pressed close to their parents, finding comfort in the warmth. The flames crackled, and the stars came out one by one. ★ **"The family worked together because survival in the wild needed every member's effort."**

Father reminded them that as long as they were together, they would be fine. Family love is the strongest shelter against any storm. As the stars shone over their new island home, each family member silently promised never to give up.

THINK What chattered in the branches?

Chapter 4: The Tree House

VOCABULARY built, tools, island, tree

The next morning, the family explored the island. The shore was white sand, and behind it rose a jungle full of colorful birds. Near the beach, they found a giant old tree with branches as wide as a roof. Father looked up for a long time, and then he smiled. "That is where we shall live," he said. He would build a house in the tree, high above the ground and safe from any animal that might wander by. The boys cheered. Father opened the heavy box of tools from the ship. Climbing with heavy boards was not easy, but they worked as a team. Fritz climbed to the first branch, and Ernest tied the rope. Jack and Francis pulled from below, and Mother handed up the nails. ★

They built a new life. By evening, a strong wooden floor stood among the green leaves, and the whole family lay on it, looking at the stars through the branches.

THINK What did the shore look like?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 5: Seeds and Fish

VOCABULARY nothing, seeds, garden, learned

At first, the family had almost nothing. Every tool, every plate, and every seed had come from the broken ship. Mother planted a small garden near the tree house with the seeds Francis had saved, and she watered it every morning from a wooden bucket. The boys learned to fish in the clear stream, and the first fish Ernest caught was no longer than his hand. Jack roasted it on a stick and ate it proudly. Fritz learned to climb palm trees for coconuts, and he came down with scratched knees and a huge grin. ★ **They built a new life from nothing.** Each new skill took time to learn, and sometimes the fire went out or the bucket spilled. But the family never gave up, and the garden slowly grew green. Each evening, a little more food sat on the table than the evening before.

THINK How long was Ernest's first fish?

Chapter 6: Necessity, the Teacher

VOCABULARY necessity, teacher, invent, lesson

On this island there were no shops, no carpenters, and no neighbors to borrow from. When the family needed something, they had to invent it. Fritz twisted old rope into a fishing net. Ernest, who loved books, cut a coconut in half, sanded the edge, and made it into a cup. Jack carved a spoon from a piece of driftwood, and Mother sewed a blanket from the ship's cloth. Not every idea worked. The first net had holes, and the first cup leaked. But the family tried again, and again, and each time they learned something new. ★ **They built a new life from nothing — necessity became their greatest teacher.** Need pushed them to think in new and clever ways, and the lesson sank in deeply: creativity grows best when we have a real problem to solve and the courage to try.

THINK What did Jack carve?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 7: The Big Rain

VOCABULARY challenge, stronger, rain, roof

One afternoon, dark clouds rolled over the island, and a heavy rain began to fall. It rained for three days and three nights. Water dripped through the leaves into the tree house, and the wind rattled the boards. Mother pulled the blankets to the dry center of the floor, and the boys huddled close. Francis sniffed, and Jack made a joke to cheer him up. The roof was leaking badly, and the family had never faced such a problem before. ★ **Challenges made them stronger.** On the fourth morning, when the rain finally stopped, Father climbed up with a bundle of palm leaves and showed the boys how to overlap them like fish scales. Together they patched every hole. When the sun came out, the whole family stood on the branch, dripping and laughing. They felt proud instead of afraid, and the next rain would find them ready.

THINK How did Jack help Francis?

Chapter 8: The Monkey Thieves

VOCABULARY challenge, stronger, monkeys, fruit

One morning, Mother lifted the cloth from the fruit basket and found it empty. Tiny muddy footprints led away into the trees, and a funny chattering laugh floated down from the branches. A band of clever monkeys had stolen all of the family's mangoes and bananas! The boys sat down together and made a plan. Jack drew a map in the dirt, Ernest figured out how tall the fence needed to be, and Fritz tied the knots. They built a tall fence around the garden with sticks and rope. The monkeys were not easy to fool. Twice they found a gap and slipped through. ★ **Every challenge made them stronger together.** The boys kept improving the fence until the thieves finally gave up and went to chatter somewhere else. That evening, the family ate sweet fruit in peace, with a great deal of laughing.

THINK What did Jack draw in the dirt?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 9: Counting Blessings

VOCABULARY family, closer, realized, blessings

Every evening after supper, the Robinsons sat together by the fire as the sky turned orange and purple. They talked about the problems of the day and the little victories, and then Father said, "Now, one blessing each." Fritz was thankful for the strong rope. Ernest was thankful for the book he had saved from the ship. Jack was thankful for roasted bananas, and Francis was thankful for a warm lap. Mother said she was thankful for all of them. ★ **Every challenge they solved together made them stronger and closer as a family.** In their old home, each of them had been busy with their own plans. Here they had to rely on one another, and they realized how lucky they were. The island's blessings were not just fruit and fish, but the quiet, deeper gifts of trust, laughter, and love.

THINK What was Ernest thankful for?

Chapter 10: A House or a Home?

VOCABULARY home, love, wherever, house

One windy night, little Francis began to cry quietly. Mother heard him and came over. "I miss our old house in Switzerland," he said between sniffles. "It was bigger, and it had a real chimney and a warm bed." Father sat beside him and thought for a moment. The leaves rustled above them. "A house is only wood and stone, Francis," he said. "What made our old house warm was not the chimney, but all of us inside it." ★ **Home is built by love.** Francis was not quite sure what that meant. But when Mother tucked him in and sang the lullaby she had always sung in Switzerland, he felt safe, even in a tree. Wherever they were, as long as they were together, the song and the arms around him were exactly the same, and he fell asleep smiling in the branches.

THINK What did Mother do to comfort Francis?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 11: A Ship on the Horizon

VOCABULARY people, love, each other, real

One bright morning, Fritz shouted from the top of a palm tree. "A ship! I can see a ship!" It looked like a tiny white dot on the shining sea. The whole family dashed to the beach. They waved their arms, waved a white cloth on a pole, and shouted until their voices cracked. But the ship was much too far away. It grew smaller and smaller until it disappeared. For a few moments, nobody spoke. Then Jack put his hand into Francis's hand, and Mother gave a sad little smile. **★ Home is built by people who love each other.** Nobody cried for long, because they had each other, and the island still felt like a real home. That night they sat around the fire and talked about their dreams, and Father promised that one day, when the time was right, they would find their way to wherever they were meant to be.

THINK What did they wave?

Chapter 12: The Greatest Journey

VOCABULARY protect, journey, home, greatest

Months later, the Robinsons stood on the beach and looked up at their tree house, a snug little home among the green leaves. They remembered the terrible storm, the sinking ship, and the first cold night under the stars. They remembered the leaky roof and the thieving monkeys. Each memory seemed to belong to a different family, because they had all changed. Fritz was stronger, Ernest was braver, Jack was wiser, and Francis was not so little anymore. Every day they had learned to protect each other. **★ Home is not a place — it is built by the people who love and protect each other.** The best part of their story was not the tree or the island itself. It was the way they had made the journey together, and that made it their greatest adventure. Wherever they traveled next, they would carry home inside them.

THINK How had Francis changed?