



CEC READING LIBRARY · MIDDLE 2 · R3 CHALLENGE

Robinson Crusoe

18 Chapters

Day 1-18

W13-W18

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 1: The Only Survivor

Robinson Crusoe was born in York, England, in 1632. His father wanted him to become a lawyer, but young Robinson wanted to go to sea. After years of arguments, he sailed away on a ship bound for Africa. Many years later, in 1659, he was on another voyage when a terrible storm struck. Waves as tall as houses crashed over the deck, and the ship was thrown against the rocks. The sailors tried to escape in a small boat, but the sea was too strong. Robinson was thrown into the water and swept away. When he woke, he was lying on a beach with seaweed around him. The ship was gone, the crew was gone, and he was alone. Cold, hungry, and tired, he looked around. The shore was empty. He was the only survivor. The significant challenge was how to stay alive. He decided to investigate the beach, and the first thing he determined to find was fresh water. He knew the consequence of wasting his strength could be fatal. He would establish a plan before nightfall. For a long time he lay on the sand, listening to the surf and the cries of the gulls. His clothes were soaked, his throat was dry, and his body ached from the waves. He tried to recall the faces of his shipmates, one by one, and a lump rose in his throat. The sun climbed higher and warmed his back, and slowly he found the strength to sit up. There, on the damp sand, he made his first promise: that whatever happened, he would use his mind as well as his hands, and he would not let fear decide for him. It was a small promise, but it became the foundation for everything that followed. ★ **A man was alone on an empty island.** He thanked the heavens for his life and set out to see where he was.

THINK *Where was Robinson born?*

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 2: A Deserted Island

Crusoe walked along the shore for hours, searching for any sign of other people. The beach was white, with palm trees and tall green hills behind it. He saw birds, turtles, and goats, but no houses and no footprints. He climbed a hill and looked in all directions. The sea stretched out like an endless blue plate. There was no ship, no smoke, no other land. He understood that he was on an island and that he was completely alone. The silence was heavy. He slept that night in a tree to avoid wild animals, and in the morning, he woke with new determination. His first task was to find drinking water, and he followed a stream into the hills. He tasted it carefully and found it sweet and cool. Next, he decided to investigate the wreck of the ship, which lay half-sunk on a reef a mile away. The consequence of leaving it would be losing many useful things. He must establish a base nearby, and this was a significant task. He tied some leaves around his head to keep off the sun and walked with a stick in his hand. Everywhere he looked, the island seemed both lovely and lonely: tall grasses waved like green water, and the air smelled of sweet flowers. He spoke aloud to himself to hear a voice, and the sound of his own words comforted him. ★ **A man found himself completely alone on a deserted island.** It was a challenge no one could face for him, and he would have to determine his own course.

THINK *Where did Crusoe sleep the first night?*

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 3: Wrecked in a Violent Storm

On the third day, the weather was calm, and Crusoe swam out to the wreck. The ship lay tilted on a sandbar, with its masts broken and its decks torn. Inside, he found food, water barrels, tools, and many useful things. He built a small raft from planks and loaded it with what he could carry. It took many trips, and each journey was risky, because the tide was strong and the wood was loose. Back on shore, he piled the supplies in a safe place. He realized how lucky he was to have this treasure. He thought of the sailors who had not survived and felt a deep sadness. That night, a violent storm returned and broke the wreck completely. If he had waited one day longer, he would have lost everything. The consequence of acting quickly was his survival. He wrote in a journal each evening to keep his mind busy. He had to determine how to make a home, how to find food, and how to signal for help. It would be a long challenge. At night, in the glow of a small fire, he went over everything he had gathered and sorted it into piles: food, tools, cloth, and powder. The firelight danced on the metal and made the pile look like treasure. He fell asleep with his hand on his gun, and dreamed of London streets and his mother's kitchen. ★ A man found himself completely alone on a deserted island after his ship was wrecked in a violent storm. He chose to investigate every part of the island, and to establish a routine, because that was a significant way to stay strong.

THINK What did Crusoe build to carry things?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 4: A Shelter and Food

Crusoe chose a spot on a hillside, near a stream and under a cliff. He set up a tent from sailcloth and built a fence of strong stakes around it. Behind the fence he dug a cave in the rock, where he stored his supplies. He built a ladder so that he could climb in and then pulled it up behind him. It was his first real home. Each morning he went out to hunt goats or catch fish. He gathered fruit, coconuts, and eggs, and learned that the grapes on the island could be dried into raisins. Little by little, the shelter grew stronger. He built a table and a chair from planks, and he made shelves for his books and tools. The consequence of this hard work was comfort. In the evenings, he watched the sunset from the hilltop and felt a mixture of loneliness and pride. He knew he had to establish a routine and to investigate the island in all seasons. The challenge was long, and a significant one. He kept a calendar by cutting a notch in a post each day. Sometimes a goat wandered into view, and he followed it with his gun. Other times he sat by the shore and caught fish with a line made of rope. He cooked his catch over a fire of driftwood, and the smell of roasting meat made him think of home. Birds called from the cliffs, as though to tell him he was not forgotten. ★

He built a shelter and found food. He determined that, while he was alive, he would make the best of his life.

THINK *Where did Crusoe build his home?*

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 5: Every Day, a New Task

Days turned into weeks, and weeks into months. Crusoe tried to give every day a purpose. He woke at dawn, ate breakfast, and then went out to work. He learned to hunt goats with his gun, and when the gunpowder began to run low, he used traps and ropes. He found wild rice and planted some of the seed. He learned to make clay pots by baking them in the sun and later in a kiln. He cut wood, carved bowls, and tried to make a boat from a huge tree, but he built it too far from the water and could not move it. It was a hard lesson in planning. Patiently, he started over. In the evenings, he read from a Bible he had saved from the ship, and he wrote in his journal about his hopes and fears. The consequence of such steady effort was a calm mind. Crusoe set out to investigate every part of the island, determining which plants could be eaten and which should be avoided. He would establish a garden and a pasture. These were significant achievements. In bad weather, he stayed in the cave and mended his clothes, or repaired his tools, or made baskets from twigs. He learned that rainy days could be used well, and that time, like water, can be held in a good vessel. He felt his patience grow with each basket, and each basket felt like a tiny victory. ★ He carefully built a shelter and searched for food every day. At last, he understood that every task he could finish was a small victory, and each one gave him courage.

THINK What did Crusoe make from clay?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 6: Learning to Survive Alone

In the second year, Crusoe fell ill with a fever. For days he lay in his cave, weak and alone, with no one to bring water. He thought he might not recover. Yet, one night he dreamed of a gentle voice that told him to hold on. The next morning, he rose and made a drink from tobacco leaves and rum, as he had once heard that it could help. Slowly, his health returned. The illness changed him. He began to value each day more deeply and to thank the heavens for small things: water, shade, and the song of birds. He planted barley that had grown from a few seeds he found in a bag, and the first harvest filled him with joy. He learned to bake bread. The challenge of surviving was real, but each step made him stronger. He wanted to investigate how far he could go in making himself comfortable, and he determined that his resources were nearly endless if he was careful. The consequence of this work was safety. He would establish a daily routine of work, rest, reading, and reflection. He also took time to watch the stars, and he named the constellations he knew. The Great Bear hung above the hill, and the Southern Cross rose over the sea. Under the same sky, he thought, his brothers and sisters, if they lived, might also be looking up, and the idea made the distance between them feel a little smaller. He wrote the names of the stars in his journal, and for a while, he felt less alone. ★ He carefully built a strong shelter and patiently searched for food every single day, slowly learning how to survive completely alone. And a significant discovery waited for him on the beach.

THINK What illness did Crusoe have?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 7: Tools from the Broken Ship

During the first weeks, Crusoe returned again and again to the wreck. He had to investigate every room to find more of use. From the carpenter's chest he took a saw, axes, hammers, nails, and a grindstone. He found guns, powder, and shot. He carried away biscuits, rum, rice, and cheese. Each trip brought him a little more comfort. But he also discovered the limits of his raft, which could carry only a few things at a time. The wind and the tide made every journey a risk. He pulled the planks onto the shore, tired but glad. He realized that these things were precious, and that each tool was worth more than gold. A hammer was a way to build, a gun was a way to hunt, and a book was a way to remember. The consequence of such good fortune was that he could establish a safe home. He decided to determine the best order for his work. He would make furniture first, then a wall, then a garden. It was a significant moment, and a hard challenge, but he felt hope. One evening, he found a small box of coins on the sunken deck. He laughed, a short, bitter laugh, because money had no use on the island. He put the coins in a drawer, not as riches, but as a reminder of what he once chased, and what he had learned to value instead. ★ He saved tools from the broken ship. He learned that civilization is made of small things, and that without them even the cleverest person is weak.

THINK What did Crusoe find in the carpenter's chest?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 8: Careful Choices

Crusoe made a list of what he had and what he needed. He knew that he could not do everything at once, so he had to choose. On the sheet of paper, he wrote two columns: Good and Evil, as he called them. In the Good column he put that he was alive, that he had food, that he had tools, and that the climate was warm. In the Evil column he put that he was alone, that he had no clothes of silk, and that he had no one to talk to. When he finished, he saw that the Good column was longer. This simple exercise changed his mood. He began to investigate his own mind, and he determined to give thanks for what he had. He realized that the real enemy was not the island but despair. The consequence of this thought was peace. Over the next months, he built a second shelter, a fence, and a store for his goods. He made a tool bench and a lamp from goat fat. He would establish a place for everything. It was a significant lesson, and a challenge for anyone. Often, he talked to the parrot or to the goats, telling them what he planned for the day. When the animals looked at him with wide eyes, he laughed and felt better. Humor, he discovered, was one of the best tools of all, and it cost him nothing. ★ **He carefully saved useful tools from the broken ship.** Every tool was now both a weapon and a friend.

THINK What two columns did Crusoe write?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 9: Closer to Civilization

After several years, Crusoe's life began to look like a small civilization. He lived in two homes: a fortress by the sea and a country house in the hills. He kept goats in a pen, ate bread from his own barley, drank wine made from island grapes, and wore clothes of goatskin. He taught a parrot named Poll to say his name, so that he could hear a voice in the evenings. At night, he read from the few books he had saved, and in the day, he carved furniture. He also built a calendar and a small chapel in his mind. Each tool he had saved from the ship was now a symbol of his connection to the world. A knife reminded him of dinner tables, a saw of carpenters, and a book of friends. The consequence of this careful life was a surprising happiness. He decided to determine how many days he had been on the island and to establish a regular time for prayer. His daily life remained a challenge, but he felt that he was growing. On warm evenings, he sat outside the fortress with a cup of goat milk and watched the light turn the sea to gold. He listened to the waves, which sounded like a distant crowd, and imagined that the whole world was applauding quietly for a man who refused to give up. Then he went inside, lit his lamp, and wrote down the day's work in neat, careful lines.

★ He carefully saved every useful tool he could find from the broken ship, because each one brought him a little closer to civilization. It was a significant comfort.

THINK What did Crusoe teach the parrot?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 10: A Footprint in the Sand

One morning, after many years, Crusoe was walking along the beach when he saw something that froze his blood: a single footprint in the sand. It was not his own. He stared at it in shock. The mark of a bare human foot lay clear and fresh near the water. He looked around, but saw nobody. He ran back to his fortress, climbed the ladder, and pulled it up. For three days, he did not dare to leave. He wondered whether it was a friend or an enemy, and the thought of meeting any human after so long both thrilled and frightened him. He decided to investigate. Carefully, he returned to the shore and found other signs: a fire pit, bones, and traces of a feast. He learned that people from other islands visited his island from time to time, to hold dangerous rituals. The consequence of this discovery was fear. He must determine how to protect himself and still stay alive. He fortified his walls with extra stakes. It was a challenge of a new kind. He spent nights awake, listening to every sound. Each rustle of leaves made him tense. Slowly, however, he began to think that perhaps it was a chance to meet someone, and that being alone forever was not what he truly wanted. Hope and fear fought inside him, and he could not sleep. ★ **He met a man he called Friday.** But that came later. First, he had to live with the thought that he was not as alone as he believed.

THINK What did Crusoe see in the sand?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 11: Rescued from Danger

Two years passed, and Crusoe lived on, always watchful. One morning, he saw smoke rising far down the beach. Through his spyglass, he made out a group of men dragging two prisoners toward a fire. One of the captives broke free and ran toward Crusoe's side of the island, with his pursuers close behind. He was a tall, graceful young man with a kind face. Crusoe made a quick decision. He grabbed his gun and ran out to help, and when the chasers drew near, he fired a warning shot. The men were frightened by the noise and fled to their canoes, and the young man fell at Crusoe's feet. He put Crusoe's foot on his head, in a sign of gratitude. Crusoe lifted him up and gave him water. He said the word "Friday" because the rescue had happened on that day. The young man learned the word and pointed to himself, smiling. The consequence was a new friendship. Crusoe wanted to determine how to communicate, and he would establish a language of gestures. It was a significant moment. The young man trembled when he saw Crusoe's gun, and Crusoe put it down and held out his empty hands to show that he meant no harm. They looked at each other for a long time, two strangers in a strange place, each wondering about the other's story, and each beginning to feel that the world had just become a little less lonely. ★ **He rescued a man from danger and called him Friday.** Neither knew how deep the bond would become.

THINK What did Crusoe use to watch the men?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 12: Friendship Across Differences

Friday quickly became Crusoe's closest companion. He was strong, loyal, and cheerful. Crusoe taught him English, bit by bit: "master," "yes," "no," "good," and "bad." Friday taught Crusoe the names of birds and fish and how to read the weather from the clouds. Together they built a boat and went fishing. Crusoe gave him clothes and a hat, and Friday laughed at his own reflection in a puddle. At first, there were misunderstandings. Friday was shocked at some of Crusoe's customs, and Crusoe struggled with Friday's way of thinking. But they respected each other. Crusoe came to realize that Friday was as clever and kind as any man he had known, though he came from a different land. He told Friday about England, and Friday told Crusoe about his village. They shared meals, work, and laughter. The consequence of this friendship was a deep joy. Crusoe wanted to investigate the island with a friend, and they went hunting and exploring. It was a significant change. In the evenings, the two sat by the fire and compared their ways. Friday sang songs from his village, and Crusoe sang old English hymns, and though neither understood the other's words, they felt the music. Crusoe thought that perhaps the thing that makes people alike is deeper than the languages that divide them. ★ He rescued a brave man from serious danger and called him Friday, and the two slowly built a real friendship across their differences. Soon, they began to think about leaving, because a new challenge was calling, and the sea was waiting to be crossed.

THINK What did Crusoe teach Friday?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 13: What Solitude Taught

Looking back, Crusoe could see how the long years had changed him. He had arrived as a restless young man who thought only of adventure, and he had become patient, thoughtful, and grateful. In the silence of the island, he had learned to listen to his own heart. He learned that happiness does not come from having much but from knowing the value of what you have. He found that a day spent making a good chair or growing a handful of barley could feel richer than any day of idle luxury. He learned to rely on himself, to solve problems, and to accept what he could not change. The challenge was not only physical but also mental. He learned to investigate his own fears and to determine what mattered. The consequence of these years was a quiet strength. He wanted to establish gratitude as a habit, and so every evening, he named three things he was thankful for. Friday, who listened, soon began to do the same. They sat together beneath the stars and spoke of their homes. It was a significant way to end the day. Sometimes, in the middle of the night, he woke and walked outside to look at the sea. The moon made a silver road on the water, and he thought it looked like a path leading home. He would stand there with the cold wind in his face and say a quiet word of thanks. ★ Being alone taught him many things. He no longer felt entirely alone, because he had found peace.

THINK What did Crusoe name each evening?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 14: Silence and Patience

Of all the lessons, the most precious was patience. Crusoe saw that nothing worth having could be made in a hurry. When he wanted bread, he had to plow, sow, wait, harvest, thresh, grind, and bake, a process that took a year. When he wanted a boat, he needed to find a tree, cut it down, hollow it out, and carry it to the sea. Each time he tried to hurry, he failed. Each time he waited, he succeeded. The silence of the island also taught him to listen. He could hear the sea breathe and the wind whisper. He could hear his own thoughts as clearly as a conversation. At first this was lonely, but later it became a source of calm. He began to understand that silence is not empty but full of meaning. Friday, who had grown up in the quiet of the forest, understood this naturally. The consequence of patient work is a feeling of pride that no one can take away. Crusoe wanted to determine how to share these lessons. He would investigate the values he believed in and establish them in a journal. It was a significant record, and it also presented a challenge to any reader. One rainy afternoon, he set up two stones and made a game of marbles for himself and Friday. They played for hours, laughing, and when it was over, Crusoe felt that even silence could be shared, and that two people sitting quietly side by side were never entirely alone. ★ **Being completely alone taught him many surprising things.**

THINK *What did bread require?*

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 15: Things About Himself

One evening, Friday asked Crusoe what he missed most about home. Crusoe thought for a long time. He realized that he did not miss luxury, or even noise, but the company of a family and a community. He missed his mother's voice, his father's advice, and the chatter of a market. But he also found that he had learned to live well without them. He had discovered that he was braver, more skillful, and more patient than he ever believed. These were the deeply surprising things about himself that he had never known before. He had found that the person he was alone was stronger than the person he had been with others. This challenge had changed him. He also found that he could forgive himself for his old mistakes, for ignoring his father and running away to sea. The consequence of this honesty was a lighter heart. He must determine how to use the lessons when he returned home, and to establish a life worthy of them. He wrote carefully in his journal. He thought of all the people who, like him, found themselves alone because of illness, travel, or fate, and he hoped that they, too, would discover their own strength. A person, he decided, is like a seed: you can only learn what it will grow into when you plant it in strange soil and give it time. That thought stayed with him all through the long evening, and he wrote it down in his journal in careful, steady letters, as a gift for anyone who might later read his pages. When he finished, he blew out the lamp and listened to the sea for a long time before sleeping. ★ **Being completely alone for so long taught him many deeply surprising things about himself that he had never known before.** Friday listened, nodded, and said that a man who knows himself is never entirely alone.

THINK Who asked what Crusoe missed?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 16: A Ship at Last

After twenty-seven years, one morning in October, Friday ran into the fortress with shining eyes. "Master! Master! A ship!" he cried. Crusoe ran to the hill. An English ship lay anchored in the bay, and a small boat was pulling toward the shore. His heart pounded. He could hardly believe it. He watched as the boat landed and a group of men stepped onto the sand, among them a captain and two prisoners who had been tied up. A mutiny had broken out on the ship, and the captain had been captured by his own crew. Crusoe and Friday decided to help. They watched from a safe distance, and then, with clever plans and a few well-placed shots in the air, they scared the mutineers into surrendering. The captain, grateful beyond words, promised to take Crusoe home. It was a great challenge, but it ended well. The consequence was freedom. Crusoe wanted to determine what to bring and to establish in his mind that it was time to go. He gathered his goatskin cap, his umbrella, and his journal. On the beach, he gave Friday a small knife, a gift for the journey. Friday held it as if it were gold. They loaded the boat with goatskins, baskets of dried grapes, and a few small treasures from the island. The sailors watched with respect as the odd pair, one in a hat of fur and the other in a simple robe, climbed aboard. ★ He finally returned home after many years. And on December 19, he said goodbye to the island.

THINK What did Friday cry?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 17: Many Long and Difficult Years

The voyage home took many months. Crusoe stood on the deck and watched the island fade into the sea. He felt joy, but also a pang of sadness, for it had been his home for twenty-eight years, two months, and nineteen days. Friday stood beside him, a young man traveling for the first time into an unknown world, asking a thousand questions. Crusoe answered patiently. They stopped in Portugal, where Crusoe learned that his old friend, the captain who once helped him, was still alive. Crusoe also found that the plantation he had started in Brazil before the shipwreck was thriving, and that its profits had been kept for him. The long years had made him a rich man. He could establish a comfortable home. But his family in England had died, or moved, and he found no one he knew. It was a significant loss. The challenge of being alone had followed him ashore. On the ship, he spent hours writing in his journal, recounting every adventure while the memories were fresh. The sailors came to listen at night, sitting on barrels in a circle, and Crusoe told them how it felt to be the only person in the world. Many wept, and some laughed, and a few said they would never complain of loneliness again. The captain, an honest man, said that Crusoe's story would be remembered by many, and he was right. By the time they sighted the harbor of Lisbon, even the youngest sailor knew his name. ★ He finally returned home after many long and difficult years. Friday, who was faithful and kind, said that he would stay with him wherever he went, and Crusoe was glad, because he understood that a true friend is a gift.

THINK How long had Crusoe been on the island?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 18: A Different World

When Crusoe finally reached England, the country seemed strange and noisy. The streets of London were crowded with carts and carriages, and people hurried past without looking at one another. The clothes had changed, the prices had changed, and even the language had a few new words. He visited York and found that his parents had passed away, and that only a few relatives remained. He felt like a visitor in his own country. But he was not bitter. He knew that time is a river, and that no one steps into the same water twice. The island had taught him patience, and he used it now. He sold his Brazilian plantation for a good price, gave gifts to his relatives, and helped the widow of an old friend. He married, had three children, and lived quietly. Friday stayed with the family and became beloved by them. Crusoe never forgot the island, and sometimes in the evenings, he told his children about the years alone. He could investigate the memories at will and determine what to tell them. The consequence of his journey was wisdom. It was a significant gift, and a lasting challenge. In the quiet years that followed, he sometimes walked to the river and sat on its bank, remembering the sea. His children would ask if he ever missed the island, and he would smile and say that he missed who he had been there, a simple man doing simple things well. Then he would ruffle their hair and tell them to be grateful for the busy, crowded, noisy world. ★ He finally returned home after many long and difficult years, but the world he came back to was completely different from before. He chose to establish a life of kindness and thankfulness.

THINK What city was crowded with carts?