

THE JOURNAL

Robinson Crusoe (Daniel Defoe)

Chapter V, Builds a House

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, tho' 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 sit 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, tho' 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, tho' 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.



Image: [Pixabay](#)

ACTIVITIES

1. Find the following words. What do you think they mean? Use a dictionary when necessary.
 - a. Shipwreck
 - b. Shore
 - c. Drown
 - d. Sleep soundly
 - e. Tide
 - f. Upright
 - g. Raft

2. Who does the writer write to?

3. What is the narrator point of view? What information does he give the readers?

4. What tenses does he use? Underline some examples.

5. Discuss:
 - a. What would you do if you were alone in a desert island?
 - b. Think of three things you would take with you.
 - c. What would you miss the most?



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KEY

1. Find the following words. What do you think they mean? Use a dictionary when necessary.
 - a. Shipwreck
 - b. Shore
 - c. Drown
 - d. Sleep soundly
 - e. Tide
 - f. Upright
 - g. Raft

2. Who does the writer write to? To himself, it's a diary.

3. What is the narrator point of view? What information does he give the readers? The text is written in the 1st person, so we can only know the things the protagonist experiences or thinks.

4. What tenses does he use? Underline some examples. Past Simple, Past Perfect, Passive voice in the Past form.

5. Discuss:
 - a. What would you do if you were alone in a desert island?
 - b. Think of three things you would take with you.
 - c. What would you miss the most?

Students' own answers.