



# Robinson Crusoe



*Retold from the Daniel Defoe  
original by Deanna McFadden*

*Illustrated by Jamel Akib*



STERLING CHILDREN'S BOOKS  
New York

## What Do *You* Think? Questions for Discussion



**H**ave you ever been around a toddler who keeps asking the question “Why?” Does your teacher call on you in class with questions from your homework? Do your parents ask you questions about your day at the dinner table? We are always surrounded by questions that need a specific response. But is it possible to have a question with no right answer?

The following questions are about the book you just read. But this is not a quiz! They are designed to help you look at the people, places,

and events in the story from different angles. These questions do not have specific answers. Instead, they might make you think of the story in a completely new way.

Think carefully about each question and enjoy discovering more about this classic story.

1. At the beginning of the book, Robinson claims that he “craved grand adventures and far-away lands.” Do you think he still feels this way at the end of the book? What place would you like to visit most?

2. Robinson’s parents try everything they can to make him change his mind about being a sailor. Do you think they’re right to do so? Has anyone ever tried to make you change your mind about something? Did it work?

3. Robinson quickly finds out that life at sea is not what he expected. Have you ever dreamed about something only to find out that the reality is very different?

4. Robinson never seems to stay in one place for long. In Brazil, he sets up a farm and is beginning to settle down, but his desire for excitement and travel gets the best of him. Would you leave the safety of your home to go exploring?

5. When Robinson arrives on the island, he quickly discovers that he is the only one of his shipmates to have survived. What would you have done in his place? Have you ever been completely alone?

6. After a few weeks on the island, Robinson begins to keep a diary. He says, “On the days where my heart ached with everything I had lost or given up, it helped to write.” Do you keep a diary? When do you write in it?

7. Robinson says, “How glorious home is when you’ve been away.” Do you agree with this statement? What was the longest time you were ever away from home?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

8. One of Robinson's most frightening moments on the island occurs when he finds a footprint. How would you have reacted if you were in his position? What's the scariest thing that ever happened to you?

9. Robinson says that his one special talent is the ability to survive. Do you agree? What is your special talent?

10. What trait do you most admire in Robinson? What trait do you least like about him? Is there one thing in particular that you like or dislike about yourself?