



# The Swiss Family Robinson



*Retold from the Johann David Wyss original  
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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,

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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. As they are leaving the ship, each member of the family grabs supplies that they think will be important. What would you take? What do you think is the most important item to have on a deserted island?

2. When they first land on the island, the boys all seem angry. How do you think you would feel in a similar situation?

3. Papa has a lot of knowledge that helps the family build a life for themselves. Do you have any knowledge that would be useful on a deserted island?

4. How does Ernest keep the animals from crossing the bridge? Can you come up with

another way to keep them on the family's side of the island?

5. Why does Fritz adopt the baby monkey? Have you ever had a pet? What kind of animal was it?

6. When the children go off alone, Papa is always worried that they are in danger. Do your parents react the same way? What is the most dangerous situation you've ever been in?

7. Papa says that the wintertime made the family feel like prisoners. Have you ever felt this way? Why were you cooped up?

8. The family builds different kinds of homes all over the island. Which home would you most like to live in? What kind of home would you build for yourself?

9. The family celebrates their first year on the island with a competition among the boys. Who did you think would win each event? What sports do you like to play?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

10. Were you surprised that half the family decided to stay on the island? How did you expect the book to end? What would you have done in their position?