

I Go to Sea

Identity

1. How does Robinson (Kreutznaer) Crusoe describe himself?

Ans: He was the third son, early filled "with rambling thoughts." His father had given him a basic education and counseled him to go into some middle class trade or law. Instead, he was adventuresome and had a yearning to go to sea.

2. Why did Robinson's father say that the middle road in life was best?

Ans: He said it was between the suffering and poverty of the poor and the pride, envy and ambition of the upper class. He said that even kings often longed to have been born in the middle of the two extremes. People in the middle had fewer disasters, appreciated hard work and could enjoy the fruits of their labor more readily.

3. What had happened to Robinson's older brother?

Ans: He also had insisted on joining the army and going to the "low country [the Dutch wars for independence from Spanish domination] wars." Note Robinson's carefulness in dealing with his parents. He felt constrained to follow his wanderlust, but still tried to deal gently with his loving parents.

Author's Technique

1. What very obvious early lesson does the author give to his reader?

Ans: The pride and ignorance of youth is held up. The main character, himself, voices his own disgust for having disregarded his parent's advice. He makes the usual vows to God if He should deliver him from his first disaster.

2. How does the author further portray the sin and hypocrisy of man's nature?

Ans: As soon as Robinson was free of immediate danger he reneges on his promises and vows. He is able to train his conscience with remarkable ease.

3. What is learned when Robinson is threatened with being driven out to sea by wind or current?

Ans: He is very glad for his island prison. He observes that man fails to appreciate the value of his situation except God would threaten to remove it.

Vocabulary

declivity - ditch

prodigious - great amount

sluice - wash, a stream of water

repined - to fret, to be disconsolate

I Improve Myself in the Mechanic Exercises

Understanding and Appreciation

Robinson marvels at the mercy of the Creator for all His benefits to all the creatures and especially himself. His new goat herd now produces milk as well as meat in abundance. He humorously refers to himself as “my majesty, the lord of the whole island” and the animals as his subjects. Poll, the parrot, was the only one who could talk. The dog had grown old. The cats sat one on each side of Robinson.

Vocabulary

sagacious - clever

tractable - obedient, manageable

interred - buried

pantaloon - pants, trousers
