

## ROBINSON CRUSOE

### INTRODUCTION

*(Los dos ACTORES en el patio de butacas, entre el público.*

*Uno de ellos, el que encarnará a **Robinson**, con un libro en la mano, lee sus intervenciones en un idioma distinto al empleado durante el resto de la representación, de modo que el **otro actor**, de vez en cuando, se verá obligado a traducir.*

*El espacio escena permanece inutilizado y oscuro, oculto tras un telón o disimulado con luces.*

*De momento, todo sucede fuera, junto a los espectadores.)*

- When he was a young man, Robinson Crusoe...
- When he was a young man, Robinson Crusoe wanted to go to sea.
- In spite of his father, in spite of his mother and in spite of his God.
- Where did he get this idea from? Where did he get such a dream? Where did he hear about it?
- Where did he read about it?
- In spite of everything, more than anything, Robinson Crusoe wanted to go to sea so he...
- ran away from home and took to the sea
- He had to come home, though, with his tail between his legs.
- Next time it will be different...
- He thought
- Next time I will be ready. I will learn, I will train, I will be patient.
- Robinson Crusoe wanted to go to sea, in spite of his father, in spite of his mother, and in spite of his God
- So this time it would all be different.
- The young Robinson Crusoe went to sea again.

### SCENE 1

- He learns to trade.
- He escapes from pirates.
- Things go well for him!
- Things go better and better!
- A little here...
- A little there...
- Change this... Buy that...
- Pay three... take five... take ten... take a thousand!
- A landowner in Brazil!
- Land... slaves...

- Plantations of this, plantations of that...
  - But he wanted more of this and more of that...
  - More plantations... more slaves...
  - Then one day one of his landowner friends said...
  - This is a disgrace! What are slave prices coming to?
- And since when do slaves protest? Well, they're protesting!  
 And we have to keep quiet!
- My landowner friends, this is what we will do: we will go to Guinea for illegal Negroes. They are more expensive but they will make us richer so we can buy more plantations and more things of every kind. Personally speaking, I have had enough. Who's with me?
- Everyone was with him!
  - Robinson thought:
  - For the first time in my life I have everything I need and I have realised my dream.
- Why do I want to go to Guinea for illegal slaves?
- He thought again.
  - For the first time in my life I have everything I need and I have realised my dream.
- Why do I want to go to Guinea for illegal slaves?
- He thought again and again and again.
  - But in the end he boarded a ship with his landowner friends and set sail for Guinea. Illegal Negroes, here we come!
  - And here we are. The first of September 1655.
  - Eight years after leaving his family home.
  - What a party there is in the hold of the ship! All those young landowners, some rich, others very rich, all drunk on the sweet wine of adventure, safe under the protection of their Fatherland and their God, out to enjoy their wealth and power.
  - And all that inexhaustible energy!
  - Capable of changing the world and what is more, willing to change the world.
  - But sometimes the world isn't so willing to be changed.

*(Comienzan a fallar las luces. Se escuchan ruidos extraños. Parece que algo está pasando fuera de donde estamos. Algo que escapa a nuestro control. El actor **Robinson** es empujado hacia el espacio escenario por una fuerza misteriosa. Varios idiomas se apropian de su lengua. Estrambóticos movimientos lo atenazan. El otro actor, mientras tanto, desaparece, sin que nos demos cuenta.)*

- What's happening to the sea? And to the sky? What's happening to the ship and to all the people? What have I done to the sea, to the world, to

be... sinking in this way? This has to be kind some kind of joke. This can't be happening to me. It wasn't like this in the books. This isn't how I thought it would be. Jump from the ship? What kind of nonsense is that! How are we going to jump from the ship? What's going on? Where... where is everyone?

## SCENE 2

*(A partir de ahora, el actor Viernes desaparece de nuestra vista. Estará detrás de cada objeto que se mueve, cada viento que sopla, cada día y año que pasa... Intuiremos su presencia pero no lo veremos.*

***Robinson Crusoe** está definitivamente sólo.*

*Sólo él habla. Hasta nueva orden el actor **Robinson** será responsable de todas las palabras.)*

The ship is wrecked. It's grounded, destroyed. Broken in half.

All my landowner friends are... dead. If only we had stayed on the ship! If only we had tried to get away in time!

Everyone's dead except you, Robinson. You'd better wake up. The only thing you can do now is go back to the ship and see what you can save. One journey after another... before the ship sinks forever... another journey... another. Never had anyone been surrounded by so many objects! A pipe, a knife... a bit of tobacco... something to eat... more and more journeys until the sea finally destroyed the ship and Robinson Crusoe realised he was alone on a desert island. For nearly thirty years he lived on that desert island. Alone. If that isn't an inner journey, what is?

What did he do alone for so long? How is it that he didn't go completely mad? How did he manage to keep his sanity... his integrity... his life, for goodness sake? Wouldn't you have shot yourself? Come on, tell the truth! Wouldn't you have broken your head open with a coconut? Tell the truth! But Robinson Crusoe not only survived! He not only survived!

## SCENE 3

I must look for a good place. There's a cave here, on the side of this hill.

And a fence. A fence. A fence. I'll have to hunt. Look, a goat!

And this bird which is impossible to eat. And these animals which I don't even know what they're called.

Now I'm going to make myself a table.

What on earth did Robinson Crusoe want a table for? Is that how human nature works? Well, let him, if it makes him happy. Do you know how long it took you to make that table?

Well... this business of time is a bit strange. On this island it seems to pass in rather a strange way...

So he decided to make a calendar and a daily routine.

Dear Diary. November 4<sup>th</sup> I began to regulate my day, as a way of attaining salvation. I am fed up with killing animals and then not being able to eat them. Hunt, kill, hunt, kill... there has to be something more... I've learnt to make chairs. I've got something that looks like a house now.

I wounded a goat, cured it and have started to domesticate it.

I planted a few grains of wheat and after a month some shoots appeared. I'm a farmer now!

A fence... a fence ... a fence... I'm finally isolated. Isolated on a desert island!

I killed a turtle. Inside it there were sixty eggs. I ate a few and then made a delicious turtle soup.

#### **SCENE 4**

After a while he got ill. Really ill. Has anyone here been really ill? So ill that you think you're going to die? What kind of an adventure is that?

I prayed to God for the first time in my life. I saw him in my nightmares. In one of the chests I found a Bible and a bit of tobacco. I read the words:

"Invoke me in your days of affliction and I will free you. Praise me."

I read them again, and again, and again. And then I invoked him. I invoked Him! I invoked him!

Dear Diary. The first meal where I asked for God's blessing was soup and turtle eggs.

Little by little he started to get better. And when he got his strength back he decided to make it a part of his daily routine to read the Bible... every day, in the morning and in the evening.

Dear Diary. I have discovered that there is another kind of freedom. Another kind of freedom. Another kind of freedom.

Does anyone know what he meant? Is there more than one kind of freedom? How many kinds of freedom are there?

#### **SCENE 5**

Ten months after arriving he decided to walk round the island. This valley is full of fruit! What an explosion of flavours!

And parrots, and more fruit and animals whose names I don't know.

A year has passed and I'm still discovering the island. All this is mine!

I domesticate animals. I make pots.

Three years have passed and Robinson Crusoe feels better every day:

All the suffering for what we don't have comes from our lack of gratitude for what has been given to us.

He made new clothes and a sunshade

In the sixth year he went round the island again and the parrot uttered its first word.

In the eleventh year he realised that his supplies were running out and he would have to start his first herd. Then a barn. And then a dairy.

In the fifteenth year there was no longer any doubt. He was lord and owner of the whole island! Eating, travelling, praying and working... surrounded by his subjects!

## **SCENE 6**

With the help of God and his own hard work Robinson Crusoe had managed to bring peace to his days.

Until one morning, on one of his walks, surrounded by his court, in complete harmony with nature and himself he saw... a footprint in the sand! A footprint in the sand!

A strange fear took hold of him. And a strange fantasy ran loose in his head.

I'm surrounded by ghosts!

And as if that weren't enough, another morning, on one of his walks, which weren't so peaceful now, he came across the most bloody and horrible sight that any good soul could possibly imagine...! Cannibals! Look! The remains of their horrible banquet of blood! Bones, bits of human flesh devoured gleefully by those unfortunate souls.

For two years Robinson Crusoe stayed in his hideout without setting foot outside. Dug in. His crazy fantasies led him to imagine a hundred ways of getting rid of the cannibals. Exterminate them at whatever cost!

Where did so much hate come from? Would you have armed yourself to the teeth, like him? He looked for the best place to ambush them, to spy on them, a place where he could wait in safety for their canoes to arrive. He waited and waited for months on end, but nothing happened. He thought: waiting for something bad is worse than the evil itself. As the days passed his heart grew more and more troubled at the thought that any day he might fall into the hands of those miserable creatures.

My poor human flesh!

My spirit was deeply troubled during those fifteen or sixteen months. I slept badly, I had terrible nightmares... I lived surrounded by ghosts. Until one day I thought... Who am I to decide if a custom is good or bad? If no one has ever told them that eating each other is an atrocious act, it must be the most natural thing in the world for them. What right have I to hate them

in this way and to desire their death with such passion? The soul of man is mysterious!

I began to feel better and went back to my old routine of seeing to the domestic chores, but a persistent fear had taken hold of my soul. I could have been one of the richest landowners in Brazil! But madness is normally the preserve of young minds and reflection on madness is usually the practice of those of more advanced age.

The soul of man is mysterious!

## **SCENE 7**

About a year had passed since these inner torments had worried him when one morning, very early, he was surprised to see no fewer than five canoes pulled up on the beach. No fewer than thirty men had lit a fire and it looked as if they were making... the lunch!

□ As I looked through the telescope I could see that they were taking two unfortunate individuals from the boats.

They knocked one of them unconscious and immediately two others started to cut him up ready for cooking, while the other victim waited for his turn.

*(A partir de ahora el actor Viernes entrará en acción)*

□ At that moment I suddenly felt an impulse to run and, seeing that there was just a possibility that I might save my life, I set off down the beach as fast as I could go.

□ I was horrified to see him running towards me, especially when I imagined the whole horde behind him.

□ I ran to the river, plunged into the water and, although the tide was high, managed to reach the other bank easily in thirty strokes or so.

□ He ran with extraordinary speed and strength. Never had I seen anybody run like that!

□ My pursuers were catching up with me, I could hear their breathing not more than thirty paces away. Twenty paces... ten...

□ It was then that I realised fervently and irresistibly that the time had come for me to have a servant, a companion even, a friend, and that I had been chosen by destiny to save the life of that poor creature. I took two guns, chose the shortest path to the foot of the mountain and came out between pursuers and pursued. I called to the latter in a loud voice.

□ When I turned round and saw him my fear of my pursuers vanished and was replaced by fear of him. He gestured for me to come back and at the same time advanced cautiously towards my pursuers. He suddenly threw himself upon one of them and downed him with his strange stick.

□ The other, when he saw this, lifted his bow and aimed so I had no option but to shoot him as well.

□ I was so frightened by the smoke and noise from his extraordinary weapon that I couldn't move and found myself unable to go forwards or backwards. He called me again, gesturing for me to come nearer.

□ Little by little he came nearer to me, kneeling every few paces to show me his gratitude for saving his life. I smiled at him and looked at him kindly. When he reached me, still on his knees, he took my foot and put it on his head, showing in this way, I supposed, that he would be my slave forever.

□ I asked him for his machete. He gave it to me without question and I went and cut off the heads of the two who had wanted to eat me just a short while before.

□ His was the first human voice that I had heard in twenty-five years!

□ I took the heads and laid them at his feet, as a sign of gratitude. Then I asked him for something to drink. My throat was dry.

## **SCENE 8**

□ He was a good-looking young man, perfectly formed, tall and slim with strong, straight legs and around twenty-six years old.

□ He started to talk to me and he seemed to be asking me to do the same.

□ First of all I let him know that his name was Friday since that was the day I had saved his life.

□ He took me back to what appeared to be his hideout. How bored he must have been, this white man! He gave me some milk in a clay pot and a bit of bread which didn't taste very good at all.

□ I taught him how to say yes and no and the meaning of these words.

□ Right away he insisted on teaching me his language. Wasn't he interested in knowing how to say anything in my language?

□ As soon as dawn had broken I made him understand that he should follow me. I took him to visit the island and when we arrived at the beach where I had saved him he rushed over to one of the decapitated bodies and started telling me by sign language that we should eat.

□ Somehow I had to show that white man my gratitude. He was to have the heart of my enemy!

□ The blood froze in my veins and my heart almost stopped at such a horrendous sight. It was truly horrible. He was a cannibal by nature! Friday felt a violent desire to eat that meat!

□ In my village it is an honour reserved only for kings. The heart of my enemy! And the taste was delicious!

□ I made him understand that if he persisted in this way I would kill him.

□ He became so angry that I had to stop. After all he was a foreigner and presumably he had his reasons for behaving this way. I put my head under his foot and he calmed down. I will keep it in mind for the future.

□ Once he had understood my orders we returned to my castle. I gave him some canvas trousers I had found in the wrecked ship. I also gave him a rather smart hareskin cap and some other clothes.

□ The trousers itched terribly and it felt like I had a thousand ants biting me between my legs but I didn't want to make the white man angry like before. Not to mention the sticks which make noise which he carried with him wherever he went and seemed to be his most treasured possession.

□ Soon I gave up taking precautions since no-one could possibly have a more faithful, affectionate and honest servant than Friday.

## ***SCENE 9***

□ One day I discovered Friday having a conversation with my gun. He seemed to be talking to it and listening to its reply.

I taught him how to eat roast meat, although I could never teach him to use salt.

I taught him how to grind corn.

I taught him to respect my sacred book.

I tried to teach him to read and write and to dress properly, but with little success.

I showed him how my gun could kill birds and goats although I never left the little gunpowder that was left within his reach.

When I saw that he was fully able to speak and understand me I tried to teach him the fundamentals of a religious belief. I wanted to instruct him in the knowledge of the true God. But it wasn't easy to make him understand the true nature of the Devil.

I took time to read the Holy Scriptures and then to transmit to poor Friday the sacred teachings that I had read. This was enough to enlighten the poor savage and convert him into the best Christian that I have ever known.

## ***SCENE 10***

In spite of everything, life with the white man was not unpleasant.

He loved eating and knew of many ways to prepare food, burning it, mixing it and adding things which looked like medicines and which sometimes tasted terrible.

He liked to play at drawing strange figures on a white skin, but I never understood the game. I had given up expecting the white man to learn my language, even though it is much easier than his, as his is full of words naming things that don't exist.

He loved to talk. He would speak for hours and only during those interminable monologues would I ever see him smile, or, sometimes, even laugh.



He also liked hearing the stories that I told him about my village, especially the ones about the white men who live in my country, having been shipwrecked there years ago.

He asked lots of questions about these white men and always ended up talking about building a ship and sailing to my country to meet them.

At times he was like a child if you didn't let him be right.

One day he asked me who had created the mountains, the heaven, the stars and all the rest, and I told him about old Benamucki and how all things say Ohhhh to old Benamucki, and that he waits for us at our death to eat us. But he became so angry that I thought he had gone mad. It would appear that the white man's Benamucki is called Ourlord and although it is difficult to understand there are three of them at the same time.

These three Ourlords are: Ourlord himself, Jesus, who is like his son, and Holyspirit which is like a ghost or invisible bird which enters the bodies of the white men to make them good and to follow all the commandments, of which there are many and some of which are very strange. The part of Ourlord which is Jesus came to the land of the white men many years ago so that all white men, always, would be saved from being eaten by Ourlord, the father, and in this way, when they died they would live forever.

What I don't understand very well is whether before Jesus came to the land of the white men, Holyspirit also ate the white men when they died or if only Ourlord could.

The white man was obsessed with living forever. There was nothing he wanted more and he was convinced that everyone else must want to live forever too because he always told me that even if I wasn't a white man and I wanted it enough and asked Ourlord, or any of his parts, and followed all of his commandments to the letter, then I would have eternal life just for me. So when I told him I didn't want to live forever he got very angry. Putting my head under his foot didn't calm him down as well as before so I told him I preferred Ourlord to Benamucki, that he was a much more powerful god and that when I died I did not want to go and be eaten by Benamucki anymore but preferred to go and live forever with Ourlord. This calmed him down and made him smile and be friendly again.

## ***SCENE 11***

As I said before, he's a Christian like the best of them! From that moment on our friendship was perfect. We became inseparable until the end of our adventure on that island...

...when we had to defend ourselves from the bad white men...

...when we built an enormous boat and spent various years going round the island...

But that is another story.

- Adventures normally finish when there are a lot of characters, and in this story new sailors are about to arrive...
- Which would endanger our peaceful existence ...
- And our friendship. So the adventures of Robinson Crusoe are about to end.
- But as you know, adventures never end. Just like energy...
- ...they simply transform into another adventure.

## SYNOPSIS

### INTRODUCTION

We are told that Robinson Crusoe had wanted to go to sea ever since he was a young man. So he went to sea, but had to come home again. Now he plans to go to sea again, this time better prepared.

### SCENE 1

Robinson Crusoe goes to sea and becomes a wealthy landowner. He sets sail for Guinea with his landowner friends to buy illegal black slaves, but the ship they are sailing in sinks.

### SCENE 2

Robinson Crusoe discovers he is the only survivor of the shipwreck and so he goes back to the boat and salvages what he can from the wreckage.

### SCENE 3

Robinson Crusoe finds somewhere to live and learns how to hunt in order to survive. He starts keeping a diary.

### SCENE 4

Robinson Crusoe gets very ill. He finds a Bible and calls on God to help him. Slowly he gets better and starts to read the Bible every day.

### SCENE 5

After ten months Robinson Crusoe explores the island, and by his fifteenth year there he has everything he needs and considers himself lord of the island and all its creatures.

### SCENE 6

Robinson Crusoe sees a footprint in the sand and the remains of a cannibals' feast. He then stays in his hideout for two years thinking about what he has seen.

### SCENE 7

Robinson Crusoe comes across a group of cannibals about to eat two humans. He saves the life of one of the men. The man then cuts off the heads of the two pursuers with Robinson Crusoe's machete and offers them to Robinson Crusoe as a sign of gratitude for saving his life.

#### SCENE 8

Robinson Crusoe names the man whose life he has saved 'Friday', as this is the day they met. Robinson Crusoe and Friday start to communicate with each other.

#### SCENE 9

Robinson Crusoe teaches Friday several things, including how to use a gun and the basics of Christian belief.

#### SCENE 10

Friday describes some of the things he has learnt from Robinson Crusoe and he compares his own religion with Christianity.

#### SCENE 11

Robinson Crusoe believes Friday has converted to Christianity. He talks about their friendship and their adventures on the island.

## **ACTIVITY PACK**

### NOTA A LOS PROFESORES

Los siguientes ejercicios se han pensado para que la función de teatro no sea un evento aislado sino que tenga una continuación, de forma que el vocabulario y las estructuras puedan asimilarse mejor.

Los alumnos pueden trabajar el vocabulario de antemano y los ejercicios escritos pueden ayudarles antes y después de la representación.

Firewalk Theatre espera y desea que tanto vosotros como los alumnos disfrutéis con la función y que los alumnos se interesen no sólo por el idioma sino también por el teatro.

## Sequence of Events

The following events happen in the play. Put them in the correct order.

Robinson Crusoe finds a cave to live in.	....
Robinson Crusoe teaches Friday about religion.	....
Friday gives Robinson Crusoe a heart to eat.	....
Robinson Crusoe is shipwrecked.	....
Robinson Crusoe gets ill.	....
Robinson Crusoe runs away from home.	..1.
Robinson Crusoe walks around the island.	....
Robinson Crusoe sees cannibals.	....
Robinson Crusoe learns to hunt.	....
Robinson Crusoe rescues Friday.	....

## Comprehension - True or false?

Say whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F)

- 1) Robinson Crusoe becomes a landowner in Brazil on his second voyage.
- 2) Robinson Crusoe lives on the desert island for a year.
- 3) Robinson Crusoe makes a table for his cave.
- 4) Robinson Crusoe finds a Bible and a packet of cigarettes in a chest.
- 5) Robinson Crusoe eats soup and turtle eggs.
- 6) When Robinson Crusoe first meets Friday it is the first time he has heard a human voice in twenty-five years.
- 7) In Friday's village it is an insult to give someone the heart of one's enemy to eat.
- 8) Robinson Crusoe is very successful at teaching Friday to read and write.
- 9) Friday's God is called Benamucki.
- 10) At the end of the play Robinson Crusoe believes that Friday has become a Christian.

## Vocabulary: definitions

Match the words and phrases from the play with their definitions.

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1) With his tail between his legs (Intro) | a) Destroyed (v – past p)    |
| 2) Inexhaustible (adj, Scene 1)           | b) Happily, cheerfully (adv) |
| 3) Wrecked (v – past p, Scene 2)          | c) Loyal (adj)               |
| 4) Turtle (n, Scene 3)                    | d) Shelter, secret place (n) |
| 5) Flavours (n, Scene 5)                  | e) Untiring (adj)            |
| 6) Supplies (n, Scene 5)                  | f) Large crowd of people (n) |
| 7) Gleefully (adv, Scene 6)               | g) In a state of defeat      |
| 8) Hideout (n, Scene 6)                   | h) Divine command (n)        |
| 9) Dug in (v – past p, Scene 6)           | i) Aquatic reptile (n)       |
| 10) Horde (n, Scene 7)                    | j) Food, equipment, etc. (n) |
| 11) Faithful (adj, Scene 8)               | k) Entrenched (v – past p)   |
| 12) Commandment (n, Scene 10)             | l) Tastes (n)                |

### Multiple choice gap-fill

In Scene 3 Robinson Crusoe writes his diary. Fill in the gaps with what you consider to be a suitable word.

Dear Diary. November 4<sup>th</sup>. I began to regulate my day, as a way of .....  
*(attaining/becoming/making)* salvation. I am ..... *(bored up/fed  
up/tired)* with killing animals and then not being ..... *(wanted/  
able/chosen)* to eat them. Hunt, kill, hunt, kill... there has to be something  
..... *(extra/plus/more)* ... I've *(learnt/being/happened)* to make chairs.  
I've got something that looks like a house now.

I ..... *(wounded/killed/managed)* a goat, cured it and have started to  
domesticate it.

I planted a few ..... *(spots/grains/pieces)* of wheat and after a month  
some shoots appeared. I'm a farmer now!

A fence... a fence ... a fence... I'm finally isolated. Isolated on a desert  
island!

I killed a turtle. .... *(Down/Around/Inside)* it there were sixty eggs. I  
..... *(ate/put/played)* a few and then made a ..... *(pretty/delicious/kind)*  
turtle soup.

### Opposites

Using a dictionary if necessary, find opposites for the following words  
from the script. Sometimes more than one word is possible.

- 1) Patient (adj, Introduction)
- 2) Buy (v, Scene 1)

- 3) Dead (adj, Scene 2)
- 4) Mad (adj, Scene 2)
- 5) Ill (adj, Scene 4)
- 6) Full (adj, Scene 5)
- 7) Complete (adj, Scene 6)
- 8) Evil (adj, Scene 6)
- 9) Inner (adj, Scene 7)
- 10) Good-looking (adj, Scene 8)
- 11) Respect (v, Scene 9)
- 12) Success (n, Scene 9)
- 13) Powerful (adj, Scene 10)
- 14) Perfect (adj, Scene 11)

### Homophones

There are lots of homophones – words which are pronounced or spelt in the same way but have different meanings – in the Introduction and Scene 1. Using your dictionary if necessary, find at least one homophone for each of the following words.

- 1) Sea (n, Introduction & Scene 1)
- 2) Spite (prep, Introduction)
- 3) Hear (v, Introduction)
- 4) Read (v, Introduction)
- 5) Tail (n, Introduction)
- 6) Train (v, Introduction)
- 7) Patient (adj, Introduction)
- 8) Well (adv & interj, Scene 1)
- 9) Buy (v, Scene 1)
- 10) Will (v, Scene 1)
- 11) Need (v, Scene 1)
- 12) Board (v, Scene 1)
- 13) Hold (n, Scene 1)
- 14) Sink (v, Scene 1)

### Writing: Captain's Log

Did you know that the word 'blog' is an abbreviation of 'web log', which means a kind of diary or commentary? Ships' captains used to keep a detailed log on their voyages. Write some entries for the captain's log for

the captain on board the ship on which Robinson Crusoe arrives on the island.

Start like this:

“.....*Date*..... We set sail from .....*name of port*..... at .....*time*.....”

## **Oral Work**

### Roleplay 1

In the play Robinson Crusoe encounters some cannibals. In groups, imagine that some of you are part of a tribe of cannibals, including its chief, and the rest are a group of sailors who have been captured by the tribe. Luckily for most of the sailors, the cannibals are not very hungry today and so are only going to eat one of you! But who will they choose?

Each member of the group of sailors must present a convincing argument to persuade the cannibals not to kill and eat him/her. When all of the sailors have presented their arguments, the group of cannibals discuss the sailors' reasons for not being eaten and then take a vote to decide who to choose for the cooking pot! The chief has the final say.

### Roleplay 2

In small groups, imagine that some of you are sailors on the ship which Friday mentions at the end of the play and two of you are Robinson Crusoe and Friday respectively. Act out the scene which you think could take place between the sailors and Robinson Crusoe and Friday. Some points to think about are:

- Do you think Robinson Crusoe and Friday will be happy to see the sailors?
- What do you think they will say to the sailors and how do you imagine the sailors will respond?
- What will happen at the end?

### Group Discussion



In the play several ‘philosophical’ questions are raised. In groups, agree or disagree with one or more of these statements from the script, giving reasons for your choice.

- Is there more than one kind of freedom? How many kinds of freedom are there? (Scene 4)
- All the suffering for what we don’t have comes from our lack of gratitude for what has been given to us. (Scene 5)
- Waiting for something bad is worse than the evil itself. (Scene 6)
- Madness is normally the preserve of young minds and reflection on madness is usually the practice of those of more advanced age. (Scene 6)
- Adventures never end. Just like energy ... they simply transform into another adventure. (Scene 11)

## **Key**

### Sequence of Events

Robinson Crusoe runs away from home.	1
Robinson Crusoe is shipwrecked.	2
Robinson Crusoe finds a cave to live in.	3
Robinson Crusoe learns to hunt.	4
Robinson Crusoe gets ill.	5
Robinson Crusoe walks around the island.	6
Robinson Crusoe sees cannibals.	7
Robinson Crusoe rescues Friday.	8
Friday gives Robinson Crusoe a heart to eat.	9
Robinson Crusoe teaches Friday about religion.	10

### Comprehension - True or false?

- 1) Robinson Crusoe becomes a landowner in Brazil on his second voyage – T.

- 2) Robinson Crusoe lives on the desert island for a year – F.
- 3) Robinson Crusoe makes a table for his cave – T.
- 4) Robinson Crusoe finds a Bible and a packet of cigarettes in a chest – F.
- 5) Robinson Crusoe eats soup and turtle eggs – T.
- 6) When Robinson Crusoe first meets Friday it is the first time he has heard a human voice in twenty-five years – T.
- 7) In Friday's village it is an insult to give someone the heart of your enemy to eat – F.
- 8) Robinson Crusoe is very successful at teaching Friday to read and write – F.
- 9) Friday's God is called Benamucki – T.
- 10) At the end of the play Robinson Crusoe believes Friday has become a Christian – T.

### Vocabulary: definitions

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1) With his tail between his legs (Intro) | g) In a state of defeat      |
| 2) Inexhaustible (adj, Scene 1)           | e) Untiring (adj)            |
| 3) Wrecked (v – past p, Scene 2)          | a) Destroyed (v – past p)    |
| 4) Turtle (n, Scene 3)                    | i) Aquatic reptile (n)       |
| 5) Flavours (n, Scene 5)                  | l) Tastes (n)                |
| 6) Supplies (n, Scene 5)                  | j) Food, equipment, etc. (n) |
| 7) Gleefully (adv, Scene 6)               | b) Happily, cheerfully (adv) |
| 8) Hideout (n, Scene 6)                   | d) Shelter, secret place (n) |
| 9) Dug in (v – past p, Scene 6)           | k) Entrenched (v – past p)   |
| 10) Horde (n, Scene 7)                    | f) Large crowd of people (n) |
| 11) Faithful (adj, Scene 8)               | c) Loyal (adj)               |
| 12) Commandment (n, Scene 10)             | h) Divine command (n)        |

### Multiple choice gap-fill

Dear Diary. November 4<sup>th</sup> I began to regulate my day, as a way of **attaining** salvation. I am **fed up** with killing animals and then not being **able** to eat them. Hunt, kill, hunt, kill... there has to be something **more**... I've **learnt** to make chairs. I've got something that looks like a house now. I **wounded** a goat, cured it and have started to domesticate it. I planted a few **grains** of wheat and after a month some shoots appeared. I'm a farmer now!

A fence... a fence ... a fence... I'm finally isolated. Isolated on a desert island!

I killed a turtle. **Inside** it there were sixty eggs. I **ate** a few and then made a **delicious** turtle soup.

### Opposites (suggested answers only)

- 1) Patient - impatient
- 2) Buy - sell
- 3) Dead - alive
- 4) Mad - sane
- 5) Ill – well, healthy
- 6) Full - empty
- 7) Complete – incomplete, partial
- 8) Evil – good, (or goodness)
- 9) Inner – outer, external
- 10) Good-looking – ugly, unattractive
- 11) Respect - disrespect
- 12) Success - failure
- 13) Powerful – weak, powerless
- 14) Perfect – imperfect, flawed

### Homophones

- 1) Sea – see (v and n, different meanings)
- 2) Spite – spite (n; same spelling, different meaning)
- 3) Hear – here (adv)
- 4) Read – reed (n)
- 5) Tail – tale (n)
- 6) Train – train (n; same spelling, different meanings)
- 7) Patient – patient (n; same spelling, different meaning)
- 8) Well – well (n; same spelling, different meaning)
- 9) Buy – by (prep)/'bye (interj)
- 10) Will – will (n; same spelling, different meaning)
- 11) Need – knead (v)/need (n)
- 12) Board – bored (adj)
- 13) Hold – hold (v; same spelling, different meaning)
- 14) Sink – sink (n; same spelling, different meaning)