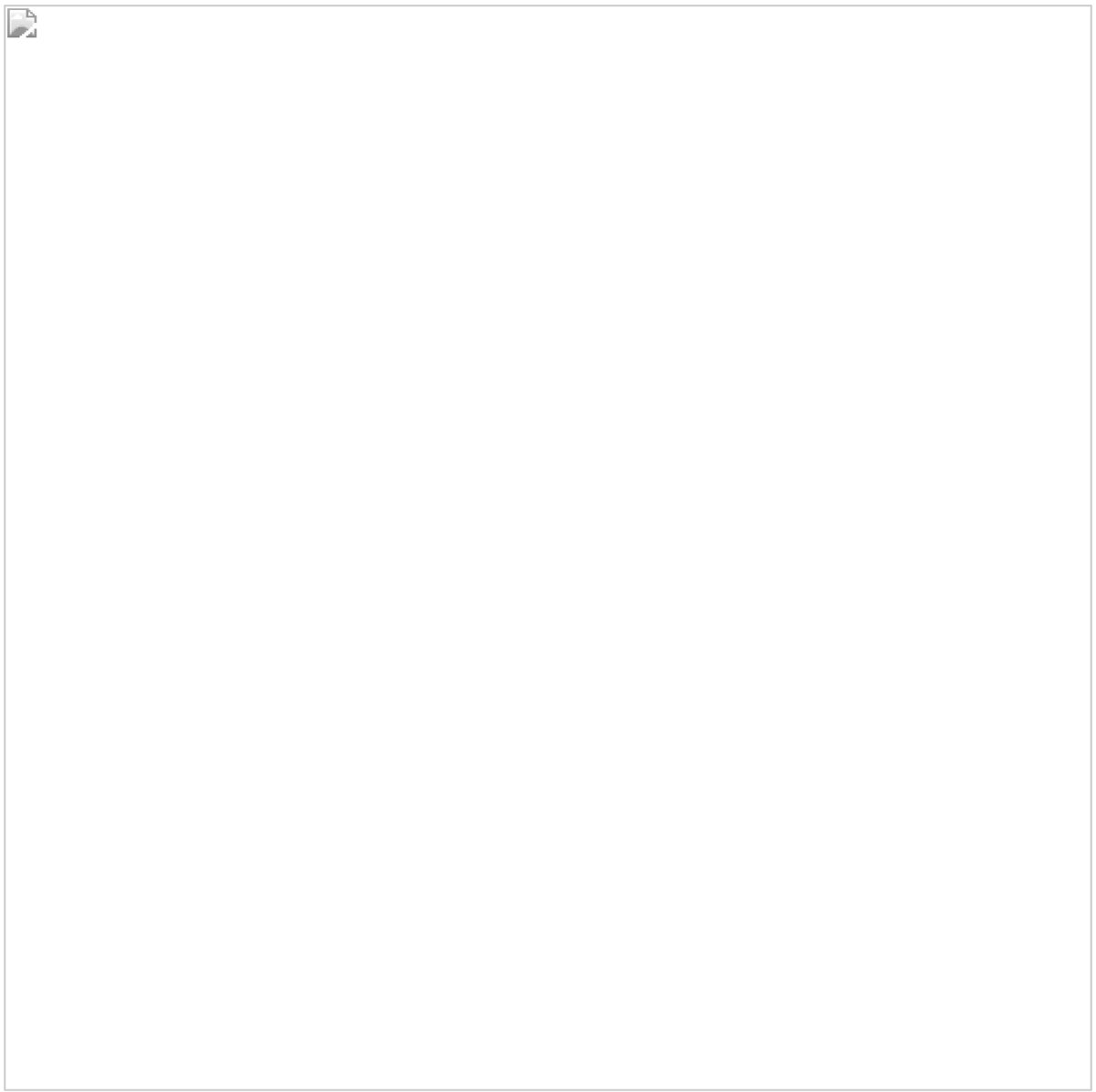
COLORING THE CLASSICS

Robinson Crusoe

A Sailor, a Lonely Island, and a Friend Named Friday



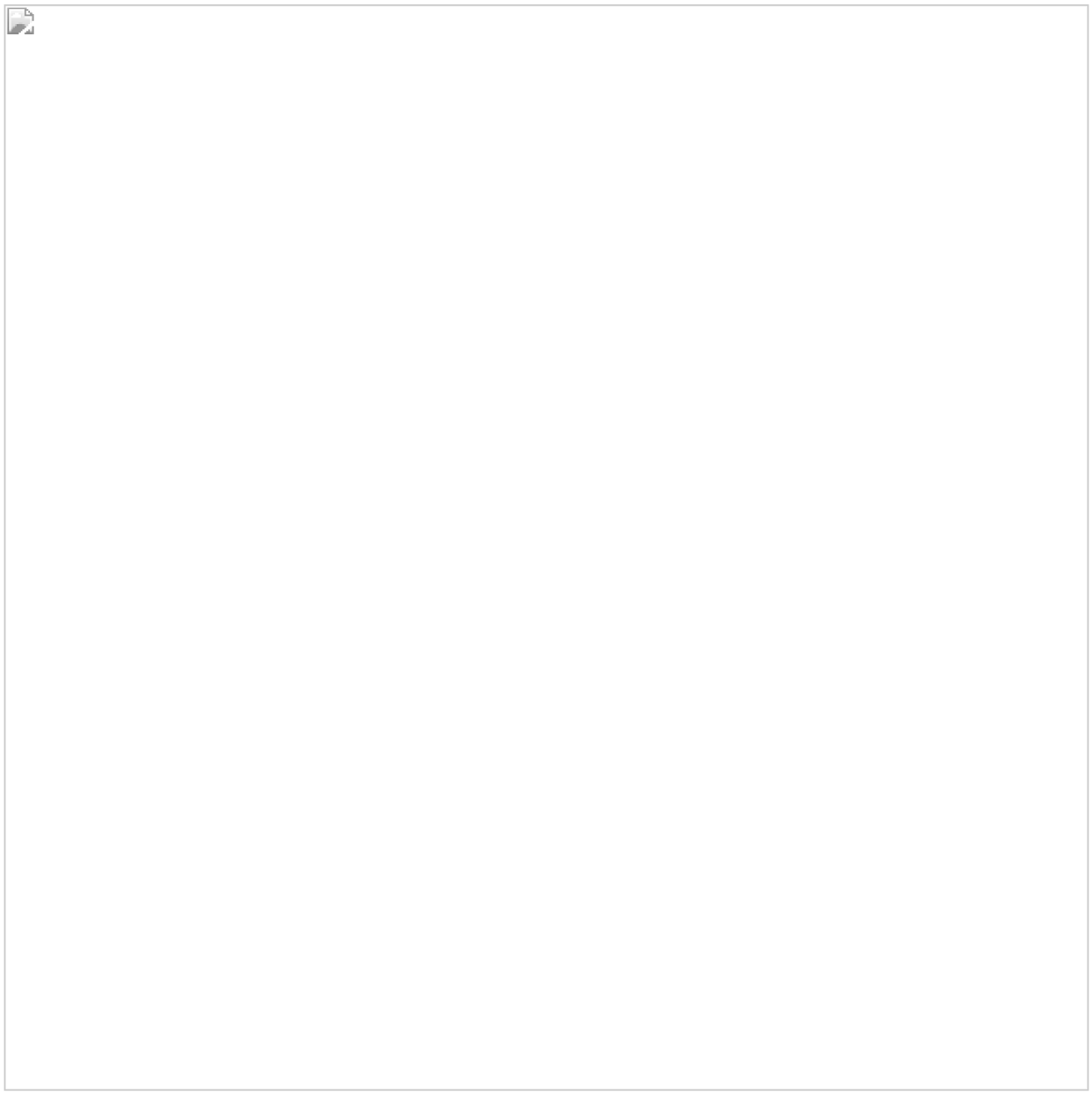
By Daniel Defoe

TALK ABOUT IT

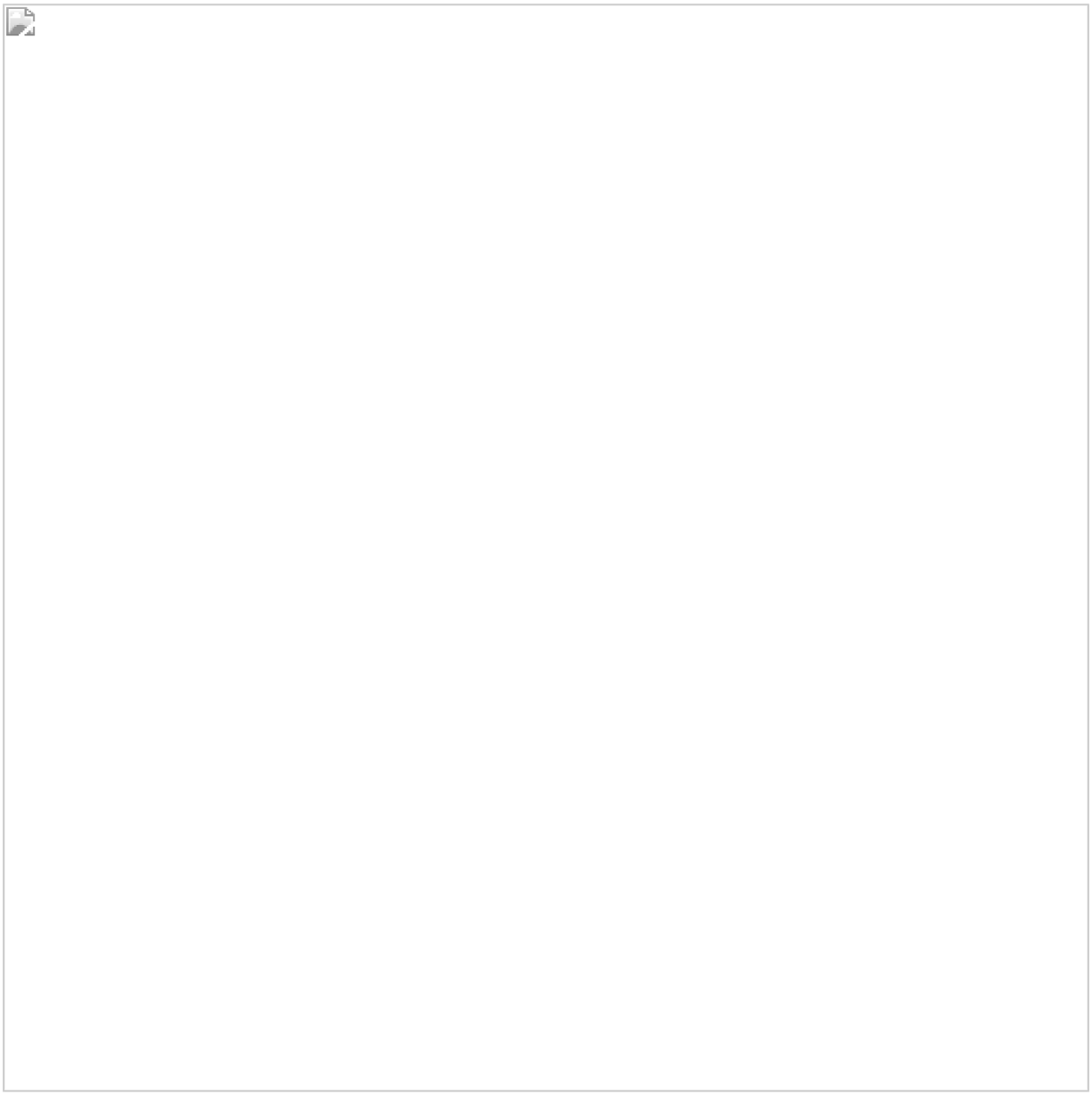
Have you ever been somewhere all by yourself? What was it like?

This book belongs to _____

Robinson Crusoe · another picture



A Boy Who Wanted the Sea



Robinson Crusoe wrote, “I was born in the year 1632, in the city of York.” He was first called Robinson Kreutznaer, but in England people said it as Crusoe, and that is what his friends always called him.

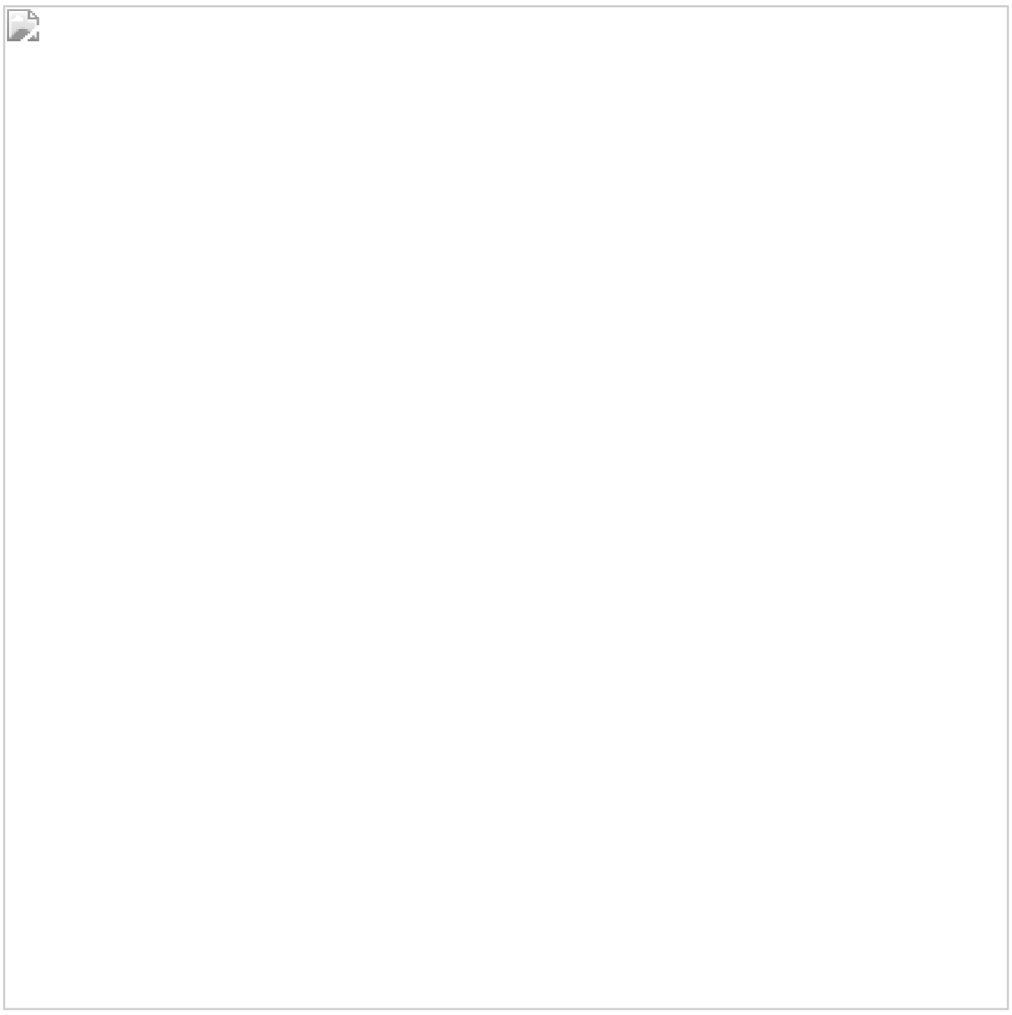
Robinson had one big wish. He wanted to go to sea. His father was a wise man, and he called Robinson into his room. He asked him, kindly and seriously, to stay home, where life was safe and good.

Robinson did not listen. He went to sea anyway.

TALK ABOUT IT

Why do you think Robinson’s father asked him to stay? What would you have said to him?

A Boy Who Wanted the Sea · another picture



Think about it

1. What did young Robinson want to do?

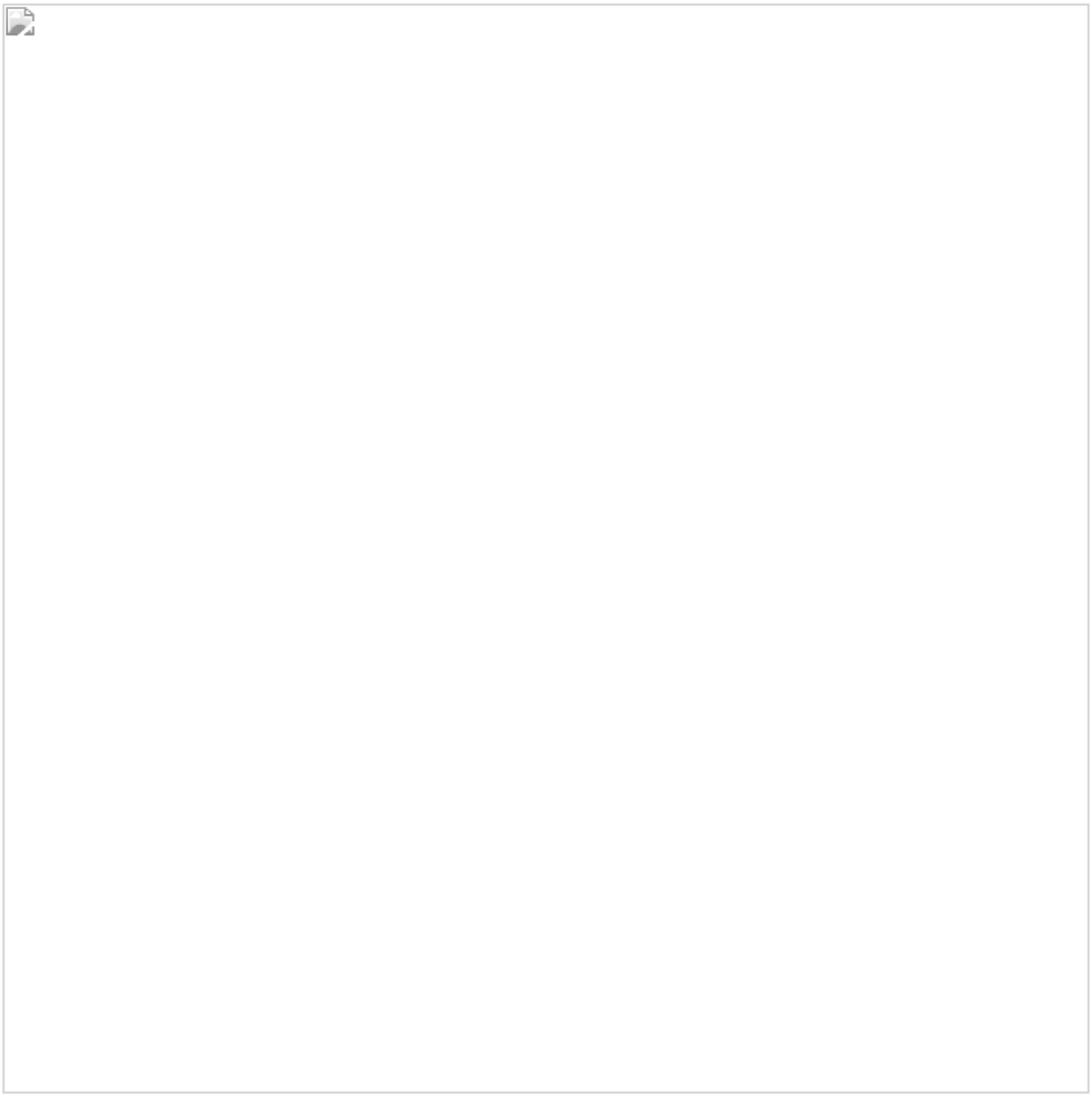
- ○ Go to sea
- ○ Build a house
- ○ Learn to farm

2. What did his father ask him to do?

- ○ Stay at home
- ○ Go with him on a ship
- ○ Write a letter

3. What do you want to be or do when you are grown?

The First Storm



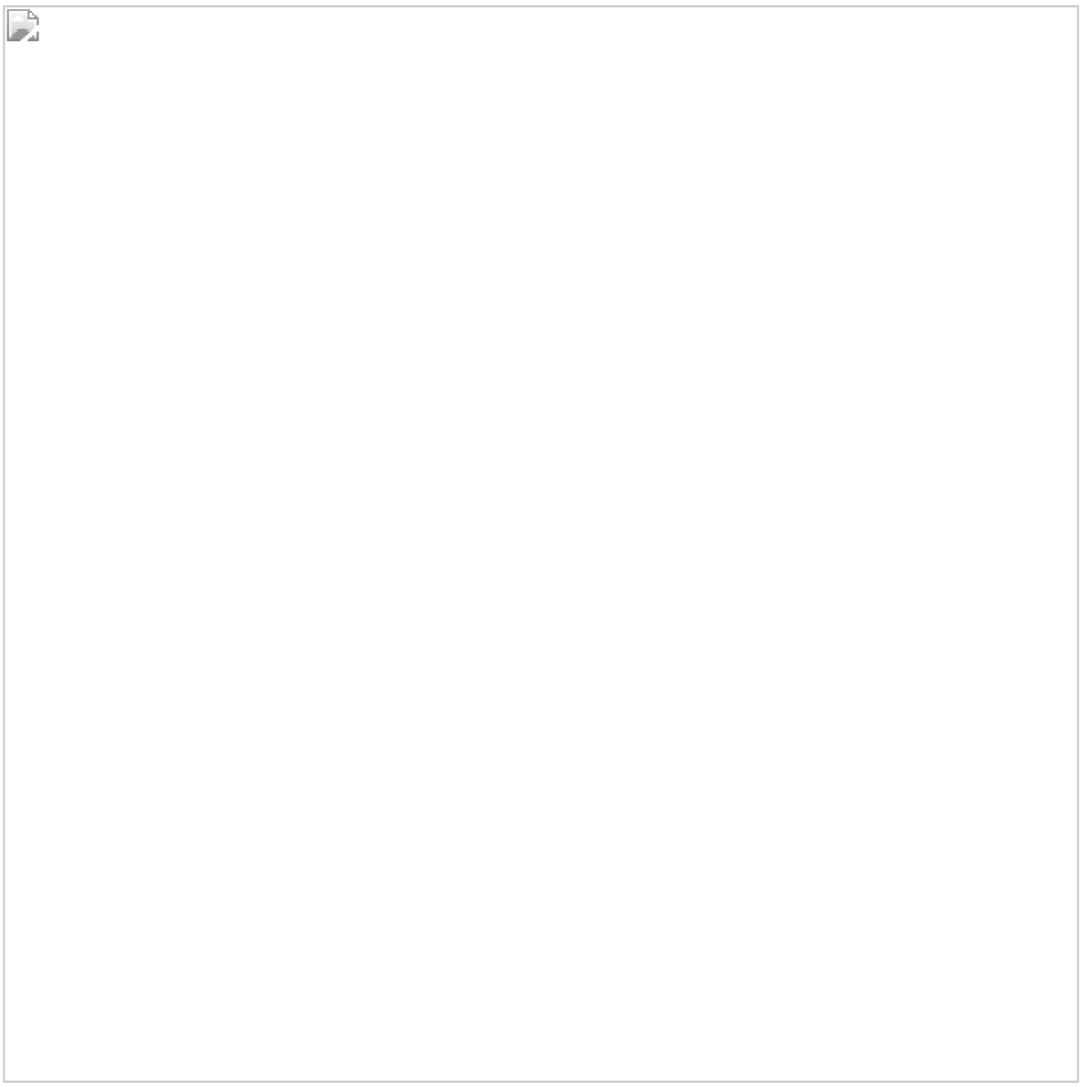
The ship was no sooner out of the river than the wind began to blow and the sea to rise. Robinson had never been at sea before, and he was very sick.

He made promises. If he ever got his foot on dry land again, he said, he would go straight home to his father.

But when the storm was over and the sun came out, Robinson forgot his promises. He kept on sailing, for years.

TALK ABOUT IT

Robinson made a promise in the storm and then forgot it. Have you ever done that? What happened?



Think about it

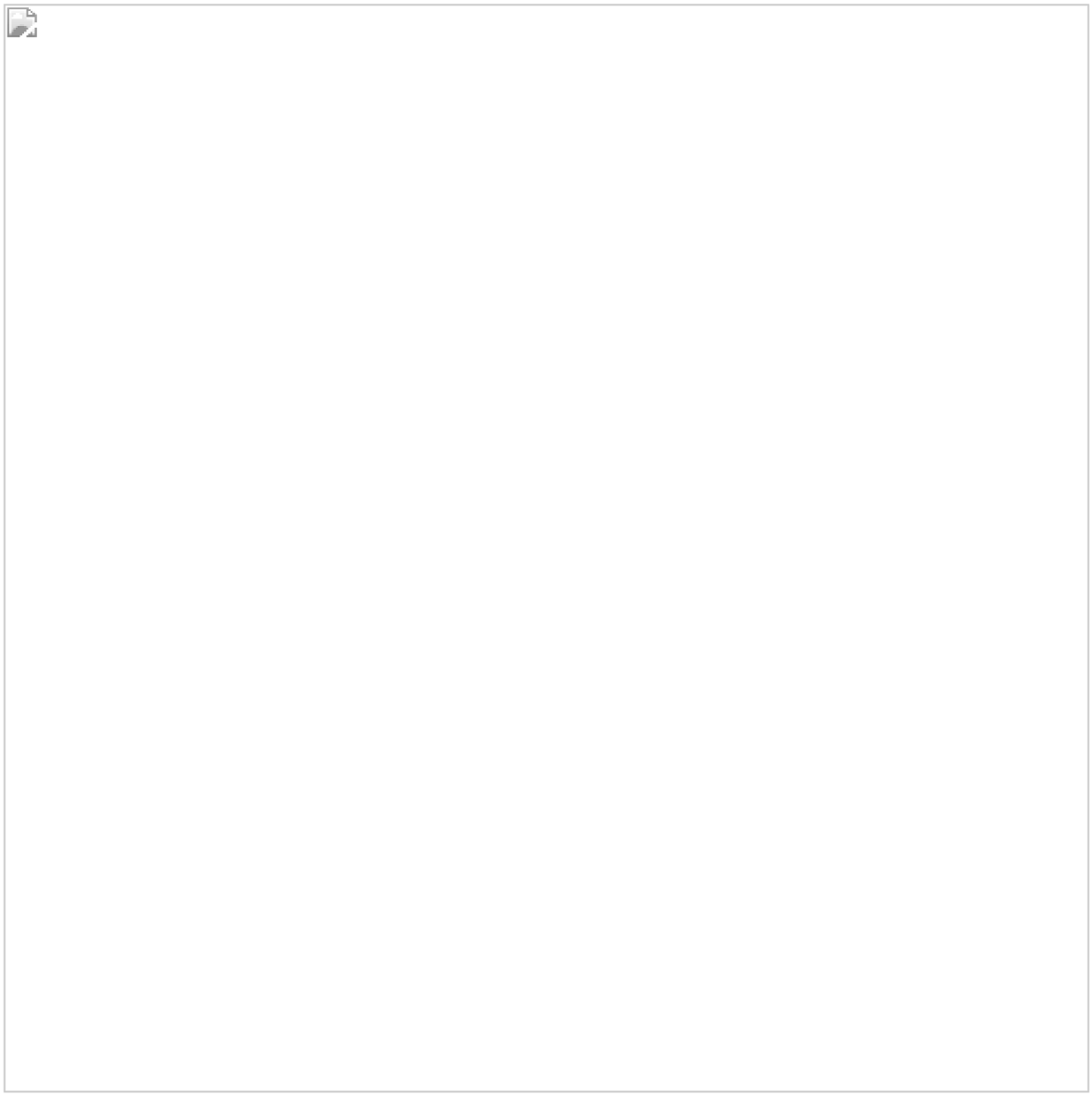
1. What did Robinson promise in the storm?

- ○ To go straight home to his father
- ○ To buy a bigger ship
- ○ To never eat again

2. What happened when the sky cleared?

- ○ He forgot his promise and kept sailing
- ○ He went home right away
- ○ He gave the ship away

The Wave



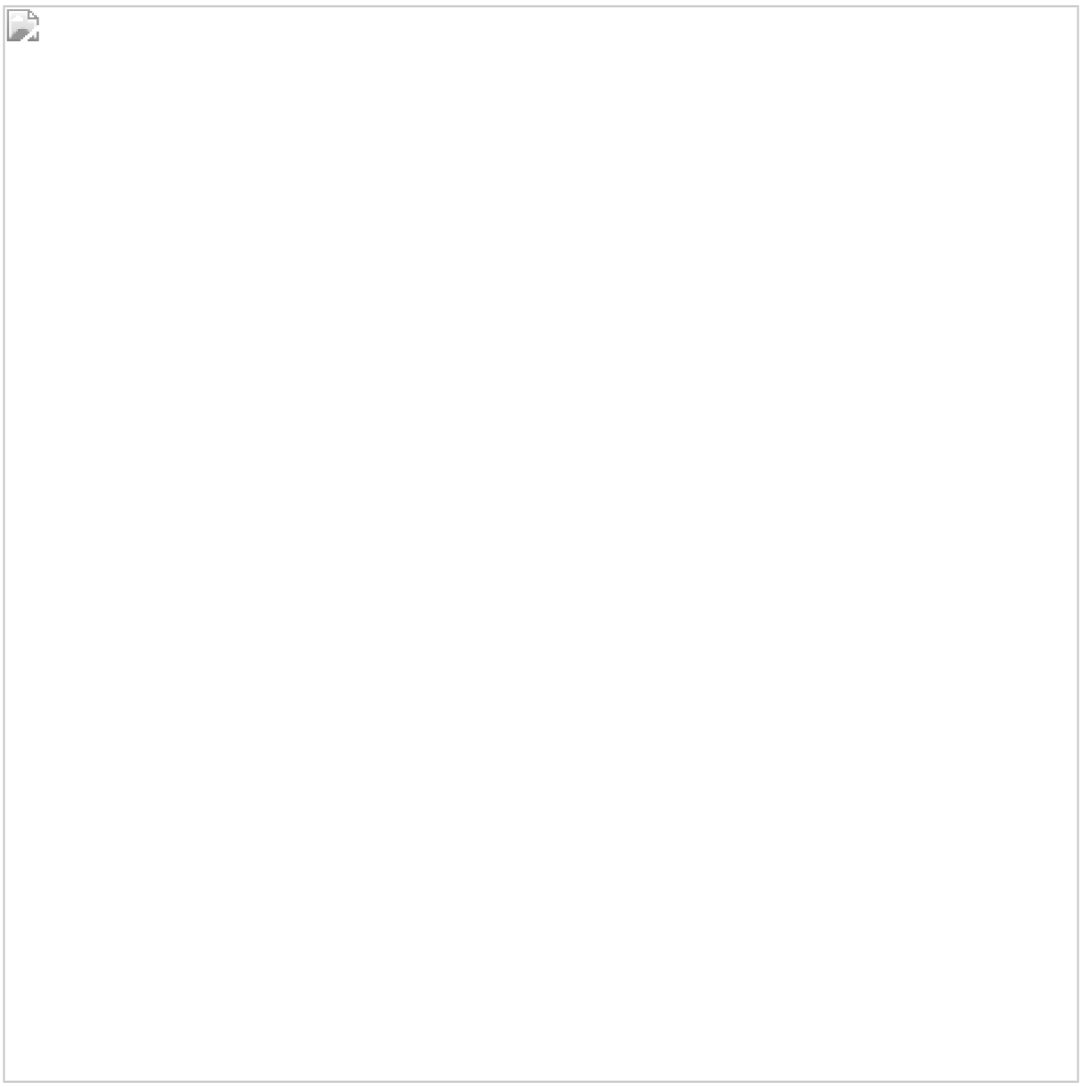
Many years later, Robinson was on a ship in another great storm. The ship ran onto a sandbank and could not move. The men climbed into a small boat and rowed toward land, but no one knew what the shore was like.

Then a great wave, tall as a mountain, rolled up behind them and turned the boat over. Robinson swam. Wave after wave pushed him toward the shore, and at last he climbed up onto the grass.

He was the only one who lived. The sea was quiet again, and Robinson began to look up and thank God that his life was saved.

TALK ABOUT IT

What do you think Robinson might say to God, sitting on the grass?



Think about it

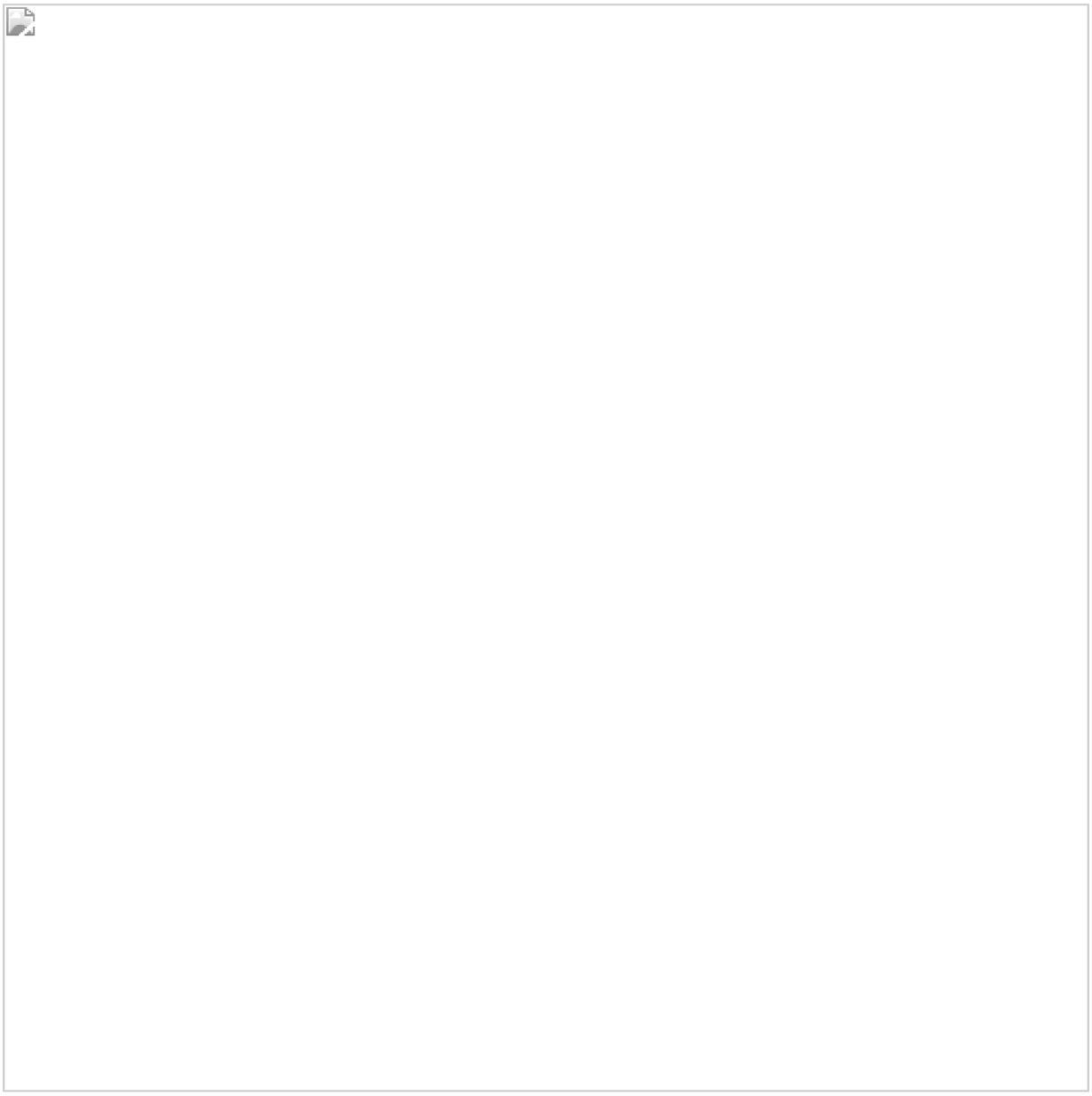
1. How many of the men came safely to the shore?

- ○ Only Robinson
- ○ All of them
- ○ Half of them

2. What did Robinson do when he was safe on the grass?

- ○ He thanked God that his life was saved
- ○ He ran back into the sea
- ○ He went to sleep right away

A Night in a Tree



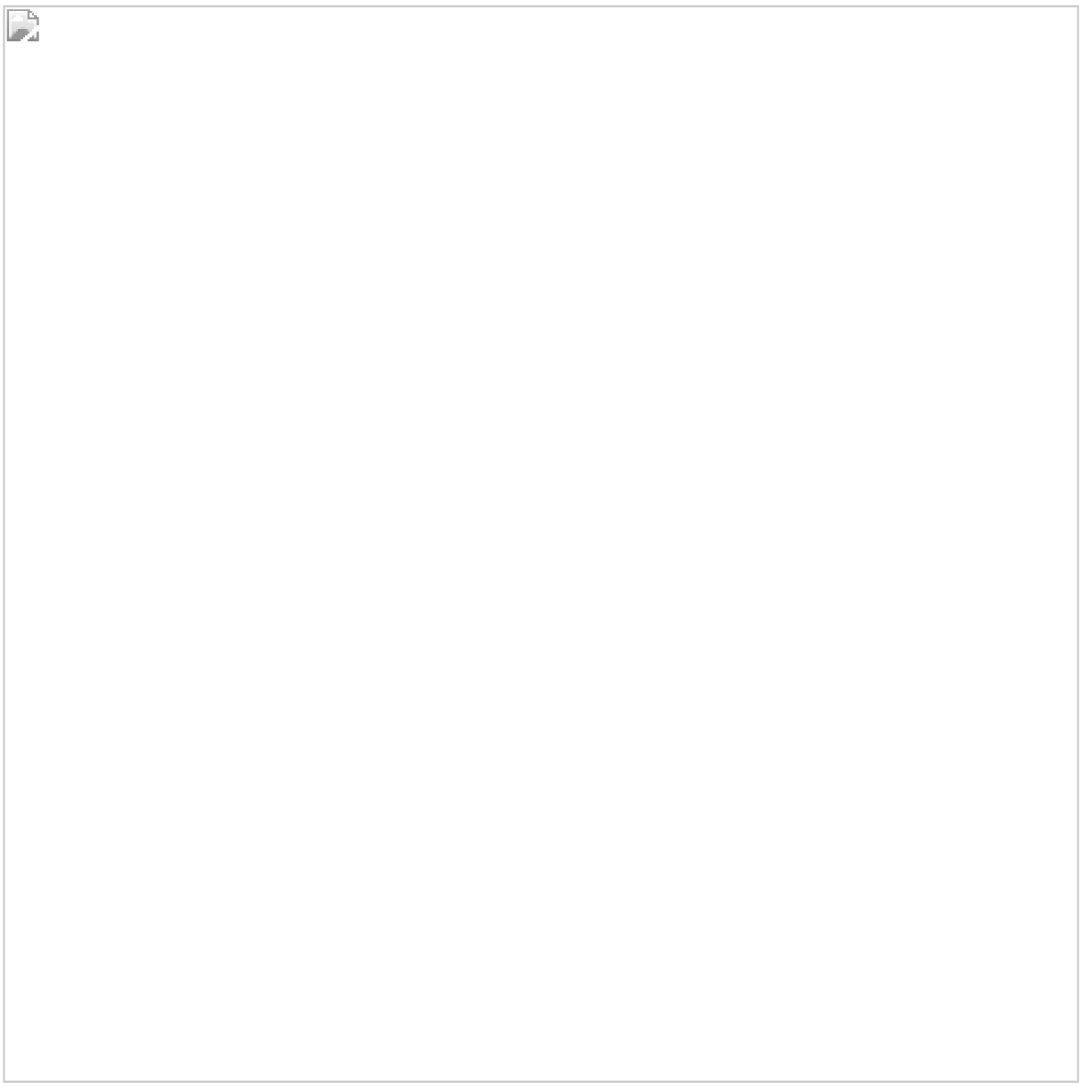
Robinson had no dry clothes, no food, and no weapon. He had only a knife, a pipe, and a little tobacco. He did not know if there were wild animals on the island.

He found fresh water and drank. Then he climbed into a thick bushy tree and wedged himself in so he would not fall. He cut a short stick to keep beside him.

He slept, and slept well. When he woke, it was broad day, the storm was over, and the ship had floated closer to the shore.

TALK ABOUT IT

If you had only a knife, a pipe and a little tobacco, what would you do first?



Think about it

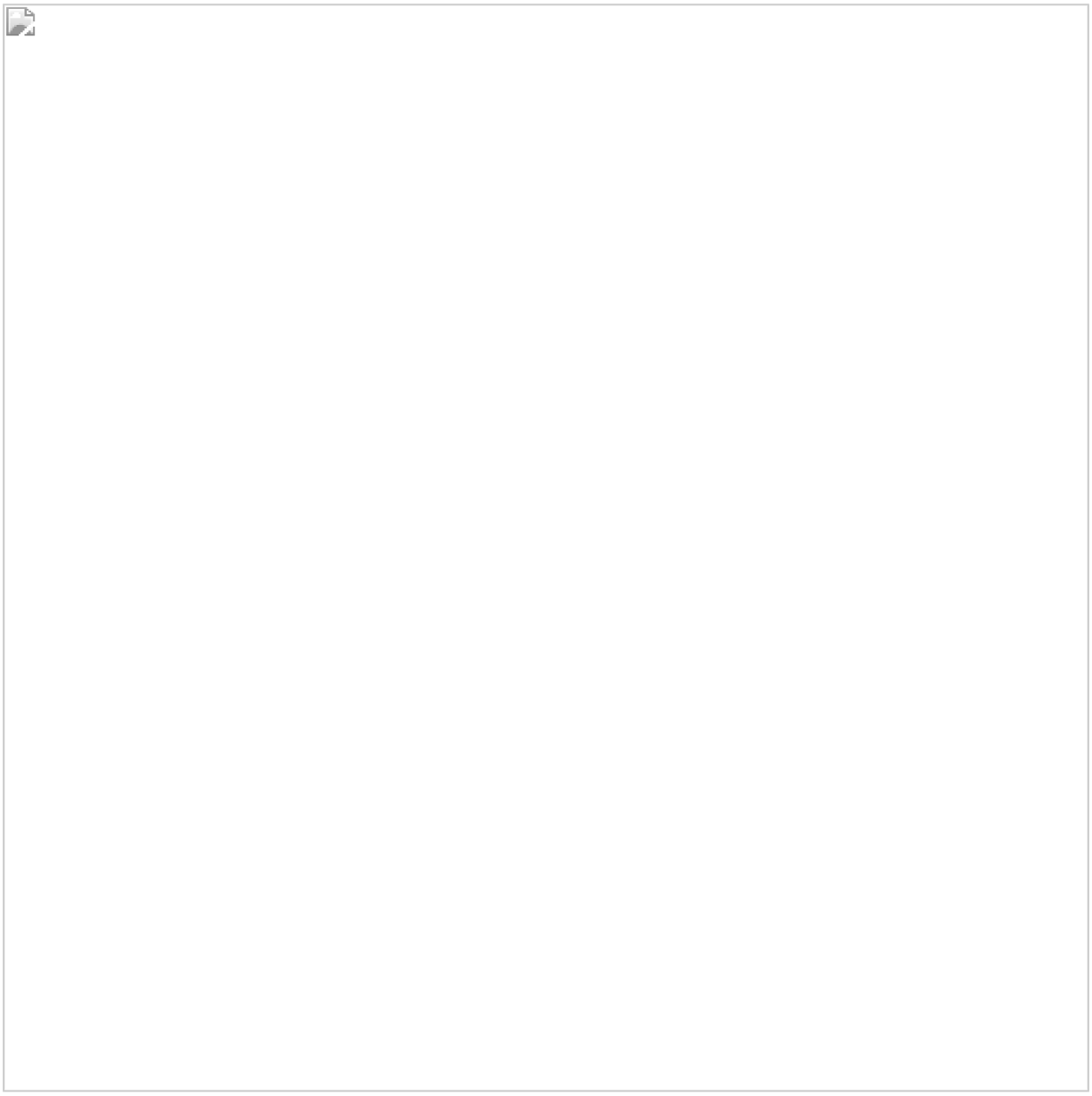
1. Where did Robinson sleep the first night?

- ○ In a thick bushy tree
- ○ In a boat
- ○ In a cave

2. What did he have with him?

- ○ A knife, a pipe and a little tobacco
- ○ A gun and a tent
- ○ A big bag of food

Back to the Ship



The ship was still standing on the sand, and at low tide Robinson could get close to it. He swam out and climbed aboard. The ship was full of things a man could use.

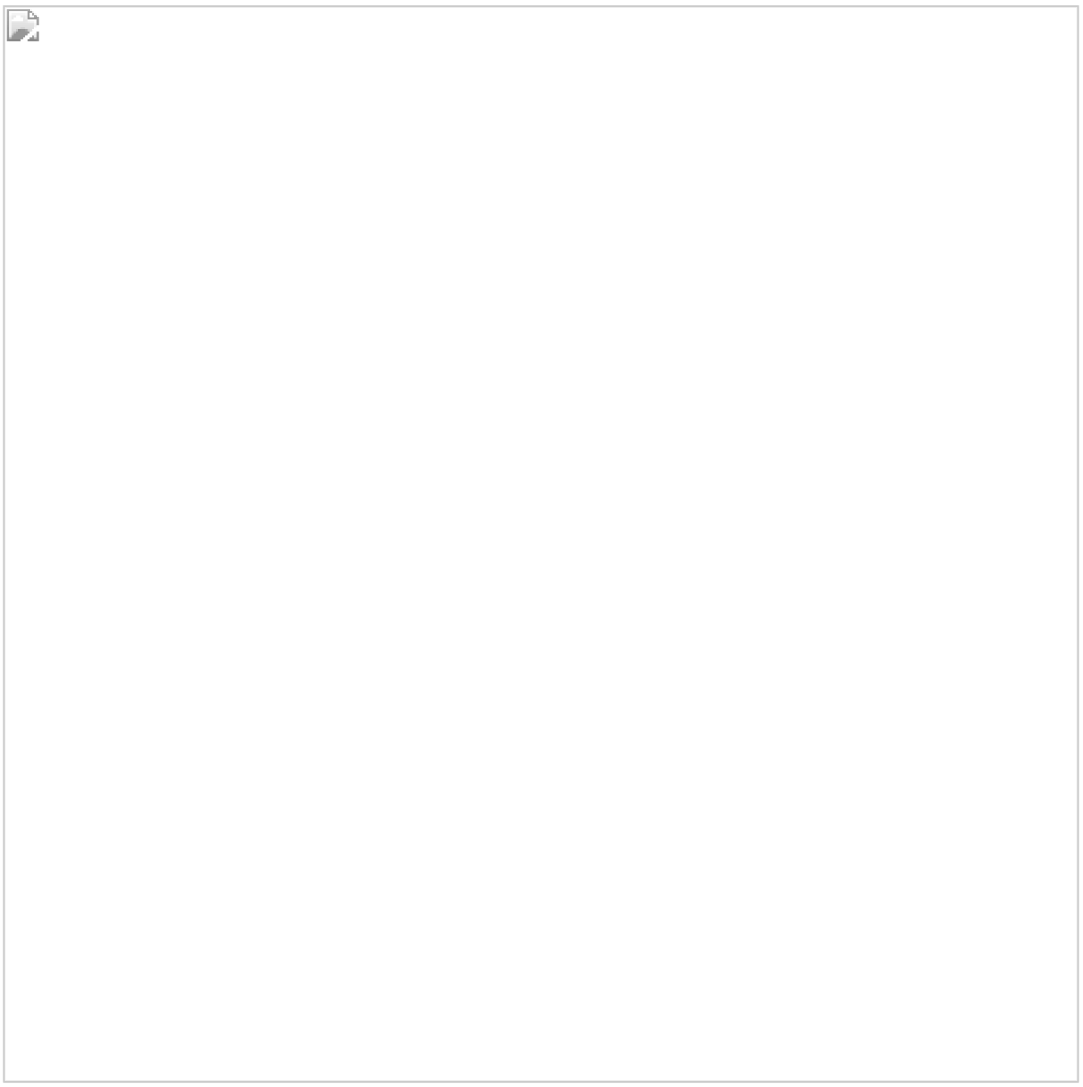
He made a raft from the ship's spare masts and loaded it with food, tools, guns, powder and clothes. He steered it to a little creek and tied it up.

He made many trips. There was even a cat that came to meet him on the shore, and Robinson tossed her a bit of biscuit.

TALK ABOUT IT

If you could take only a few things from a ship, which would you pick? Why?

Back to the Ship · another picture



Think about it

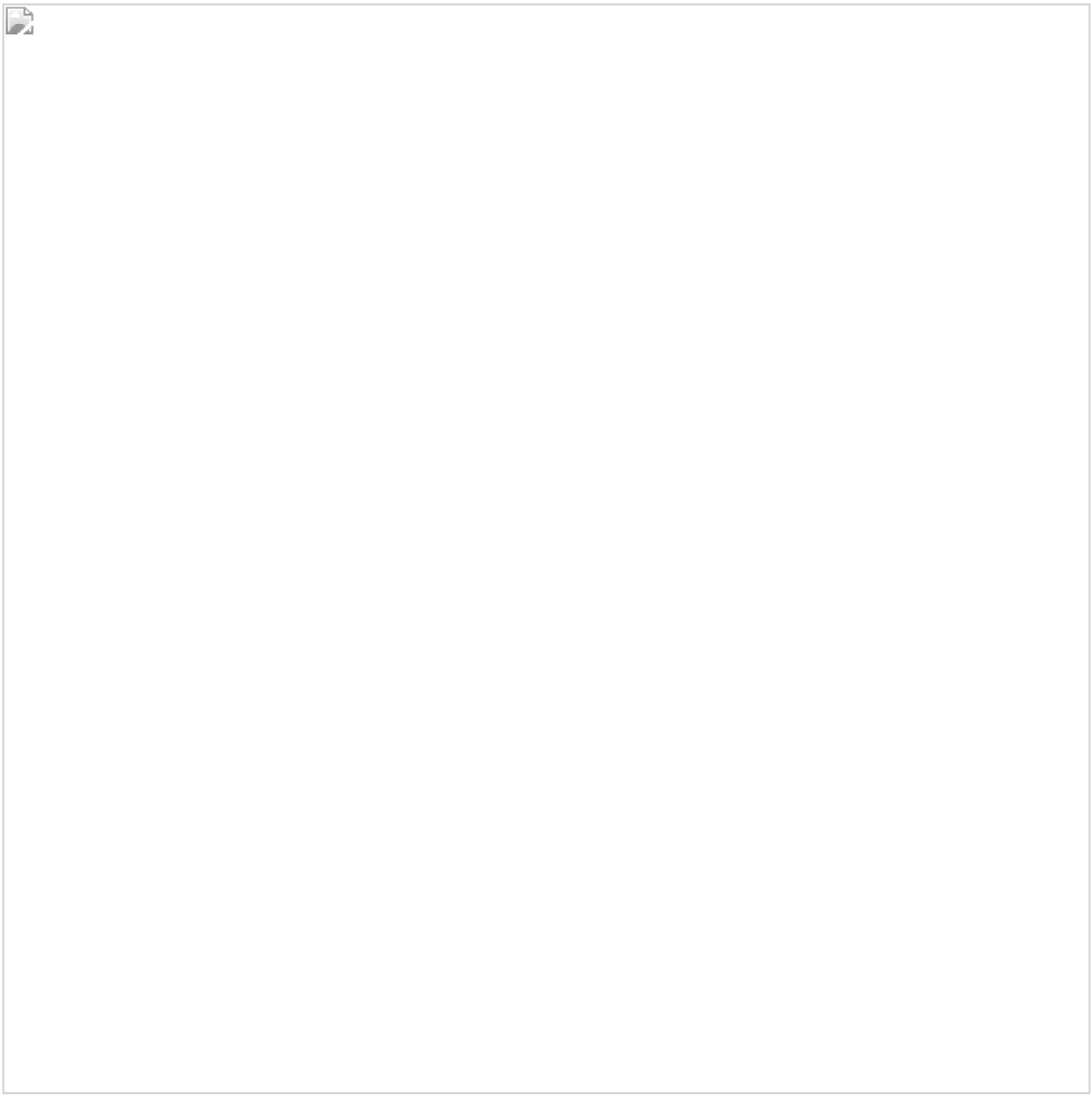
1. What did Robinson build to carry things to the shore?

- ○ A raft
- ○ A bridge
- ○ A kite

2. Who came to meet him on the shore?

- ○ A cat
- ○ A bear
- ○ A sailor

Building a Home



Robinson looked for a safe place to live. He found a flat spot under the side of a hill, with a hollow in the rock. He set up a tent there, and he put a strong fence of stakes in a half-circle before it.

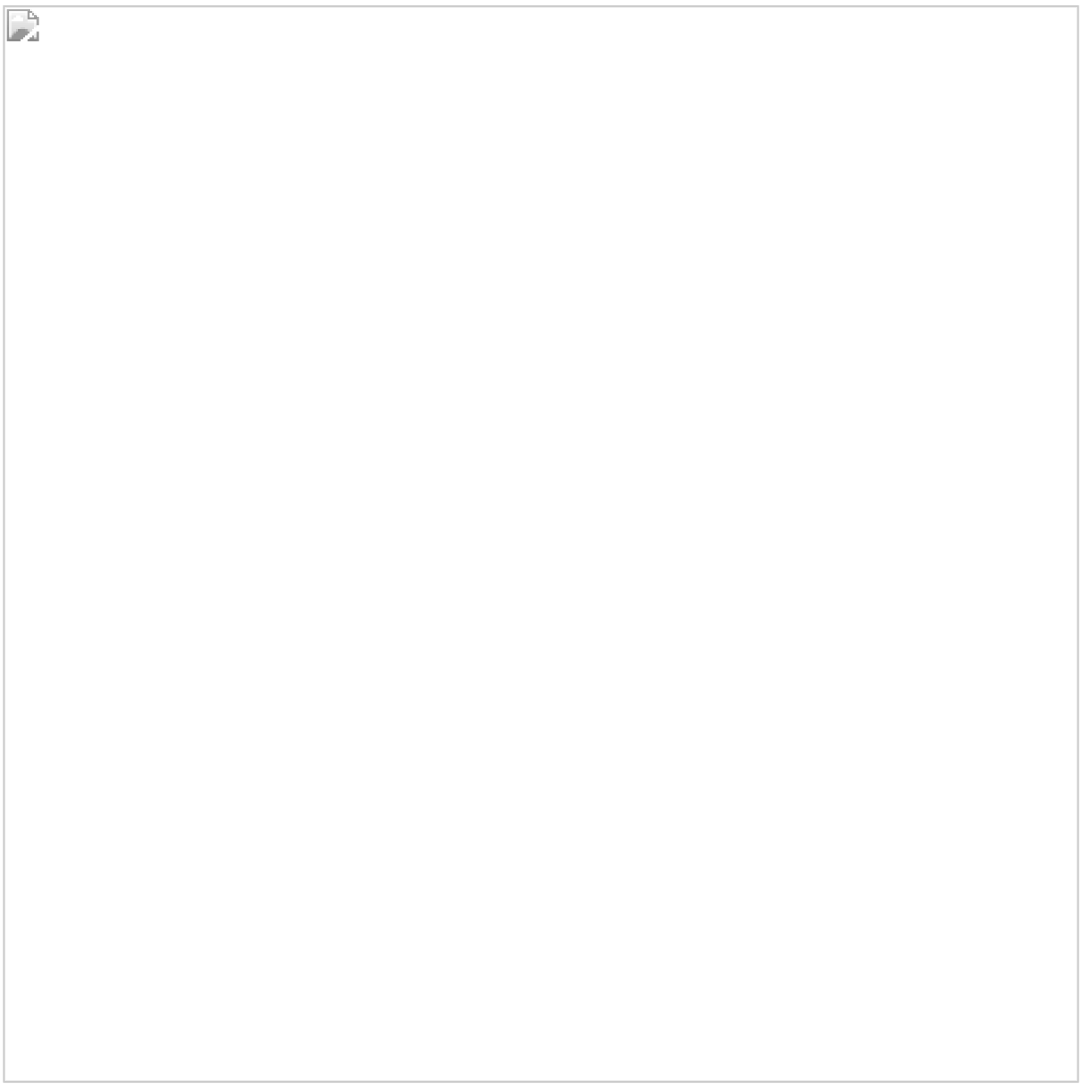
Behind the tent he dug into the rock to make a cave, like a cellar, to keep his things safe.

He had a ladder to get in. When he was inside, he took the ladder in after him.

TALK ABOUT IT

What would you want in your first home on an island?

Building a Home · another picture



Think about it

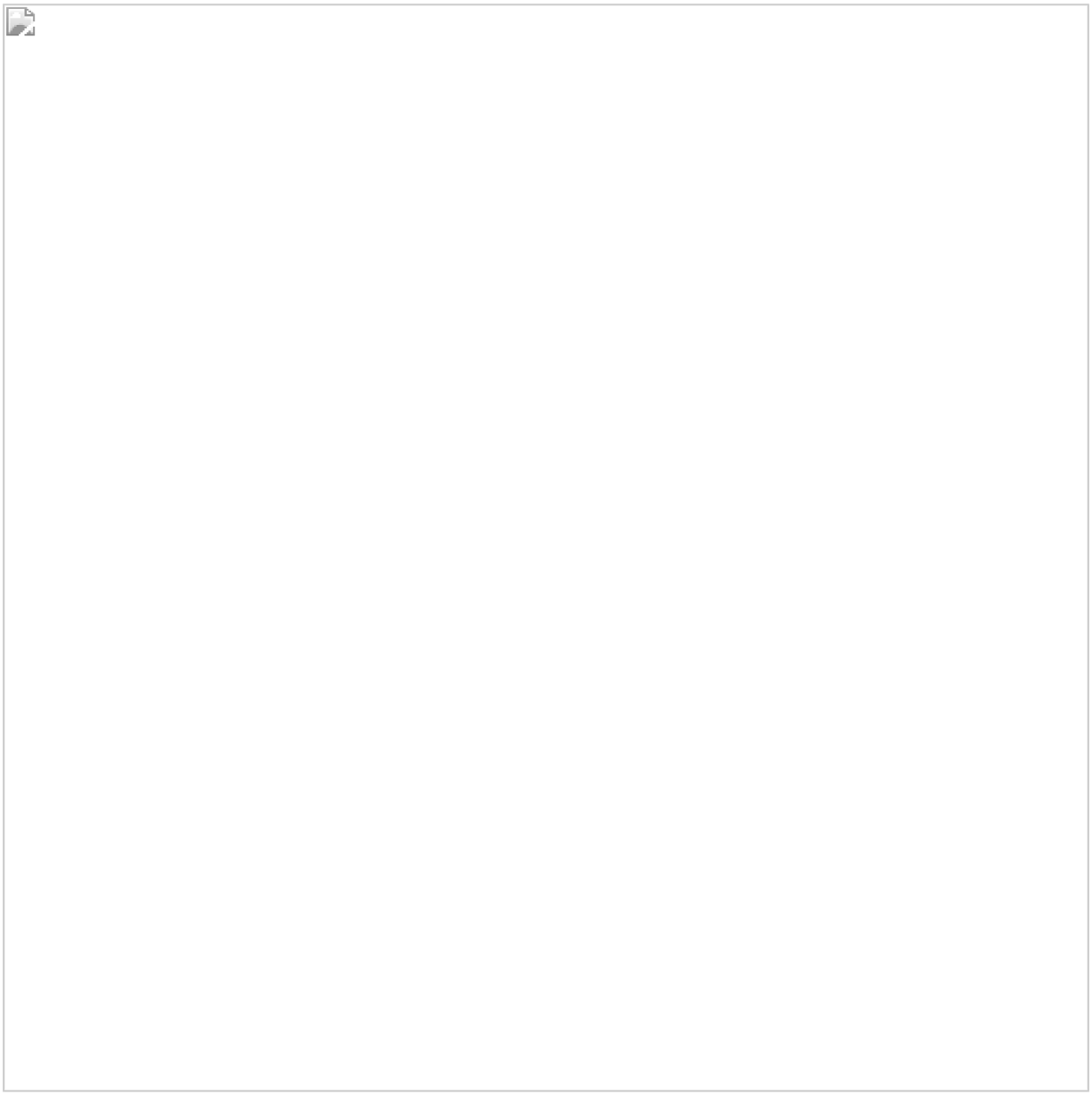
1. Where did Robinson put his tent?

- ○ Under a hill, by a hollow in the rock
- ○ On the beach by the waves
- ○ At the top of a tree

2. What did he dig behind the tent?

- ○ A cave to keep his things
- ○ A pond for fish
- ○ A road

The Post and the Two Lists



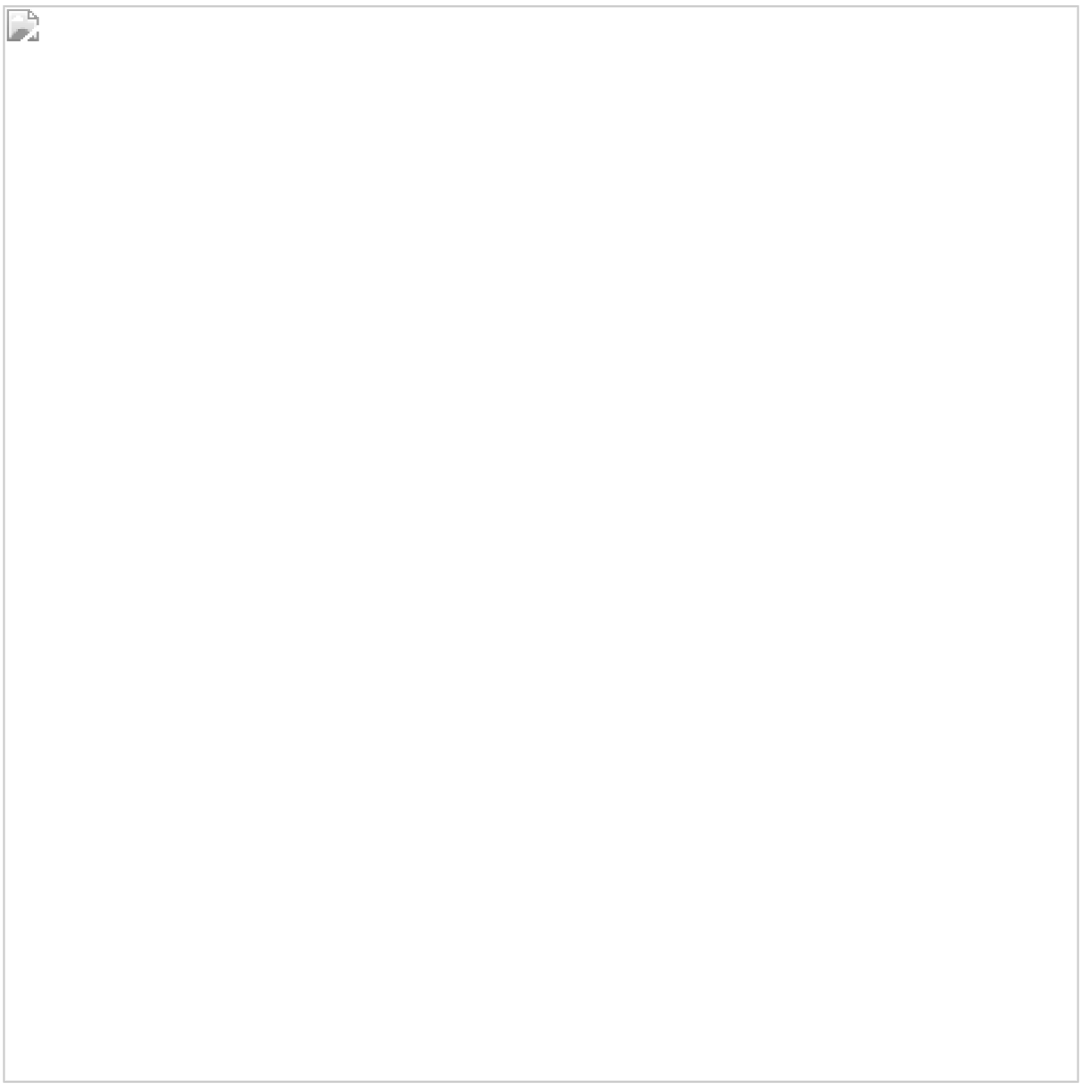
Robinson did not want to lose track of the days. So he cut a big post and wrote on it with his knife, “I came on shore here on the 30th September 1659.”

Every day he cut one notch. Every seventh notch was longer, and every first day of the month longer still. That was his calendar.

Then he made two lists, one of what was bad and one of what was good. On the bad side he wrote that he was on a desolate island. On the good side he wrote, “But I am alive; and not drowned, as all my ship’s company were.”

TALK ABOUT IT

What would go on your good list today?



Think about it

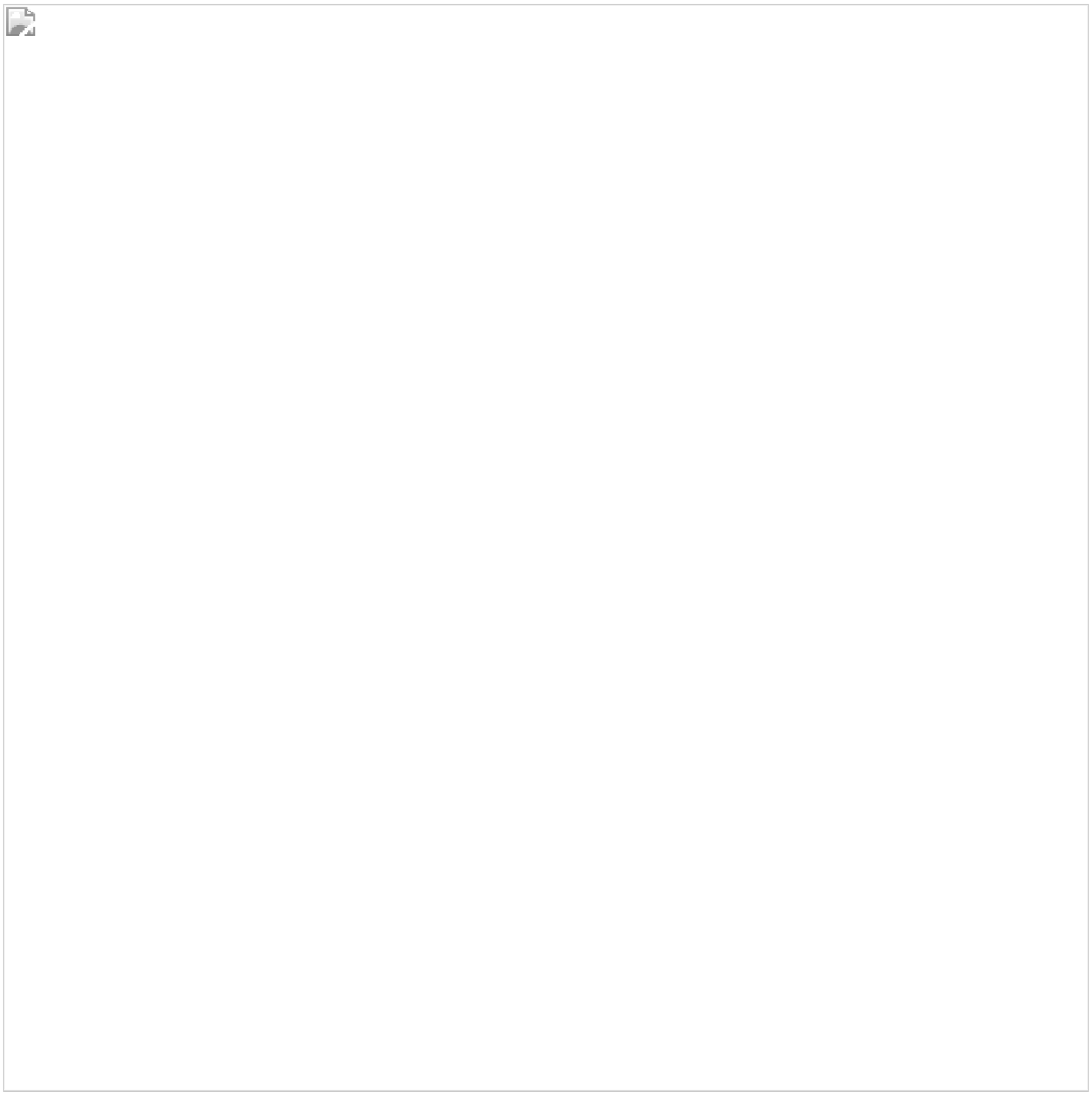
1. How did Robinson keep his calendar?

- ○ He cut a notch in a post every day
- ○ He drew on the sand
- ○ He asked the birds

2. What was the first thing on his good list?

- ○ He was alive, and not drowned
- ○ He had a boat
- ○ He had a friend

Sick on the Island



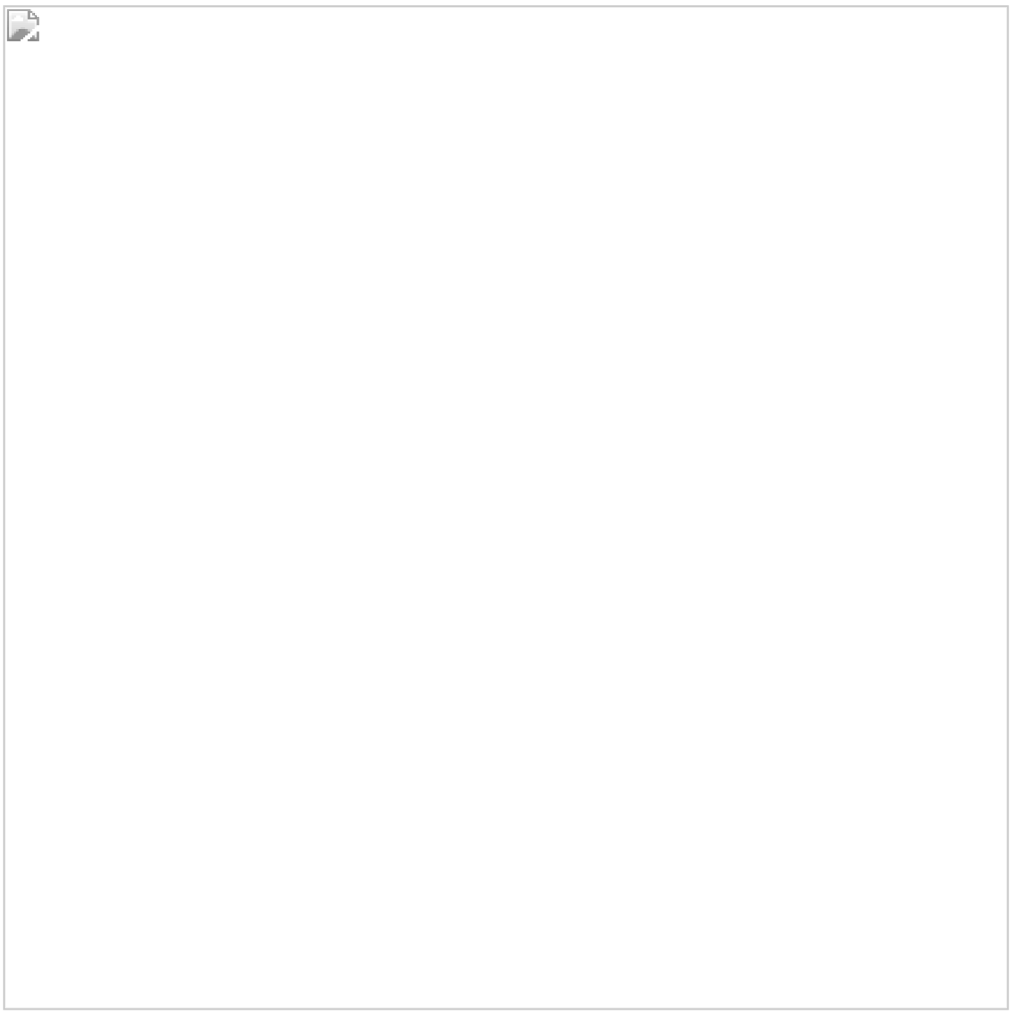
After many months Robinson became very ill with a fever. He had no one to help him, and the days were long.

In his chest were three Bibles that had come to him from the ship. One night he took one out. He opened it, and the first words he saw were these: “Call on Me in the day of trouble, and I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify Me.”

He wondered, “Can God Himself deliver me from this place?” But before he lay down, he did what he had never done in all his life. He knelt and prayed.

TALK ABOUT IT

Robinson opened the Bible and found those words. What do you notice about them?



Think about it

1. Where did Robinson find a Bible?

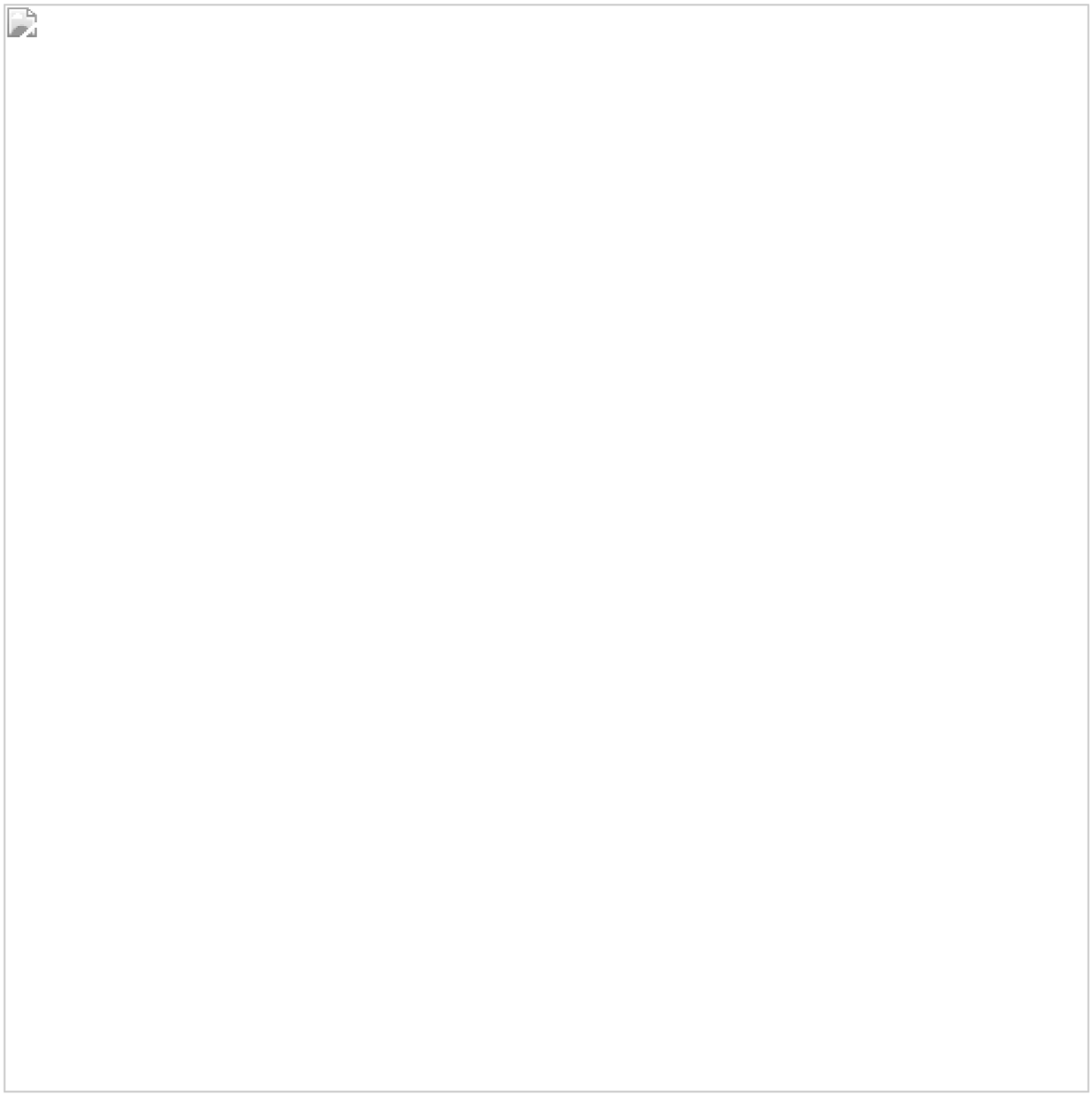
- ○ In a chest he had saved from the ship
- ○ Under a tree
- ○ In a bottle on the beach

2. What did Robinson do before he went to bed?

- ○ He knelt down and prayed
- ○ He built a boat
- ○ He ran along the beach

3. When have you asked someone for help?

Reading Every Day



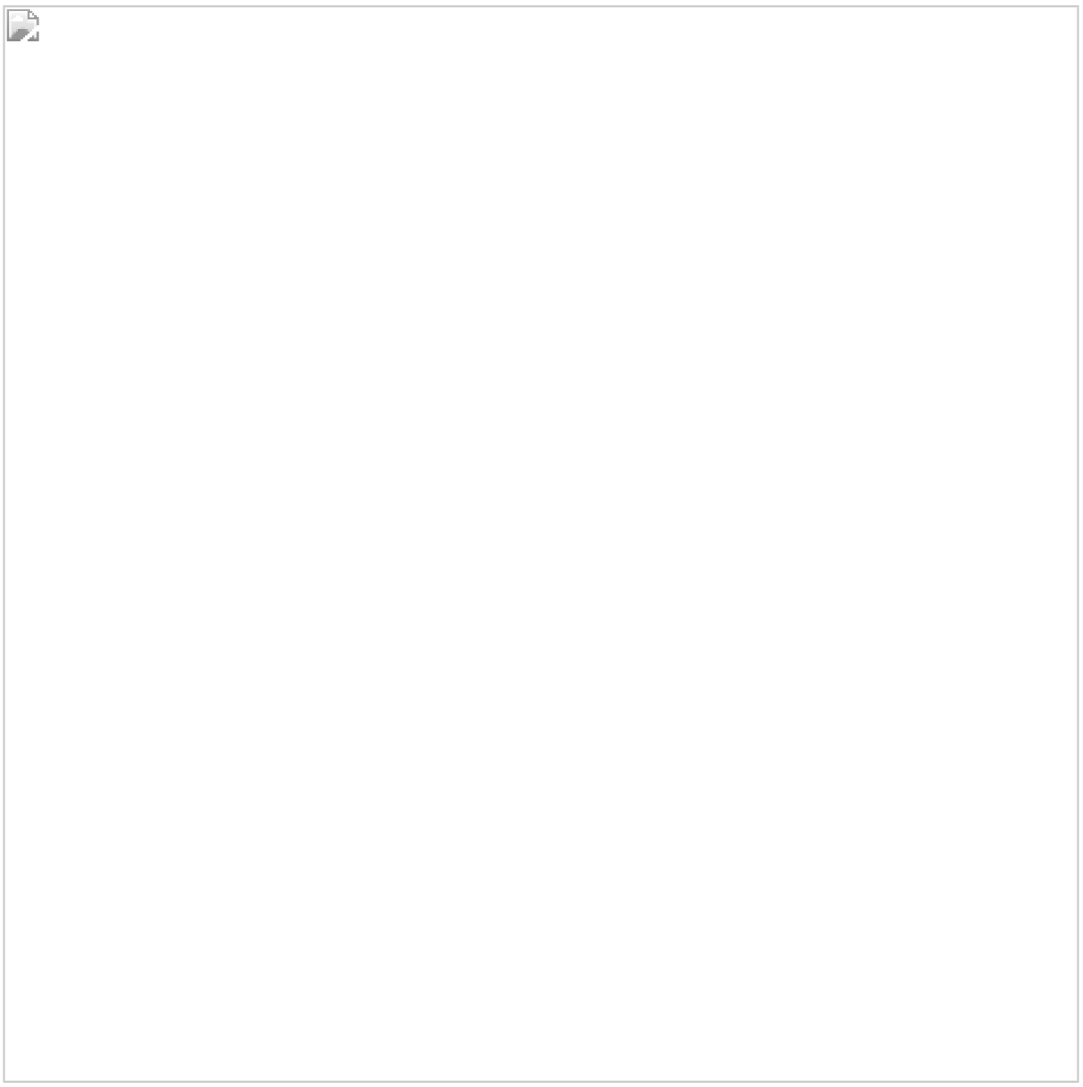
Robinson got well again. He saw that he had been delivered from his sickness, and he knelt down and gave God thanks out loud.

The next morning he began to read the New Testament. He decided to read a while each morning and each night.

Later, one morning, being very sad, he opened the Bible upon these words: “I will never, never leave thee, nor forsake thee.” Robinson wrote that from that moment he began to think he could be happier in this lonely place than he might have been anywhere else.

TALK ABOUT IT

Why do you think Robinson kept reading every morning and every night?



Think about it

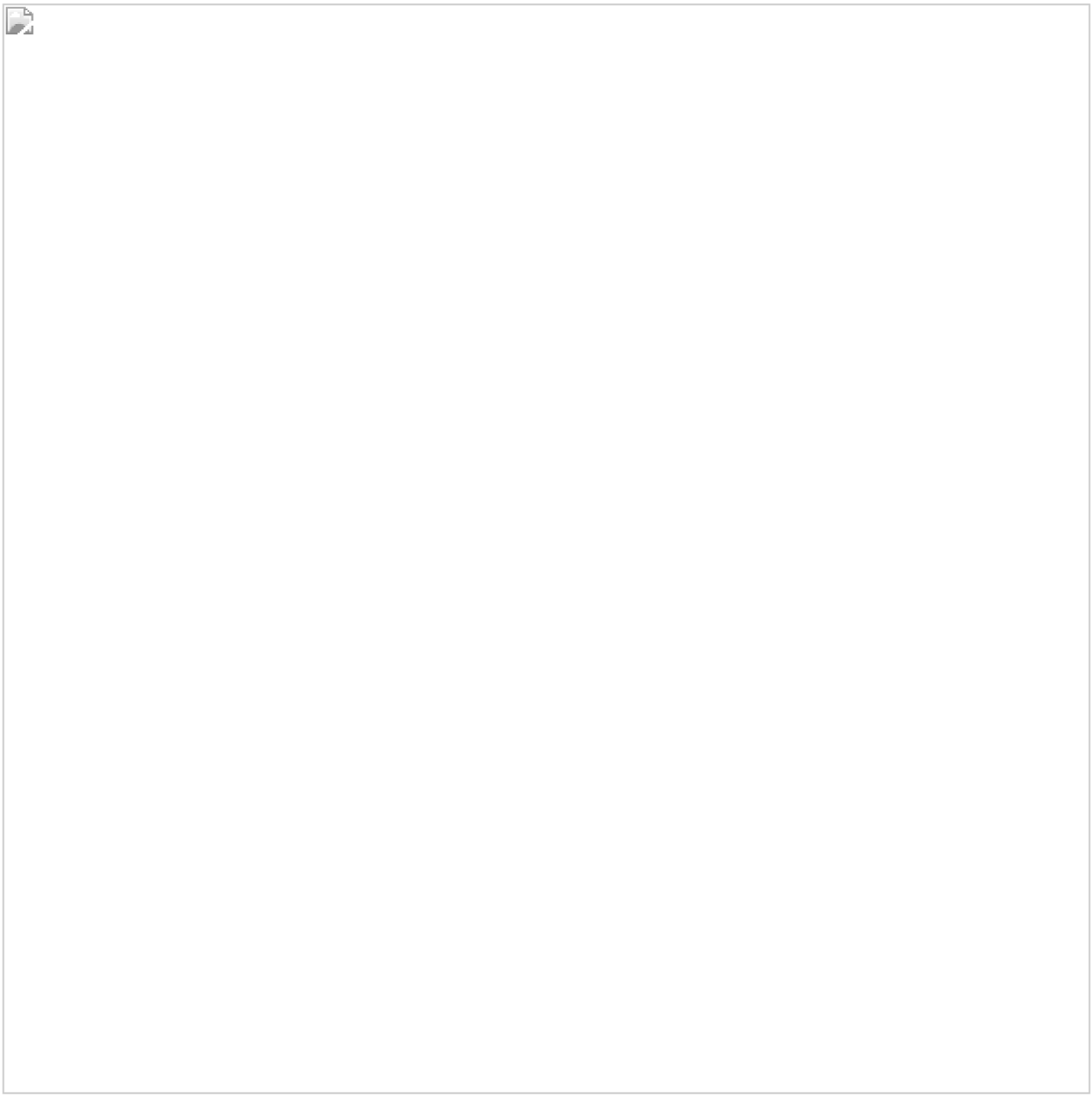
1. What did Robinson do each morning and night?

- ○ He read the Bible
- ○ He swam in the sea
- ○ He counted his goats

2. What words did he find one sad morning?

- ○ “I will never, never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”
- ○ Go home.
- ○ Build a boat.

Barley and Goats



Robinson found a few stalks of barley and rice growing near his home. He saved the grains and planted them. The first planting did not grow, because there was no rain. The second did, and he had a crop at last.

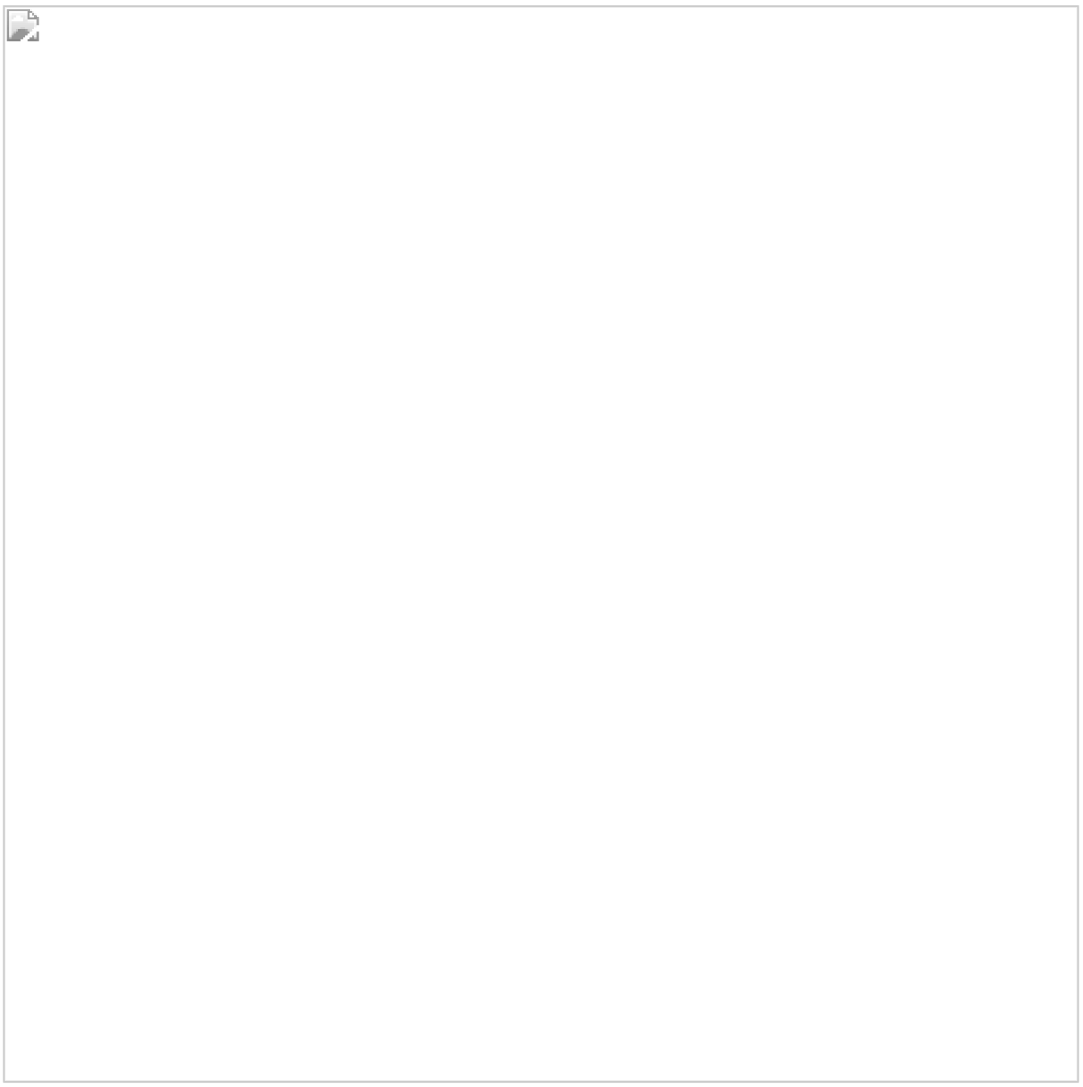
He kept goats too. He taught two or three young kids to feed out of his hand. He also made a canoe, which took two years, and a sail for it.

Five years went by, and he lived on in the same way.

TALK ABOUT IT

What would you plant first if you lived on an island?

Barley and Goats · another picture



Think about it

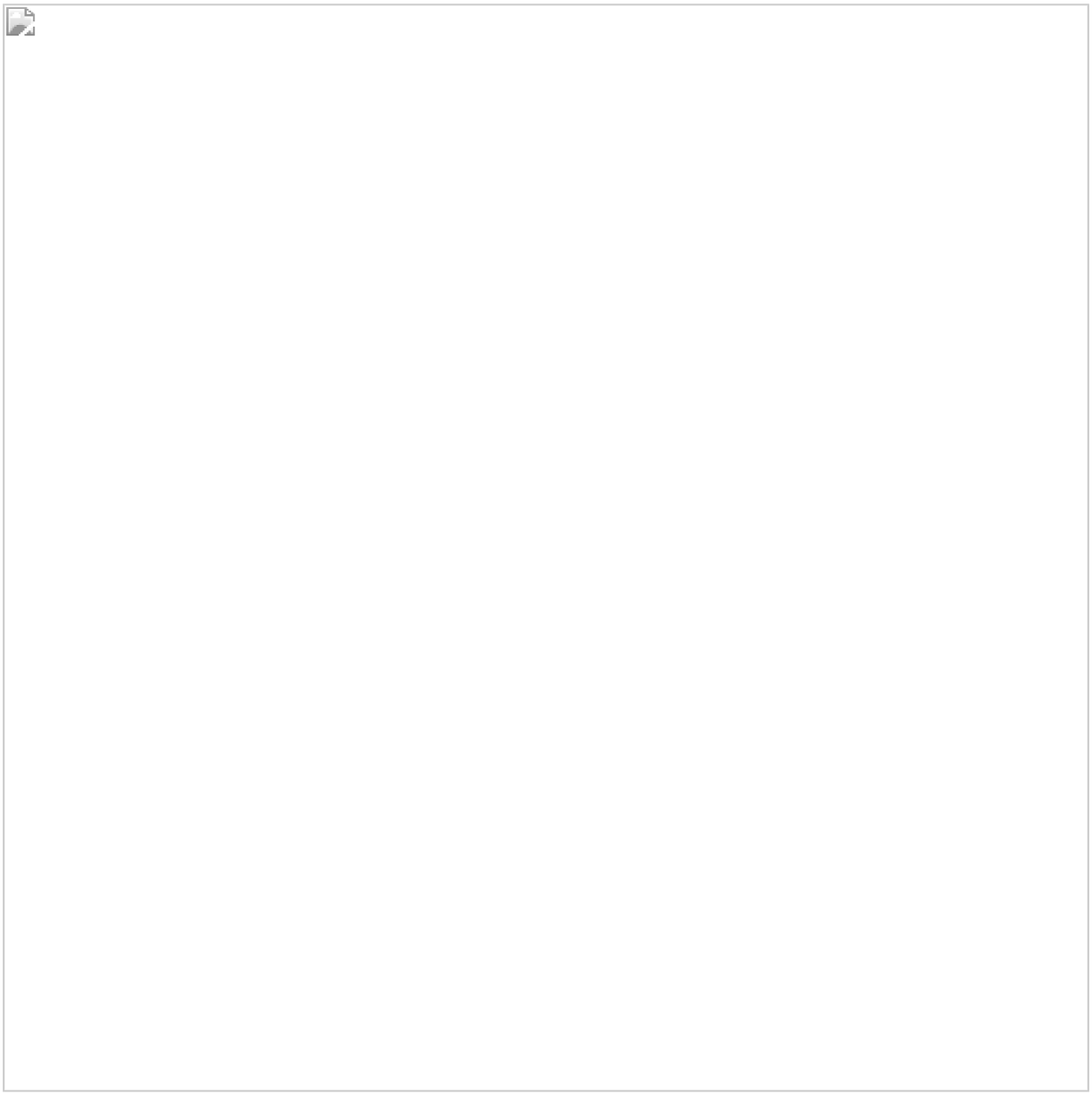
1. Why did the first planting not grow?

- ○ There was no rain
- ○ He planted it upside down
- ○ A bird ate it all

2. What did Robinson teach the young kids to do?

- ○ Feed out of his hand
- ○ Carry his bags
- ○ Climb the ladder

Poll the Parrot



Robinson caught a young parrot and taught him to talk. “Poll” was the first word anyone but Robinson had spoken on the island. It was the parrot’s own name.

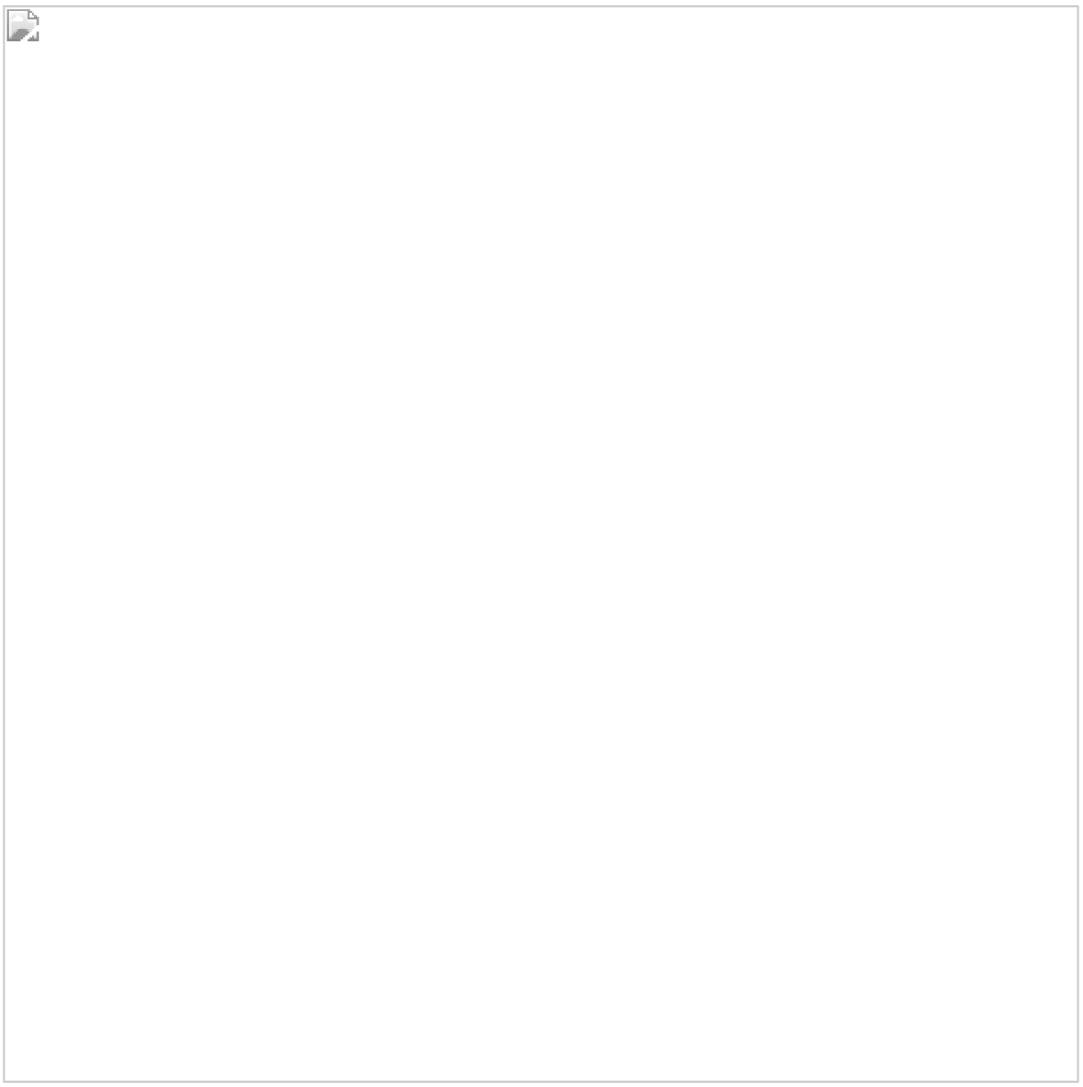
One day, after rowing and walking far from home, Robinson lay down in the shade and fell asleep. A voice woke him by name: “Where are you, Robin Crusoe? Where are you? Where have you been?”

It was only honest Poll, sitting on top of the hedge. Robinson held out his hand, and Poll came and sat on his thumb. Robinson carried him home.

TALK ABOUT IT

What would you teach a parrot to say?

Poll the Parrot · another picture



Think about it

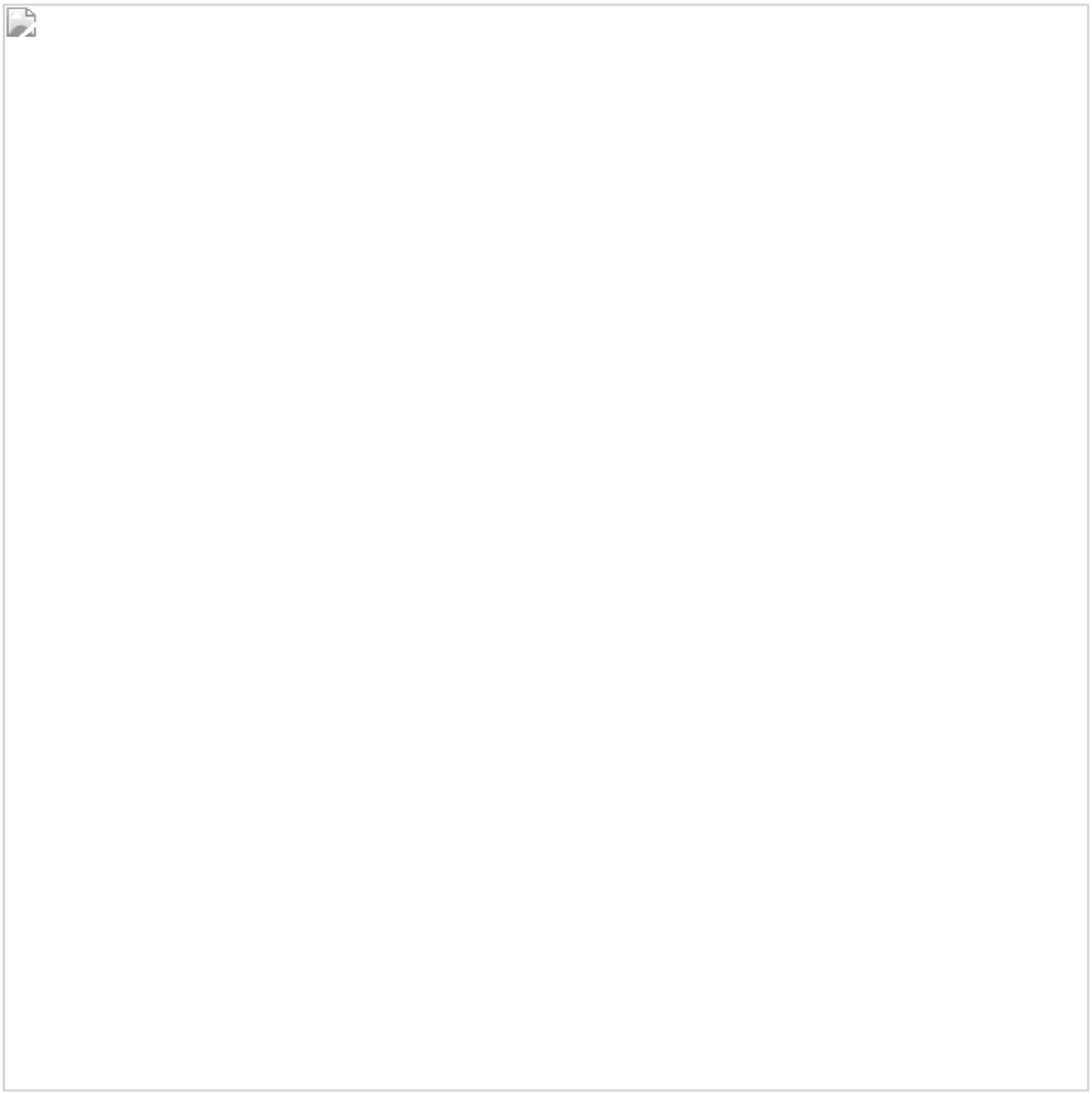
1. What was the first word Poll learned?

- ○ Poll, his own name
- ○ Dinner
- ○ Hello

2. Who was calling Robinson's name in the shade?

- ○ Poll the parrot
- ○ A sailor
- ○ His father

The Footprint



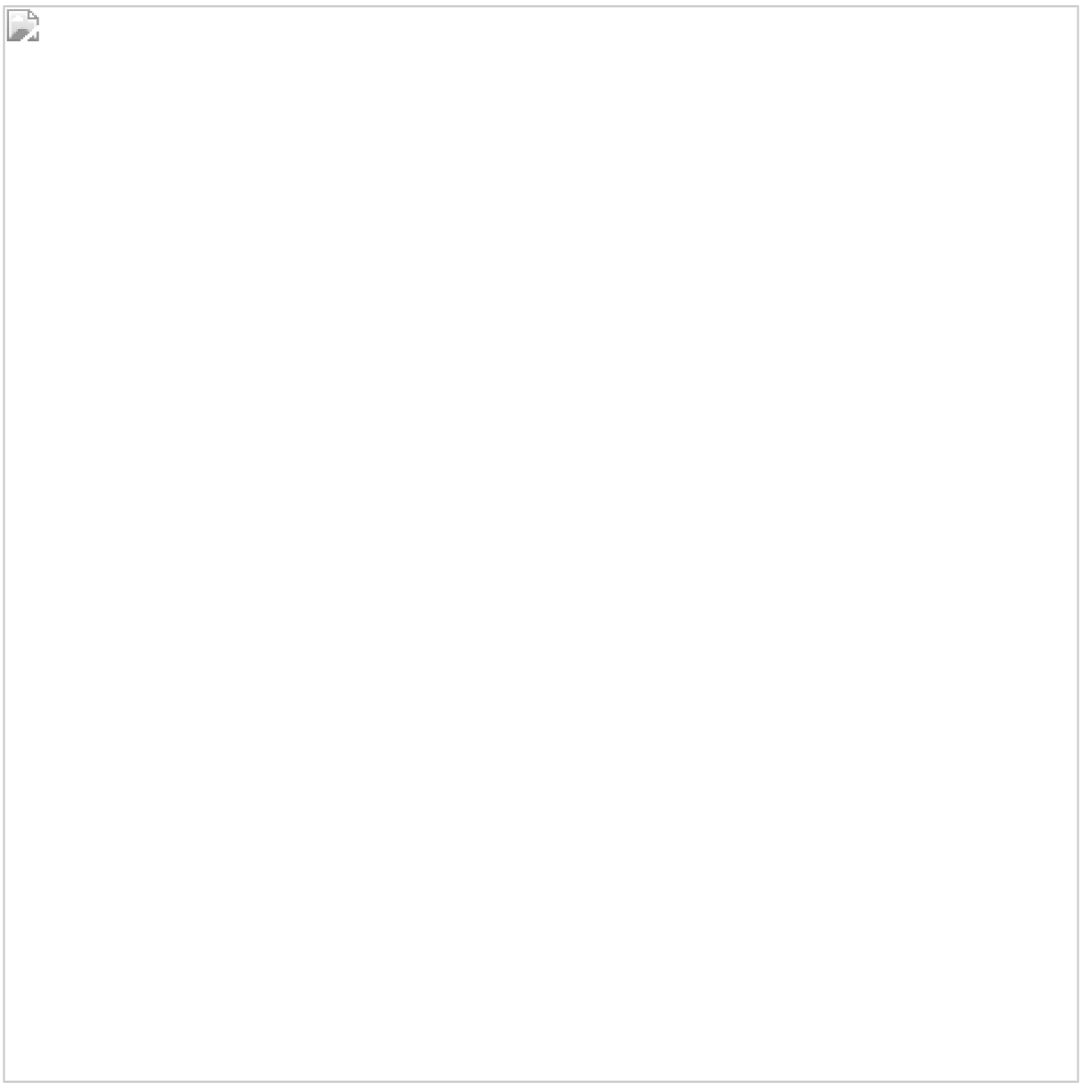
One day, about noon, Robinson was walking to his boat when he saw a footprint on the beach. In his own words, it was “the print of a man’s naked foot on the shore, which was very plain to be seen on the sand.”

“I stood like one thunderstruck,” he wrote. He looked up and down the shore. He saw no one and found no other print.

He walked back home, looking behind him at every few steps. That night he did not sleep.

TALK ABOUT IT

What do you think Robinson might think about when he sees a footprint? What would you do?



Think about it

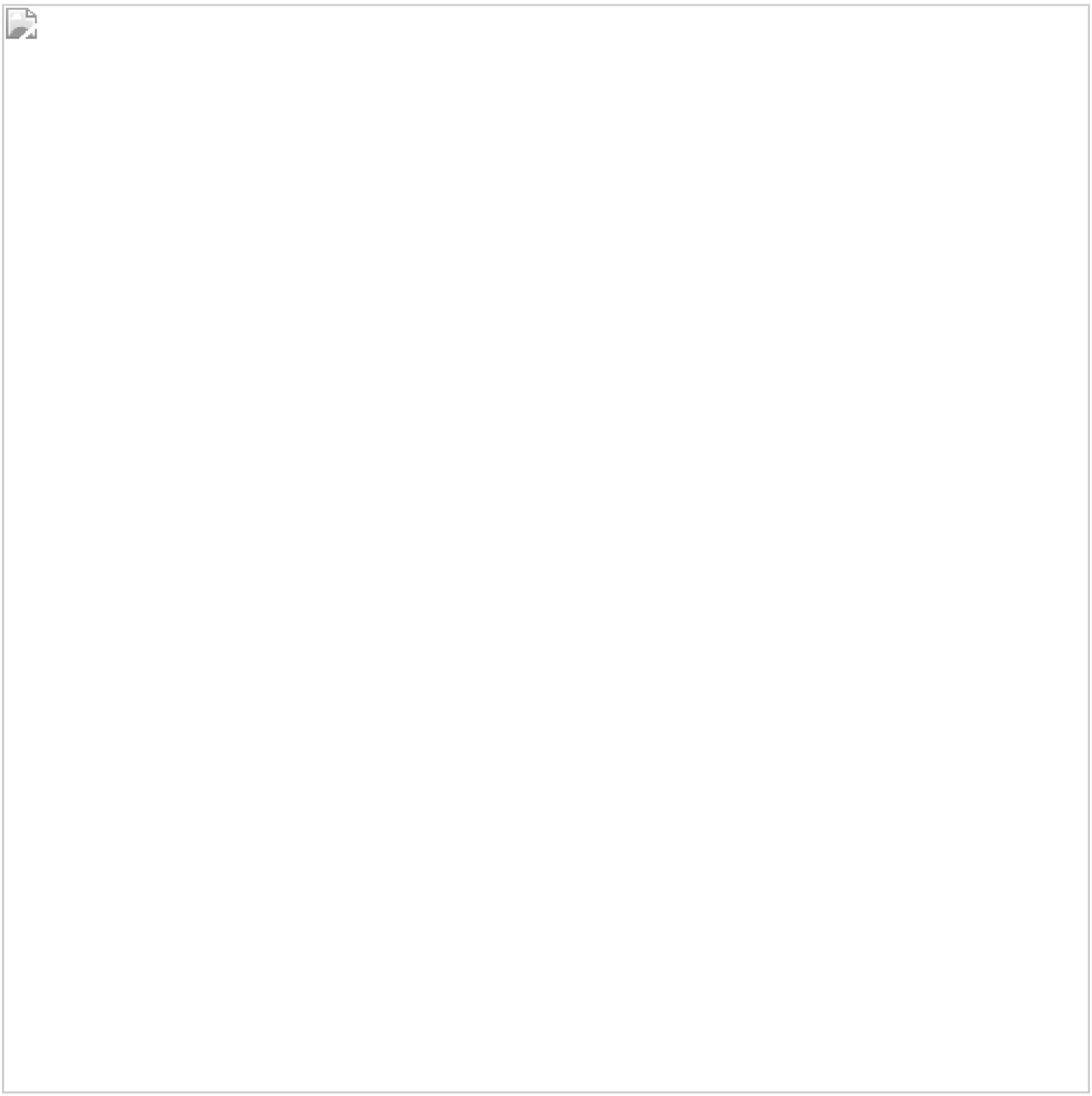
1. What did Robinson find on the beach?

- ○ A footprint
- ○ A boat
- ○ A letter

2. How many prints did he find?

- ○ Only one
- ○ A whole trail
- ○ None

A Man Runs to the Island



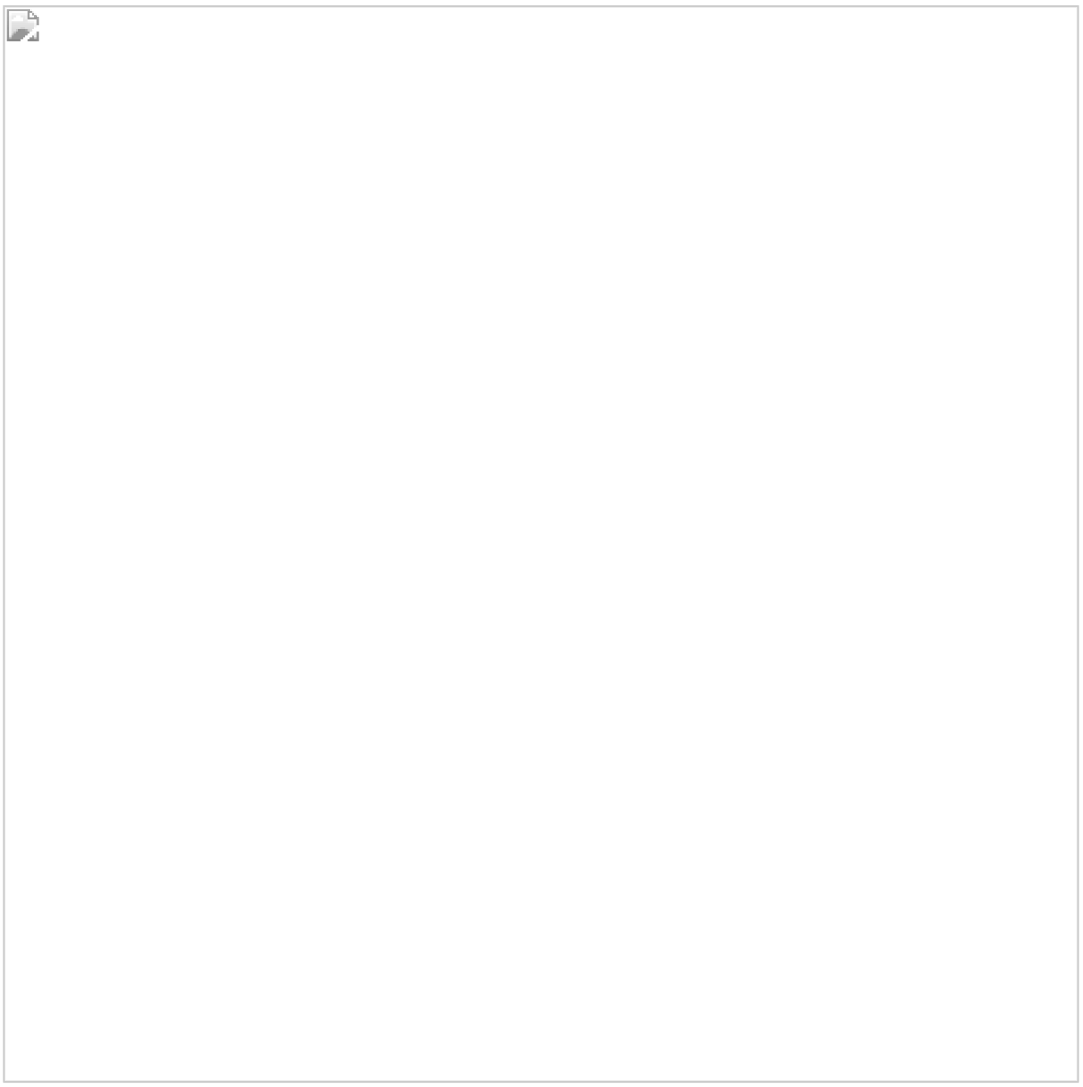
One day Robinson saw a group of strangers land on his shore in canoes. They had brought two prisoners with them. One prisoner broke away and ran.

Robinson decided to help. He hurried down from the hill and put himself between the man and the ones who chased him. He waved to the man to come to him, and he smiled.

The man came a little nearer, and then a little nearer still. At last he came close. Robinson took him up and made much of him. The man spoke some words, and Robinson could not understand them, but he thought they were pleasant to hear.

TALK ABOUT IT

How can you show someone you are a friend when you do not share any words?



Think about it

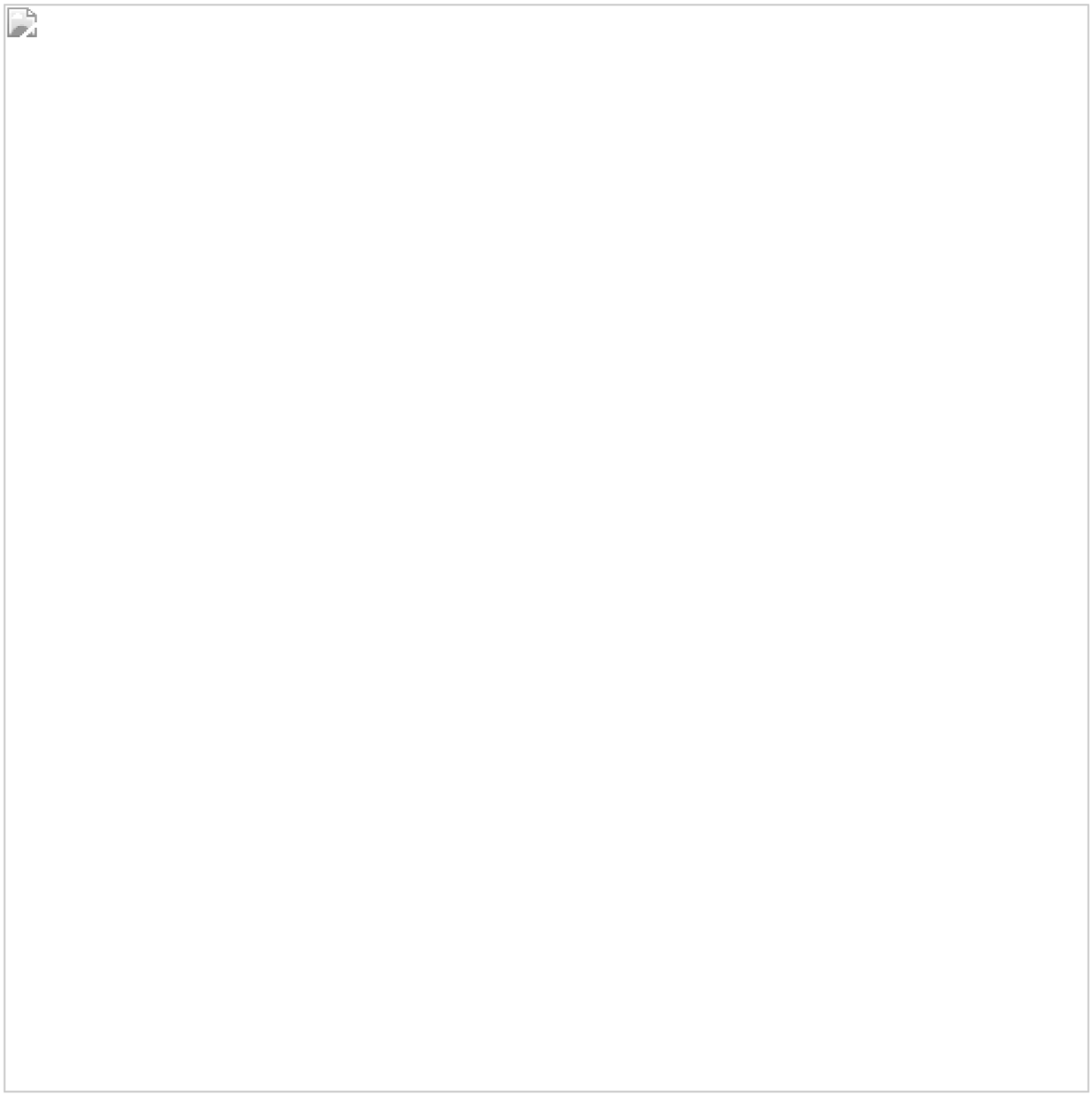
1. How did Robinson show the man he meant no harm?

- ○ He waved and smiled
- ○ He ran away
- ○ He hid in the cave

2. Did they speak the same language?

- ○ No
- ○ Yes
- ○ Only on Sundays

Friday



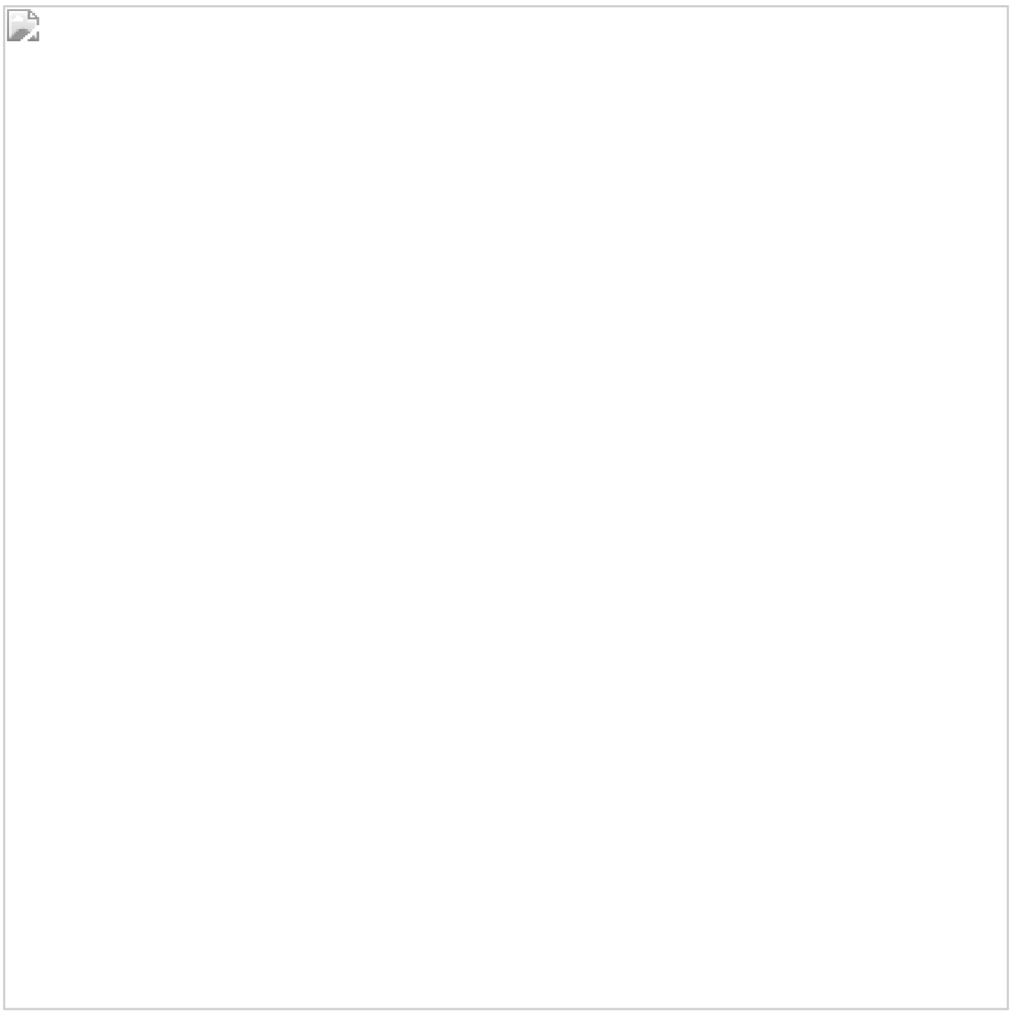
Robinson gave the man food and a drink, and he let him sleep. Robinson let him know that his name should be Friday, “which was the day I saved his life.” Robinson wrote, “I called him so for the memory of the time.”

Robinson was “greatly delighted with him,” and set out to teach him English. Friday learned fast. Robinson wrote that he was “the aptest scholar that ever was.”

The two became close. Robinson wrote that never man had a more “faithful, loving, sincere” helper than Friday was to him.

TALK ABOUT IT

What do you think makes a good friend? Who is a friend like that for you?



Think about it

1. Why did Robinson call him Friday?

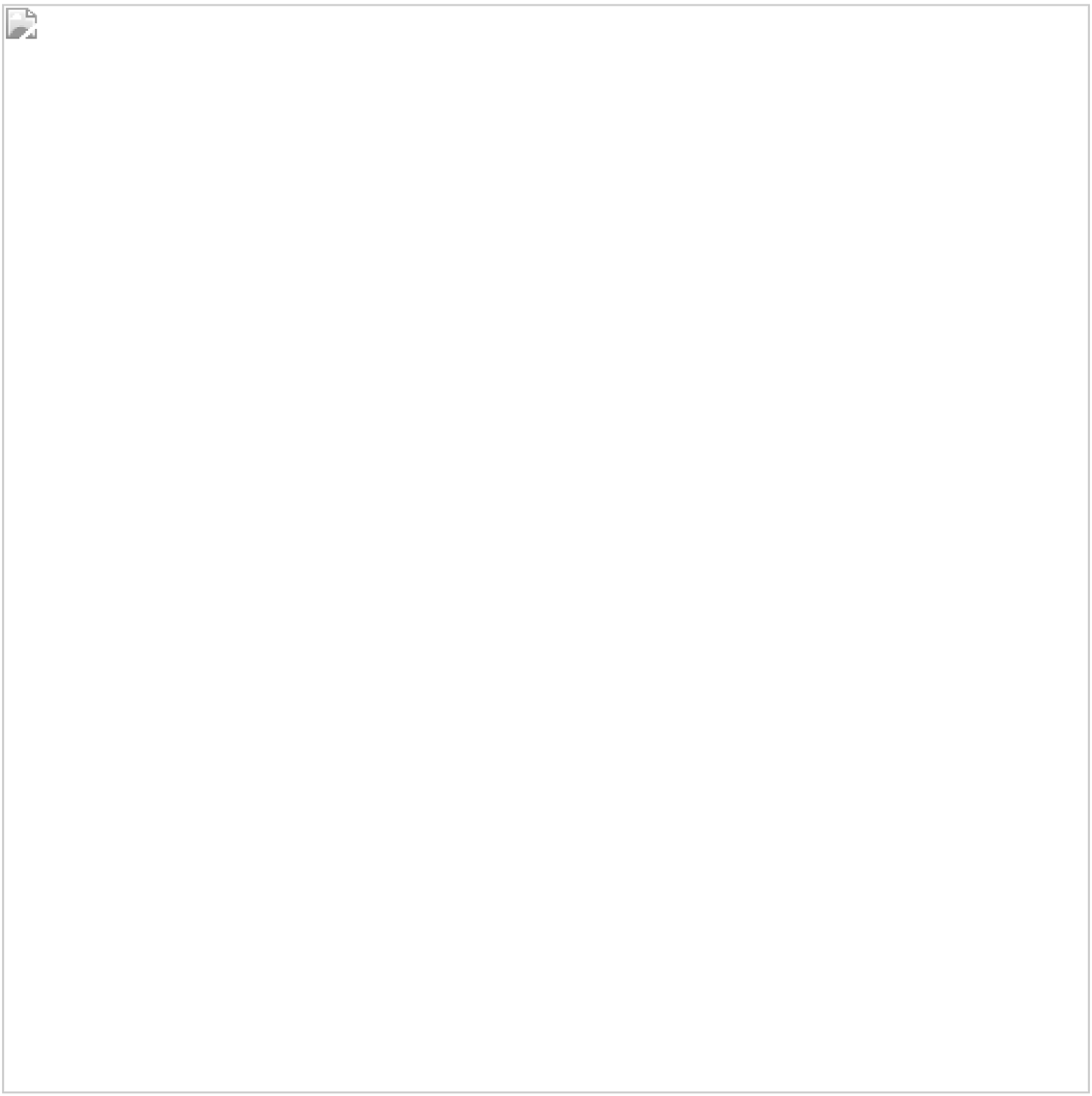
- ○ It was the day he saved his life
- ○ He liked the sound
- ○ It was his father's name

2. What did Robinson write about Friday?

- ○ That he was faithful, loving and sincere
- ○ That he was lazy
- ○ That he was too quiet

3. What would you like to teach a new friend?

Friday's Father



Friday and Robinson talked more and more as the days went by. Robinson told Friday about England and how people lived there, and he taught him how to shoot.

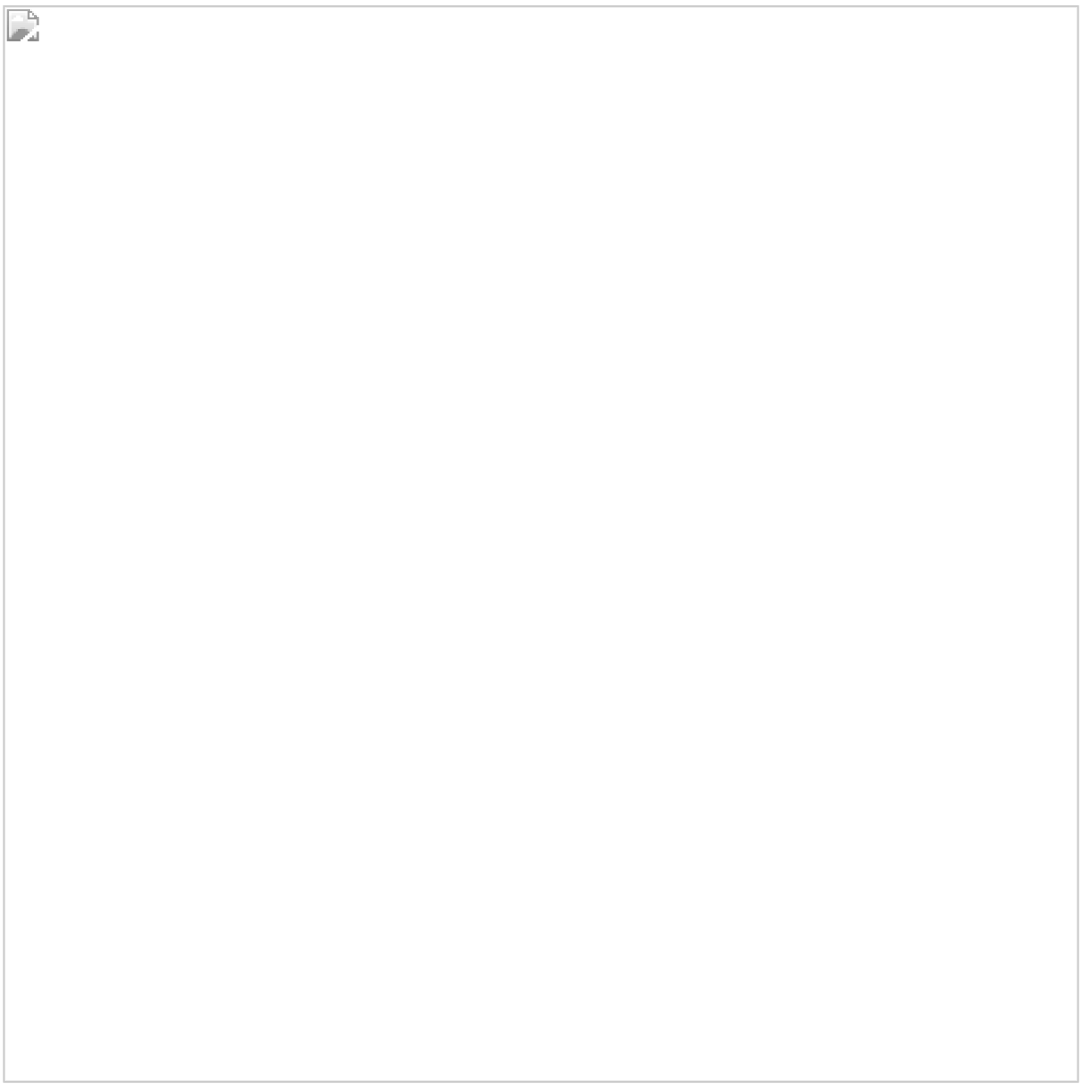
Then the strangers came again with more prisoners. Robinson and Friday drove them away, and in one of their canoes they found a man tied up hand and foot. Friday looked at his face, and then he ran to him. The man was Friday's own father.

Friday kissed him and hugged him, and cried and laughed and jumped about. Robinson wrote that it would have moved anyone to tears.

TALK ABOUT IT

Why do you think Friday jumped for joy?

Friday's Father · another picture



Think about it

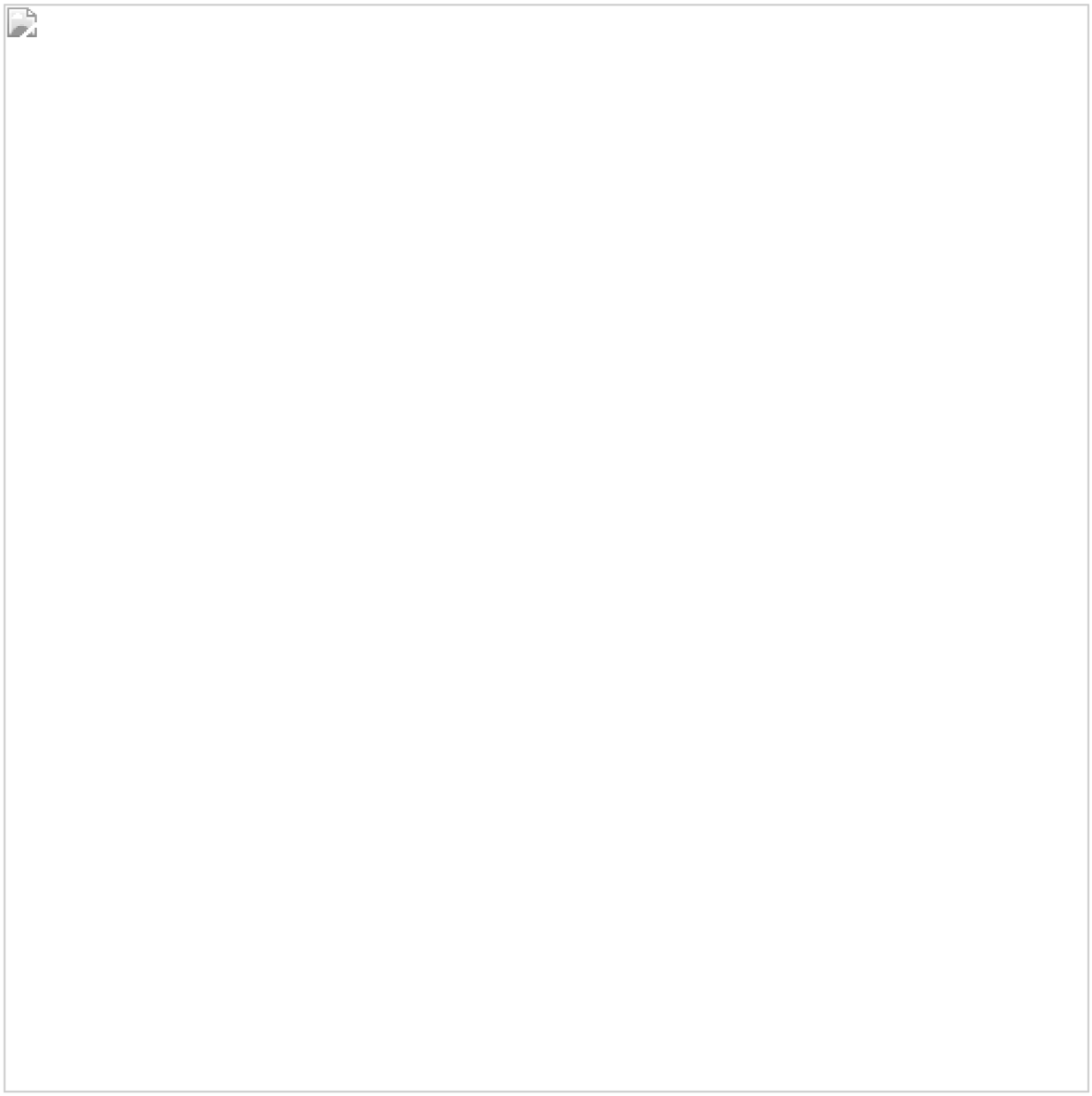
1. Who was the man Friday ran to?

- ○ His own father
- ○ A sailor
- ○ A stranger

2. What did Friday do when he saw him?

- ○ He hugged him and cried and laughed
- ○ He turned away
- ○ He fell asleep

A Ship at Last



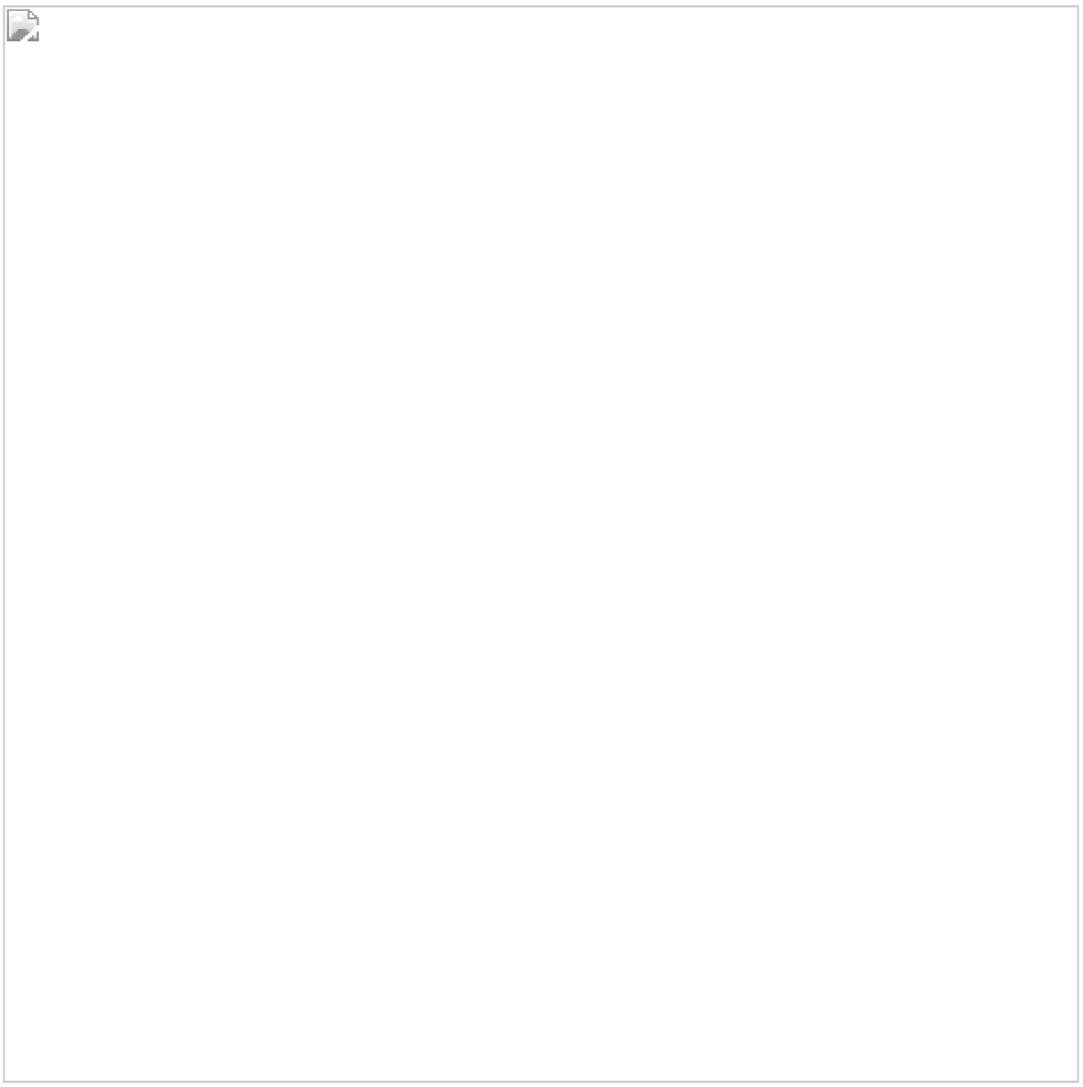
Then an English ship came. Its crew had turned against their captain and brought him ashore as a prisoner, with his mate and a passenger. Robinson helped them, and in the end the captain got his ship back.

Robinson slept, and was woken by a man calling, “Governor! Governor!” It was the captain. He pointed to his ship and put his arms around Robinson. “My dear friend and deliverer,” he said, “there’s your ship; for she is all yours, and so are we, and all that belong to her.”

Robinson could not say a word. At last his deliverance was put into his hands.

TALK ABOUT IT

How do you think Robinson might have felt? What would you have said first?



Think about it

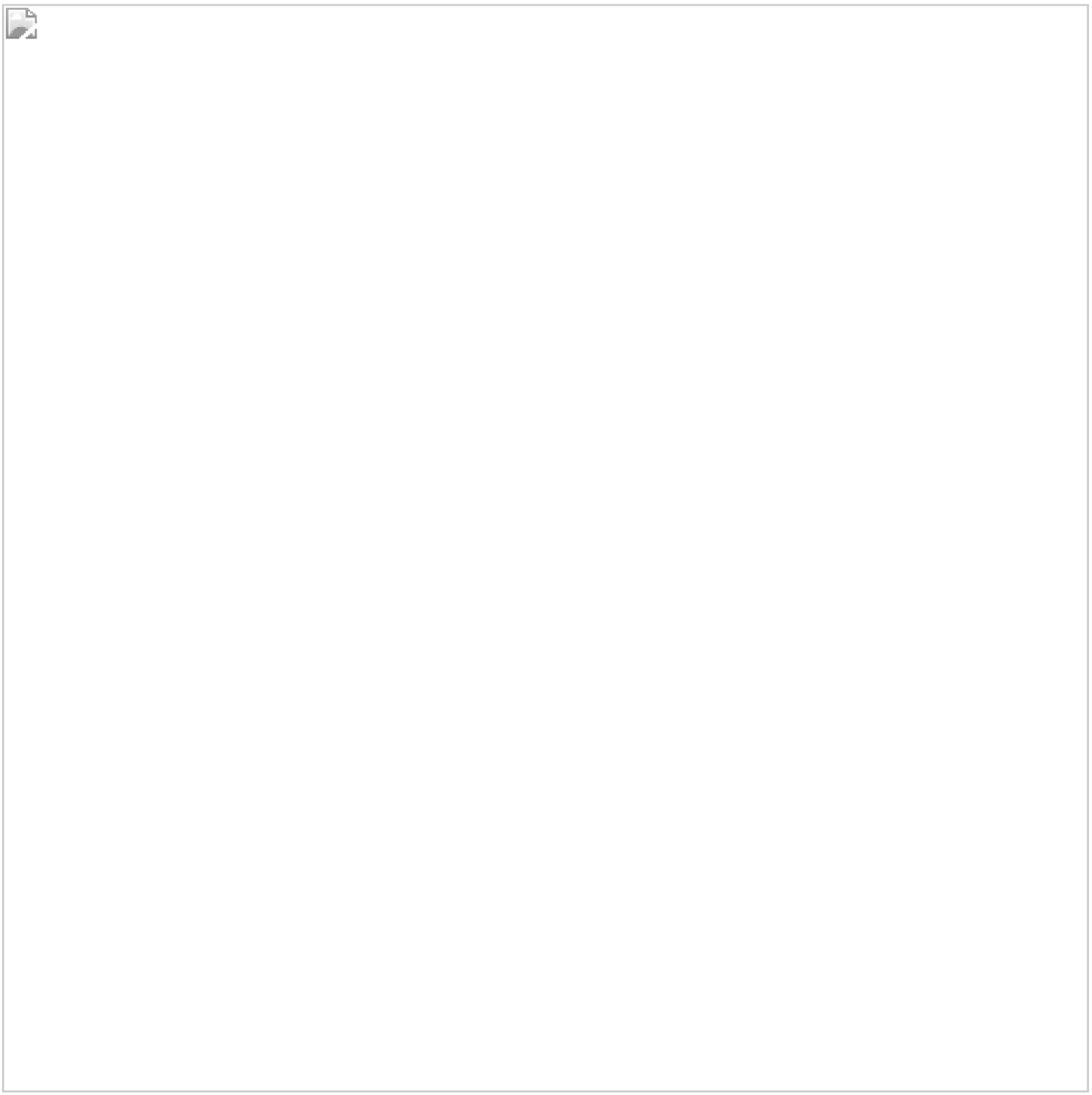
1. What did the captain call Robinson?

- ○ Governor
- ○ Sailor
- ○ Mister Poll

2. What did the captain say about the ship?

- ○ That it was all Robinson's
- ○ That it was too far away
- ○ That it was broken

Home to England



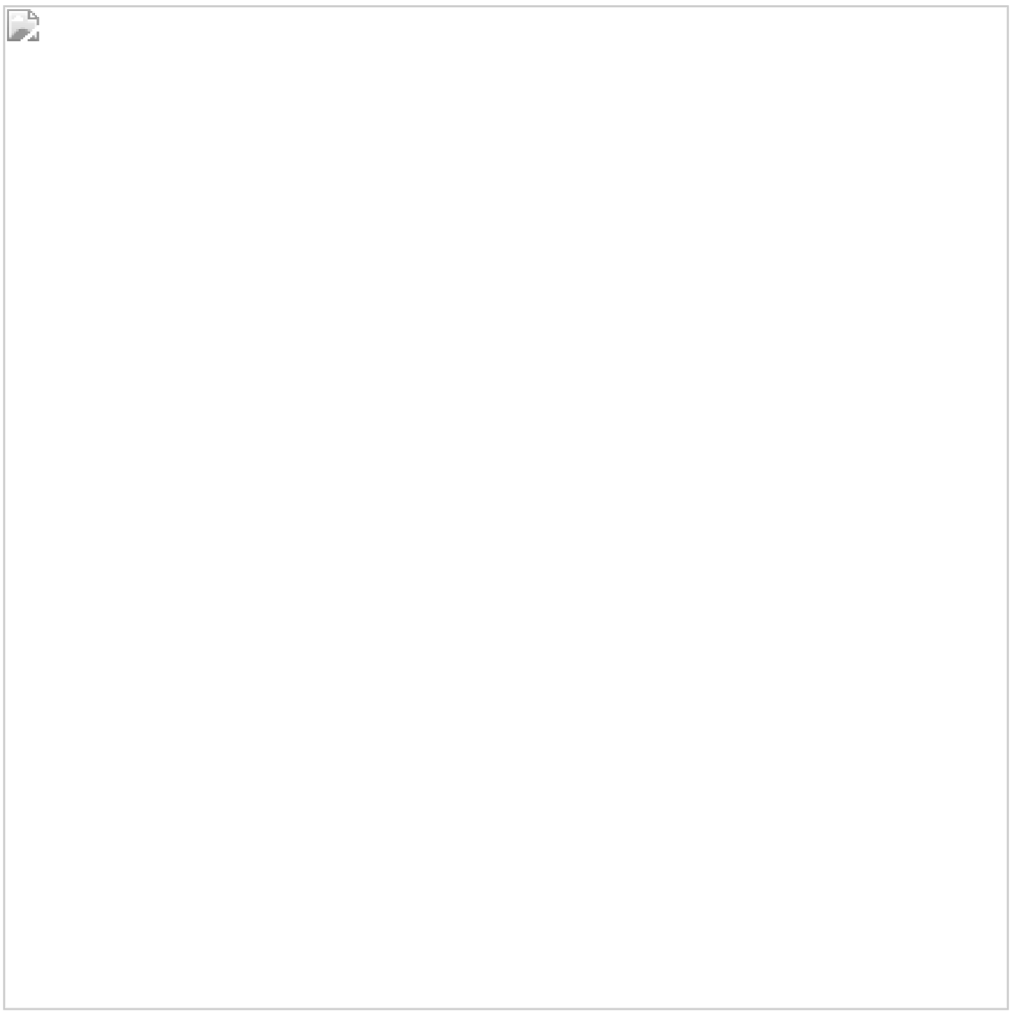
Robinson took a few things with him when he left: his goat-skin cap, his umbrella, and one of his parrots. He left the island on the 19th of December, 1686, after he had been there “eight-and-twenty years, two months, and nineteen days.”

He reached England on the 11th of June, 1687. He had been away thirty-five years. His father and mother had died, but he found two sisters, and two of his brother’s children.

Friday was with him, too, “accompanying me very honestly in all these ramblings,” as Robinson wrote, when he traveled on to Lisbon.

TALK ABOUT IT

What would you want to see first if you came home after a very long time?



Think about it

1. How long was Robinson on the island?

- ○ About twenty-eight years
- ○ One week
- ○ Three days

2. Who went to England with Robinson?

- ○ Friday
- ○ Nobody
- ○ The captain's dog

3. What would you tell people about a long adventure?

“There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

— Yeshua HaMashiach

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