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Desert island

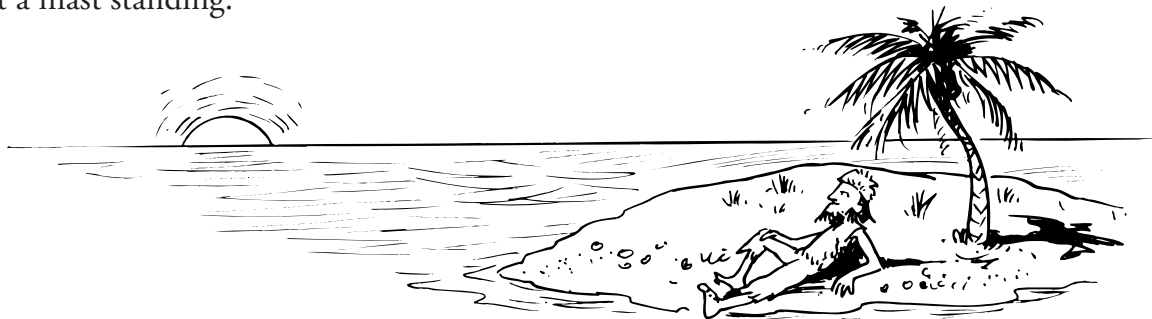
- Read this extract from the beginning of *Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe (published in 1719).
- Write a continuation describing how the ship sinks and Robinson Crusoe manages to get to an island and survive. Do not try to follow the original story – use your own ideas. Write in the same style, using the first person (I) and make the language sound old fashioned. Use a separate sheet.



By this time it blew a terrible storm indeed, and now I began to see terror and amazement in the faces even of the seamen themselves. The master, though vigilant in the business of preserving the ship, yet as he went in and out of his cabin by me, I could hear him softly to himself say several times, ‘Lord, be merciful to us, we shall be all lost, we shall be all undone’; and the like.

During these first hurries, I was stupid, lying still in my cabin, which was in the steerage, and cannot describe my temper. I could ill reassume the first penitence which I had so apparently trampled upon, and hardened myself against. I thought the bitterness of death had been past, and that this would be nothing too, like the first. But when the master himself came by me, as I said just now, and said we should be all lost, I was dreadfully frightened. I got up out of my cabin and looked out; but such a dismal sight I never saw. The sea went mountains high, and broke upon us every three or four minutes.

When I could look about, I could see nothing but distress round us: Two ships that rid near us, we found, had cut their masts by the board, being deep laden; and our men cried out that a ship which rid about a mile ahead of us was foundered. Two more ships, being driven from their anchors, were run out of the roads to sea at all adventures, and that with not a mast standing.



Dear helper

Objective: To write in the style of a given author.

Task: Read this extract with your child. Don’t worry about understanding all the archaic language. It is the gist of the story and a general feeling for the old-fashioned style that is important for the activity. Discuss what might happen on the island – make up new adventures. Talk about how to write the continuation using Defoe’s style.