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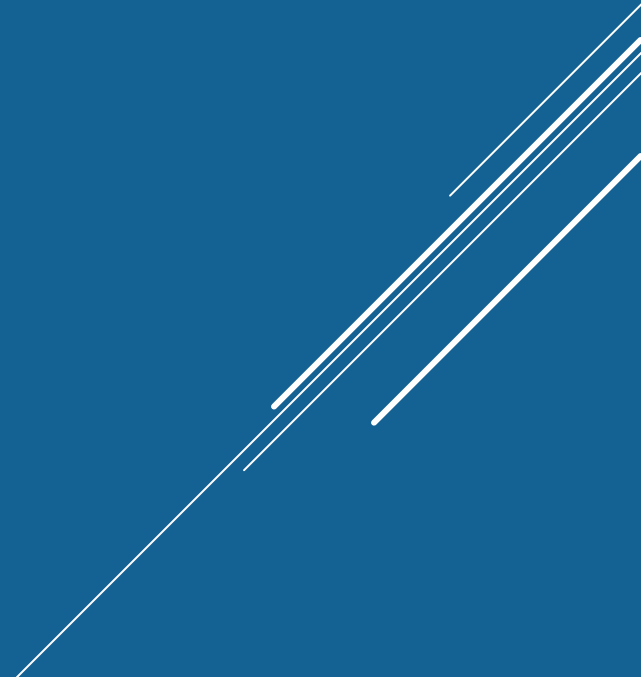
Raipur (C.G.)

DANIEL DEFOE'S ROBINSON CRUSOE



- ▶ Daniel Defoe was born in 1659 in London and died in 1731
- ▶ He was an English writer, trader, journalist, pamphleteer and spy.
- ▶ He is famous for his novel Robinson Crusoe
- ▶ He has been considered one of the earlier proponents of English novel
- ▶ Defoe went to prison often to write about politics
- ▶ Produced more than 300 works - books, pamphlets and journals - on diverse topics including Politics, Crime, Religion, Marriage, Psychology and the Supernaturalism
- ▶ He was also the pioneer of Business Journalism and Economic Journalism

Important works:

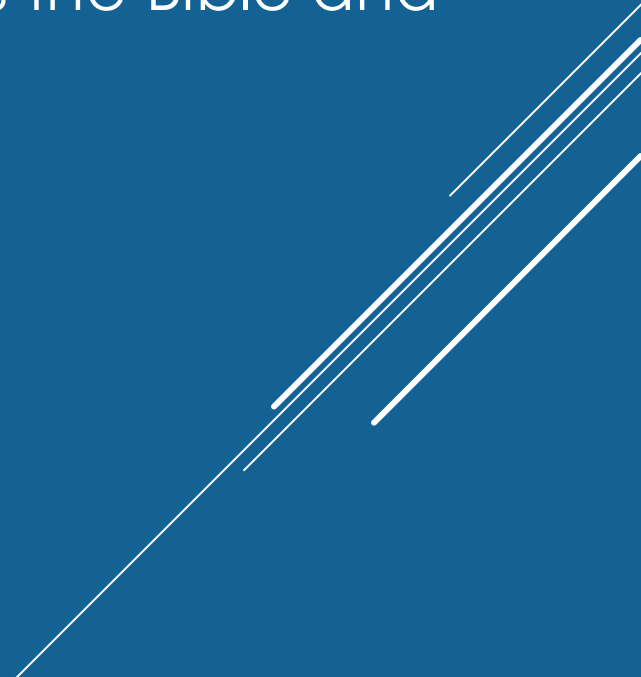
- ▶ An Essay on Project (1898)
 - ▶ The True Born Englishman (1701)
 - ▶ The Hymns of Pillory(1703)
 - ▶ Consolidation (1705)
 - ▶ Robinson Crusoe (1719)
 - ▶ Mallflanders (1722)
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Character Sketch:

ROBINSON CRUSOE -

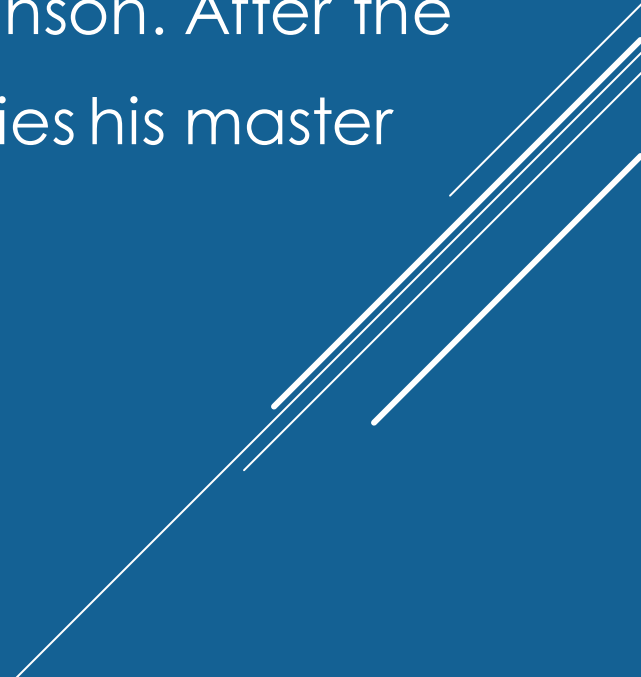
Robinson is an idealized portrait of Defoe himself who suffers from sea fever. He is always restless for sailing on the tempestuous oceans. It is this period that compels him to commit the original sin. He suffers from excessive pride. In his choice to London he faces the terrible sea storm, he swears that God saves his life he will return home but he cancels the plan. The novel express his feelings of guilt, paintings for his wickedness and transgressing the wishes of his father and will of God.

He resolves and swears that he will not repeat wickedness but every time as soon as the danger disappears he forgets his resolution. He regards his miserable life as punishment for his sins. Yes he repeats the wickedness of breaking his promises. Robinson is a curious blend of materialism and spiritualism. On the one hand he prays to God and reads the Bible and on the other hand he hankers after money.

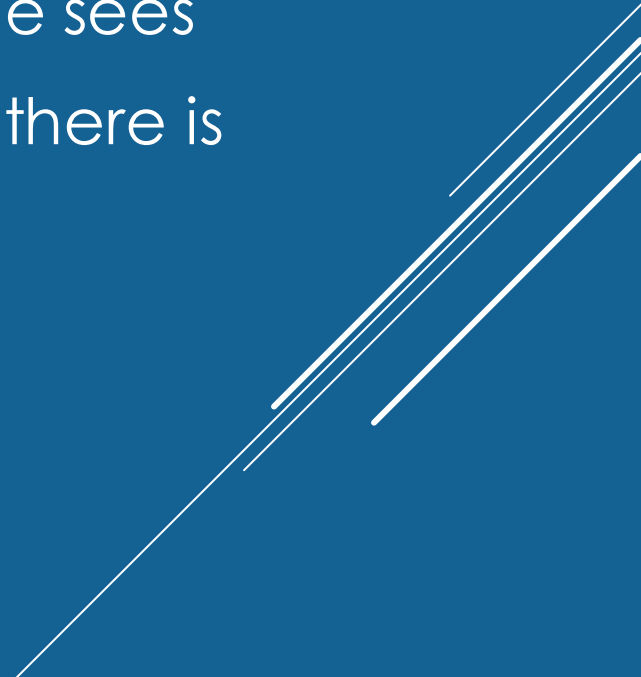
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FRIDAY:

Friday is a cannibal. This name is given by Robinson who rescues him from the bloody hands of enemy cannibals. Robinson teaches him many things like saying 'yes' 'no' and 'master' and prays to God to bless him. Soon Friday becomes a Christian and a devoted servant of Robinson. After the release from the imprisonment of the island he accompanies his master and passes the rest of life with him.

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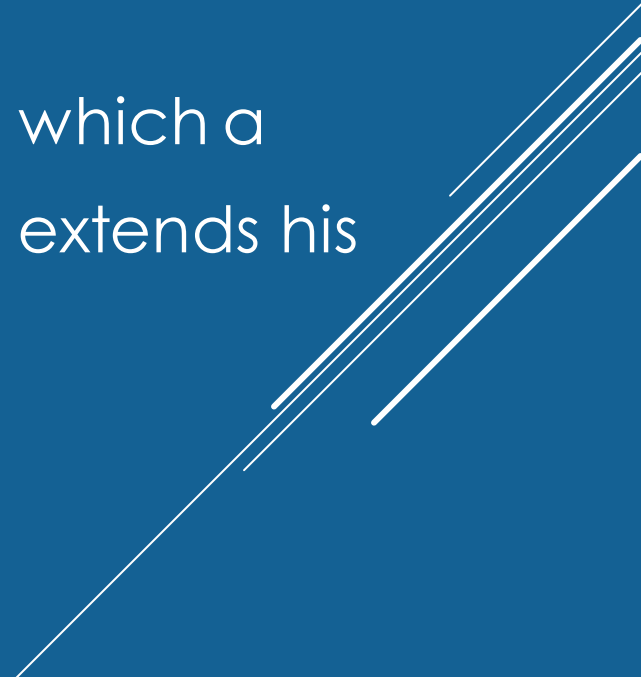
Friday possesses several qualities like dexterity, sweetness, boldness, intelligence, affection, patriotism, open mindedness, simplicity, and innocence. Friday shows his boldness in his counter with the rival cannibals. He bears deep love for his country. When he sees his motherland becomes ecstatic saying "O Joy! O gland ! there is my country, there is my nation"

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Robinson Crusoe as a Religious Allegory:

Robinson Crusoe is a story of suspense, action and adventure. The novel is about the outward as well as inner voyage over the sea. On the surface it is only an adventure but inwardly it is a spiritual adventure in which Robinson explores himself and God. Robinson speaks of God's blessings while leaving for London. He resolves not to set his foot on the ship if it would please God to spare his life. When his life on the ship is in danger he prays, "Lord , be merciful to us!". The captain and the crew are at the prayers.

Post Colonial Elements in Robinson Crusoe :

- ▶ The surface of this novel tells only an adventure story but a close reading shows that colonialism is technically presented underneath the storyline where issues such as race, power, identity formation and so on, are preserved from the postcolonial perspective.
 - ▶ The novel is not just an adventurous fiction, it is a story in which a European man gradually masters his own compulsion and extends his control over a huge, indifferent and holistic environment.
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- ▶ The protagonist is a typical colonial character.
 - ▶ He sets on a distance of Caribbean Island to establish his own colony, his own civilization and his own culture.
 - ▶ Defoe deals with colonialism by portraying a wonderful picture of an adventurous man, who gradually becomes a master over an island and establishes his own colony.
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