

HKTA Tang Hin Memorial Secondary School
2011/2012 Inter-house Reading Competition (S1-S6)

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Class: 2D

Class No.: 28

House: Yellow

Title: Robinson Crusoe

Author: Daniel Defoe

Publisher: Oxford University Press

Essay-type English book report

After reading “Robinson Crusoe”, I learnt a lot from Robinson. Robinson has been on an island without people, without food, without tools, without everything we need for living for twenty-seven years, two months and nineteen days. He deserves our respect. There are a lot of things in his story that are worth learning.

When he went ashore, he was very calm, searching around for people and useful materials. He was not just sitting there and waiting for help. He did not even think of suicide. He was determined to be alive until someone came to save him. He did a lot of things to survive. To avoid being attacked by wild animals or cannibals, he made a house by himself. Also he constructed some posts around his house for defence. He made them all by his hand within one year. Though it was not easy to build a house by a person, he built two eventually. Although the process was quite tough, he had never thought of giving up.

Also, he was quite clever. He used the fat of sheep to make fuels so that he could make a fire to keep himself warm and for cooking meals. He used the skins of those animals to make clothes. These clothes could protect Robinson from the strong sunlight. The most amazing thing about Robinson is that he used some mud to make pots. It was a very difficult task. He made the shape of the pot first. Then, he put it into the fire to bake it under a high temperature. Finally, he checked to ensure that there were not any problems with the pot. Robinson spent a lot of time before the pots were made successfully. One more thing, Robinson had his own farm on the island. This thing made me amazed. Because of a lack of bullets and gunpowder, Robinson

needed to think of some methods so that he could get food without the need to go hunting with the gun. He finally got a male sheep and female sheep together. Then, he did not need to worry about food anymore. So, he decided to set up a farm in his country house. As there were no people on the island, Robinson did not talk with anyone for many years. But he never thought of dying. Every time he faced difficulty, he would try to solve it and never give up. That's why he is my favourite character.

I think the most exciting part of this story is that on one day, some cannibals got on the island with three people. They seemed to have a good meal by eating these people. Robinson was very afraid of this, so he hid well. After a while, one of the men tried to escape. He got to the side of Robinson. Robinson helped him to kill the cannibals. The process of their fighting was really exciting.

If I were Robinson Crusoe, what would I do? Without a doubt if I were Robinson, I would die very soon because I don't have the ability to solve the problems facing me in the wild. For example, in the first night that Robinson went into the island. He slept on the tree to avoid the attack of wild animals. However, I wouldn't think of this before. I may die in the first night. Robinson's home was constructed with the strong defence. But I think I couldn't make something like them because the posts were really heavy and I could not move it by myself.

If the cannibals got on the island again and found Robinson, I think Robinson would fight them by using the gun. And he believed that he could beat the cannibals. Even though he did not have enough bullets and gunpowder, he could think of some solutions to solve the problems.

I love "Robinson Crusoe" very much because the story is so interesting that attracts many readers who love adventure. Also, the experiences of Robinson were very distinctive. Most importantly, we can learn a lot from the book. For example, the spirit of never giving up is worth learning. Also we can learn the useful skills which were applied by Robinson, such as using the fat as fuels, using animal's skin to make clothes and making pots by mud. One more thing that is worth learning is that he was calm whatever happened. It is important that we keep calm when we are in an accident.

I look up to Robinson as a role model. I want to be a person like him.

(762 words)