

Robinson Crusoe





Can you give me your definition for «literature»?

Mine is.....

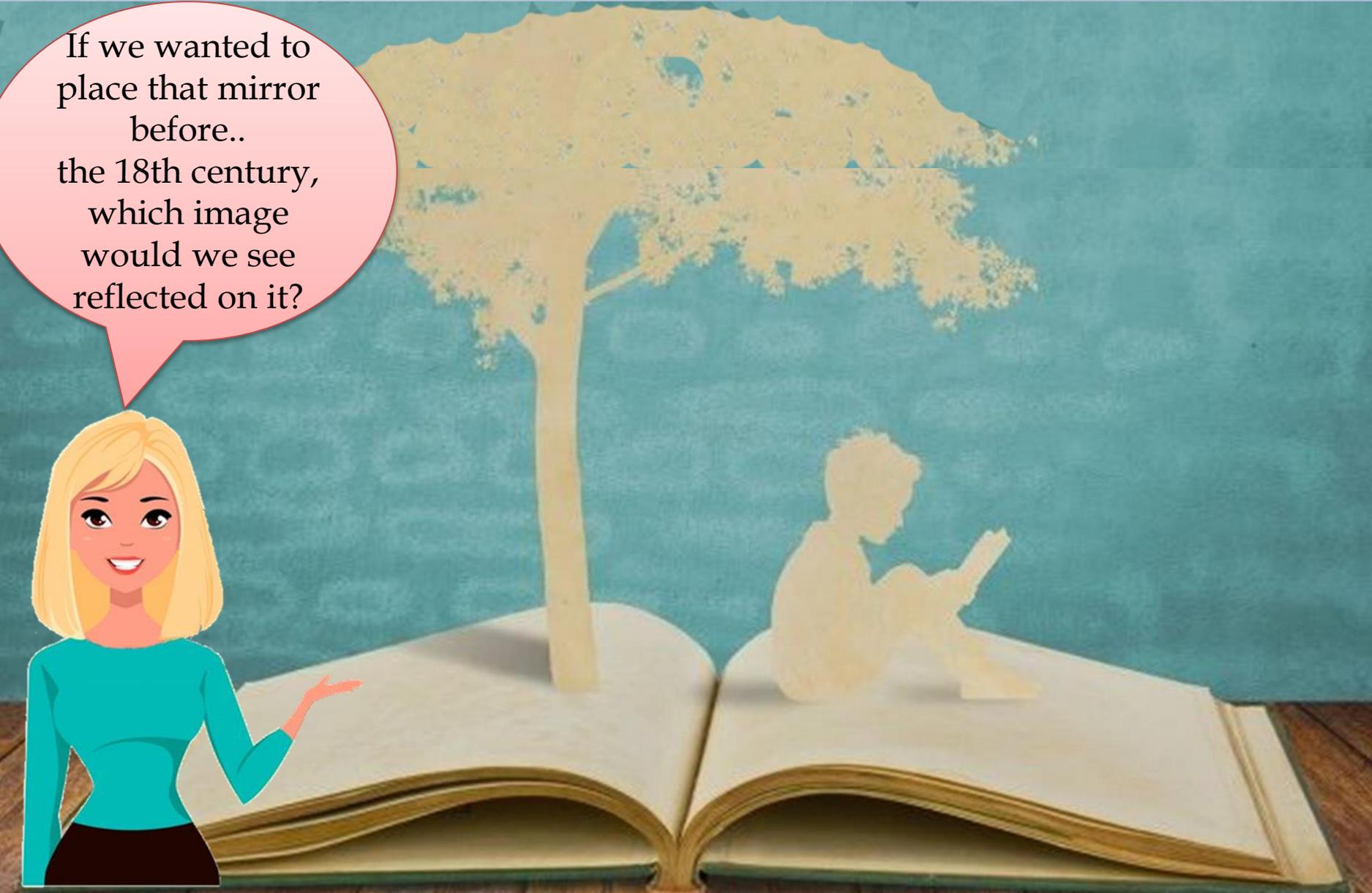




The
Mirror of
the
Times!



If we wanted to place that mirror before.. the 18th century, which image would we see reflected on it?





A New Kind of Hero

- The protagonist of 18th literature is the new emerging class: the bourgeoisie.
- The genre which mirrors their habits, customs and style is the «novel».
- The word «**novel**» comes from the Latin «**novus**» as **new** was this emerging class in the social scene.
- Novel hero: embodies individualistic values.





LOYALTY

COURAGE

SACRIFICE

HONESTY

PROFIT

SUCCESS

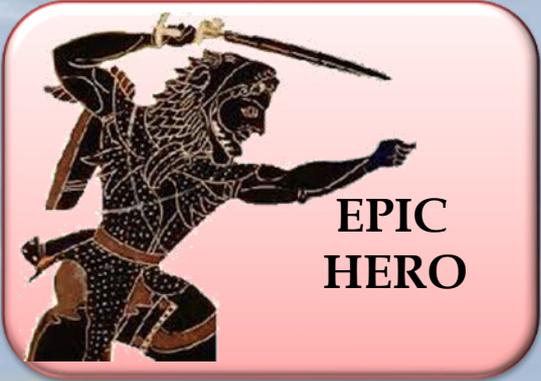
RESPECTABILITY

POWER

UNIVERSAL VALUES

INDIVIDUAL VALUES





AT THE SERVICE



SATISFIES

King and country!!



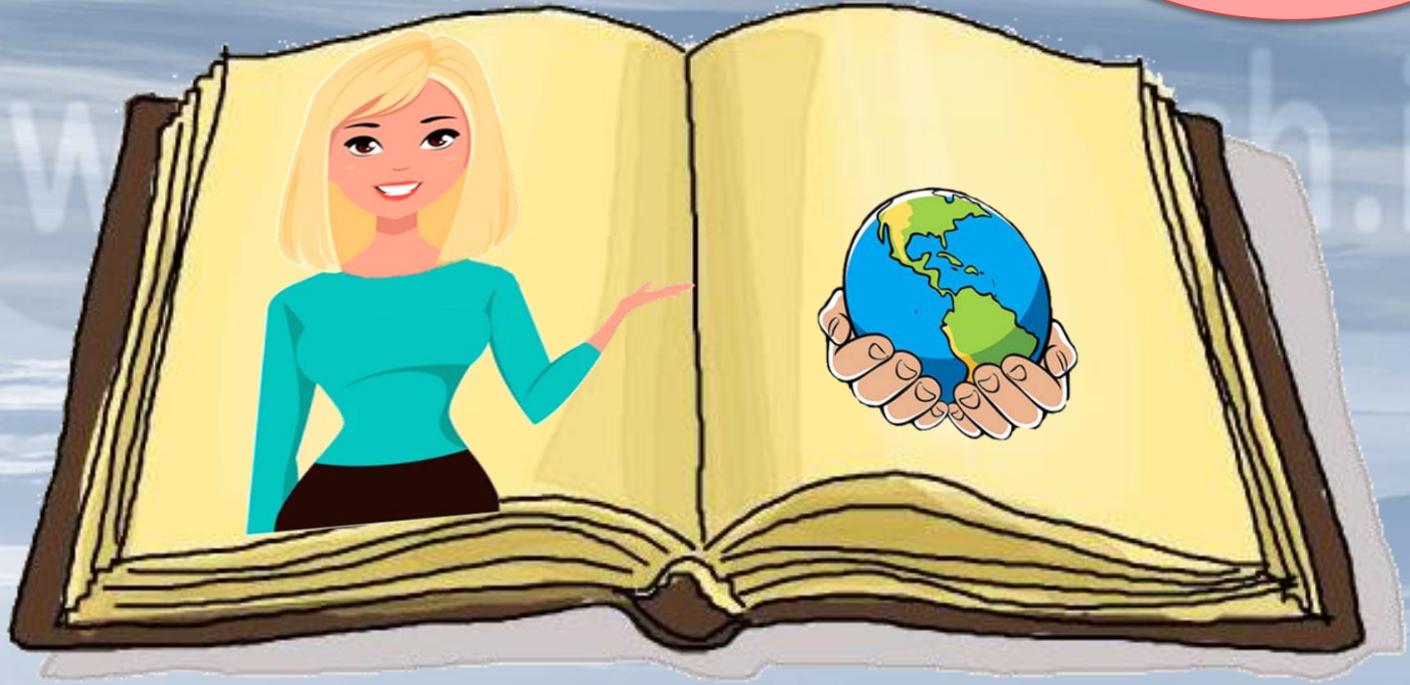
The self. Myself!



This means that the a «hero» in this century does not embody any longer universal, unifying values, but.....

...individual values only!

As everything was centred on himself, now, it was customary to introduce oneself in the first page of the novel!



- **I was born in the year 1632**, in the city of **York**, of a **good family**, though not of that country, my father being a foreigner of Bremen, who settled first at Hull.
- He got a good estate **by merchandise**, and leaving off his trade, lived afterwards at York, from whence he had married my mother, whose relations were named Robinson, a very good family in that country, and from whom I was called **Robinson Kreutznaer**; but, by the usual corruption of words in England, we are now called - nay we call ourselves and write our name - **Crusoe**; and so my companions always called me.
- I had **two elder brothers**, one of whom was **lieutenant-colonel** to an English regiment of foot in Flanders, formerly commanded by the famous Colonel Lockhart, and was killed at the battle near Dunkirk against the Spaniards. What became of my second brother I never knew, any more than my father or mother knew what became of me.



ID RC1719DD



NAME : Robison Kreutznaer

DATE OF BIRTH: 1632

PLACE OF BIRTH: YORK

LIVES: YORK

FAMILY: MOTHER, FATHER AND 2 BROTHERS

STATION: MIDDLE CLASS

- Being **the third son of the family** and **not bred to any trade**, my head began to be filled very early with rambling thoughts. My father, who was very ancient, had given me a competent share of learning, as far as house-education and a country free school generally go, and **designed me for the law**; but **I would be satisfied with nothing but going to sea**; and my inclination to this led me so strongly **against** the will, nay, **the commands of my father**, and against all the entreaties and persuasions of my mother and other friends, that there seemed to be something fatal in that propensity of nature, tending directly to the life of misery which was to befall me.





Robinson's father had intended him for the Law, but he dreams of an adventurous life at sea .

The First English Novel?

1. Defoe's Robinson is credited to be the first English novel , because :
2. the **entire life of the protagonist**, even the seemingly mundane details, is **explained**.
3. The **fictitious narrative** is presented **as true**
4. The realistic elements are very important.
5. The story is told by a first-person narrator (“I”), making it a “fake autobiography”.



A True Fact? Maybe.

- The story of Alexander Selkik is credited to have inspired Robinson Crusoe,

BUT

- Selkirk was a pirate
- *Robinson* is the sole survivor of a shipwreck. He lands on an island by accident —, while Selkirk chose to be left on an island.
- Selkirk had an argument with the captain because he didn't think that the ship was safe enough to keep sailing and marooned himself on the island.
- Selkirk thought that another English ship would sail by within the next few weeks or months, and that he would soon be riding the seas again. Unfortunately, that ship he was waiting for didn't arrive for four and a half years.



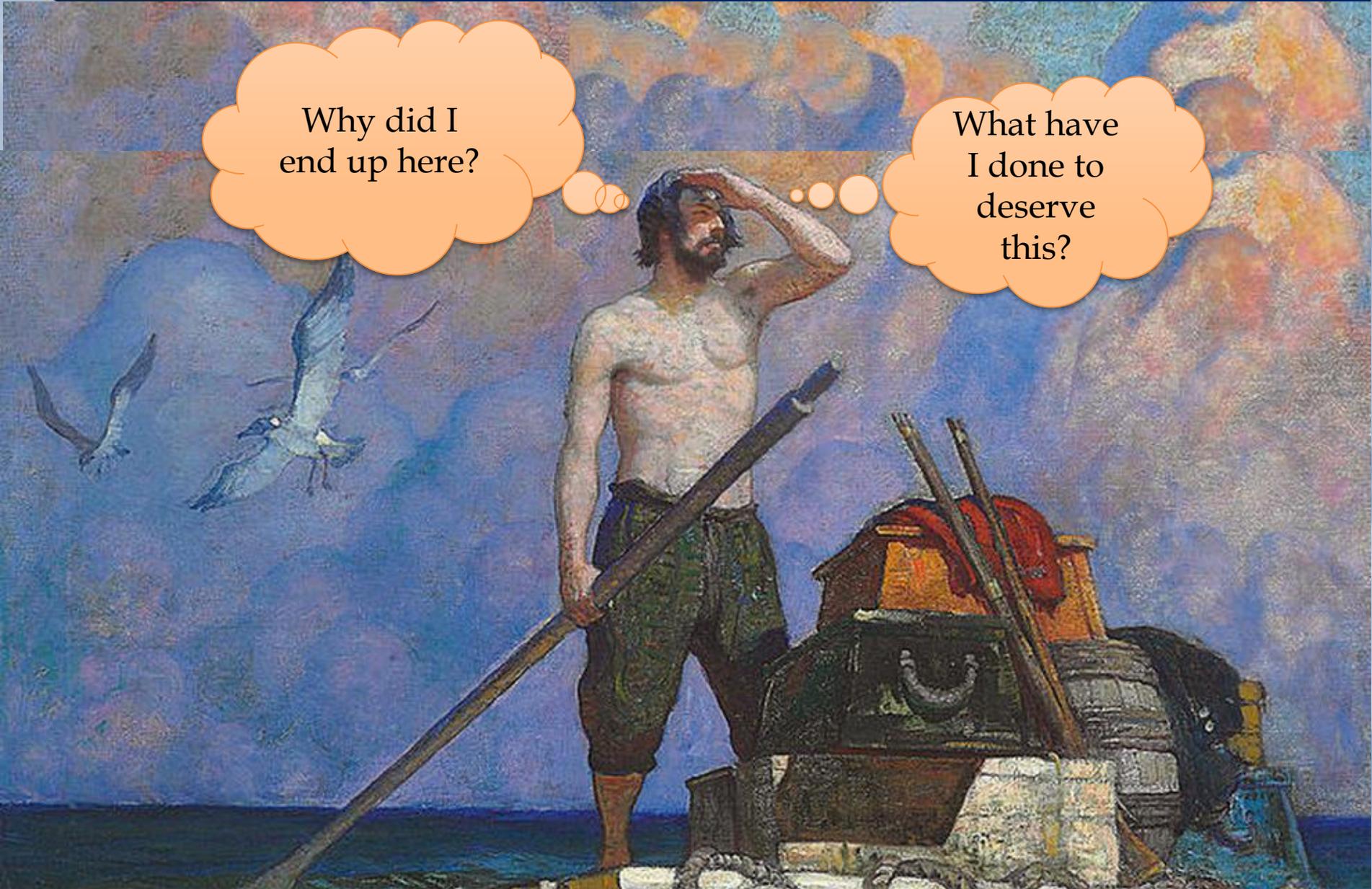
PLOT: The thirst for adventure

- Robinson Crusoe, defied his parents and went to sea.
- He is involved in a series of adventures around the world
- Buys a plantation in Brazil.
- Undertakes a trip to Africa to buy slaves
- Crusoe and his crew are shipwrecked
- He is thrown upon shore
- He is the sole survivor of the wreck.



Why did I
end up here?

What have
I done to
deserve
this?



The Punishment

- For the Puritans, fortune, success etc. were signs God's goodwill.
- While misfortunes of any kind were interpreted as God's punishment for a sinful behaviour.
- De facto, according to this interpretation Robinson has been punished for having disobeyed his parents.
- The island is the place where he will have to expiate his sins.



The Plot: the Island

- Crusoe makes immediate plans for food, and then shelter, to protect himself from wild animals.
- He brings as many things as possible from the wrecked ship
- He begins to develop talents that he had never used in order to provide himself with necessities.
- He begins to communicate with God, thus beginning the first part of his religious conversion.
- To keep his sanity and to entertain himself, he begins a journal.



I actually
start to feel
less stressed
out!



The Island: a Metaphor

- The island represents the place of Robinson's:

1. Punishment
2. Atonement

It is in such natural environment that Robinson can expiate his sins. His closeness to Nature allows him to be close to God.

NATURE → SPIRITUAL DIVINE POWER



Robinson's Journal

- Robinson's journal makes the central part of the novel in which we find:
 1. Full and detailed account of his routine
 2. Accurate descriptions of places and tools
 3. Intimate thoughts

The diary form increases the sense of realism of the story.





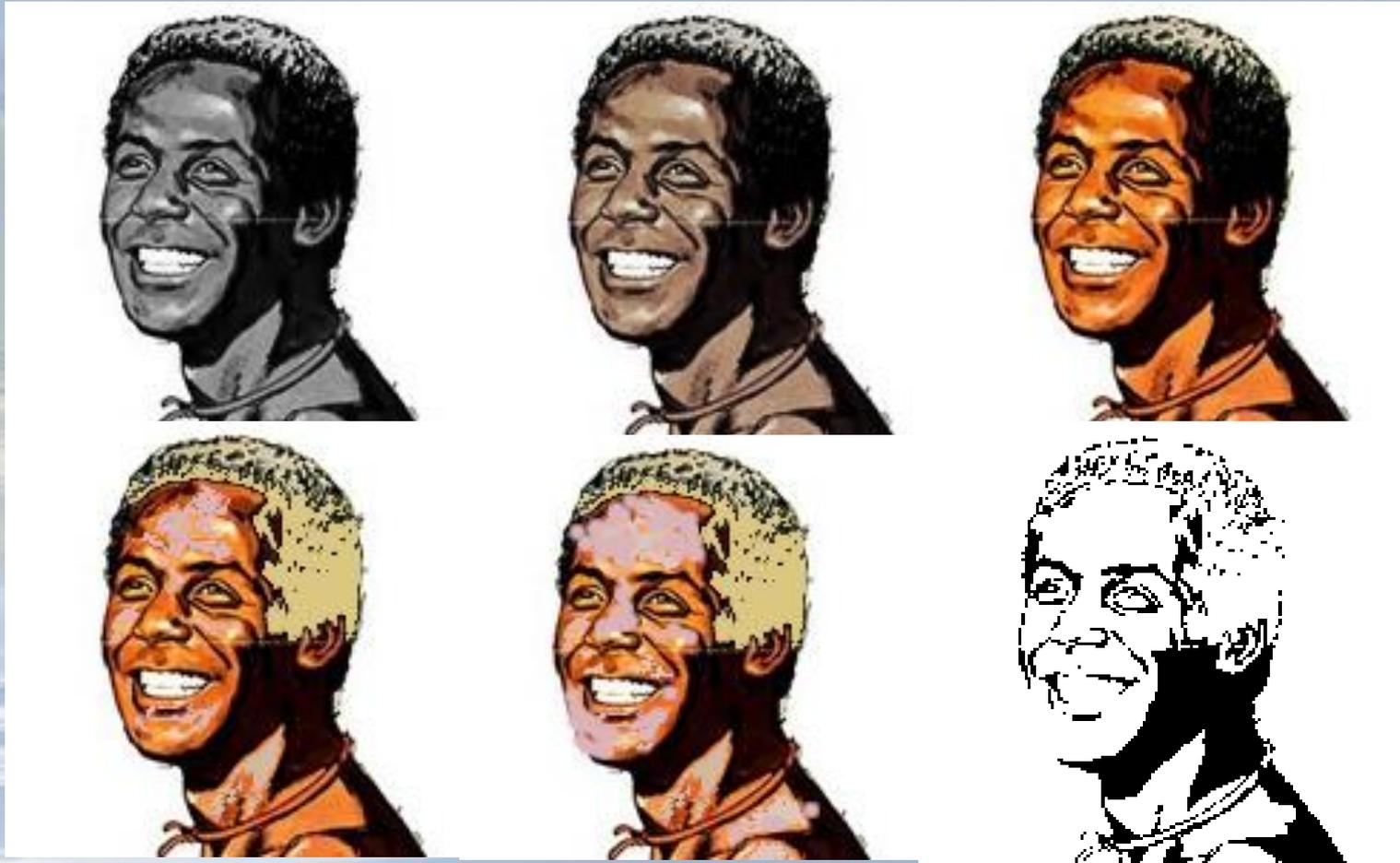
The Plot: Friday

- After spending about fifteen years on the island, Crusoe found a man's naked footprint
- Sometime later, Crusoe finds human bones scattered about the shore, evidently the remains of a savage feast.
- Sometime later, cannibals landed on the island and a victim escaped.
- Crusoe saved his life, named him Friday, and taught him English.
- Friday soon became Crusoe's humble and devoted slave.



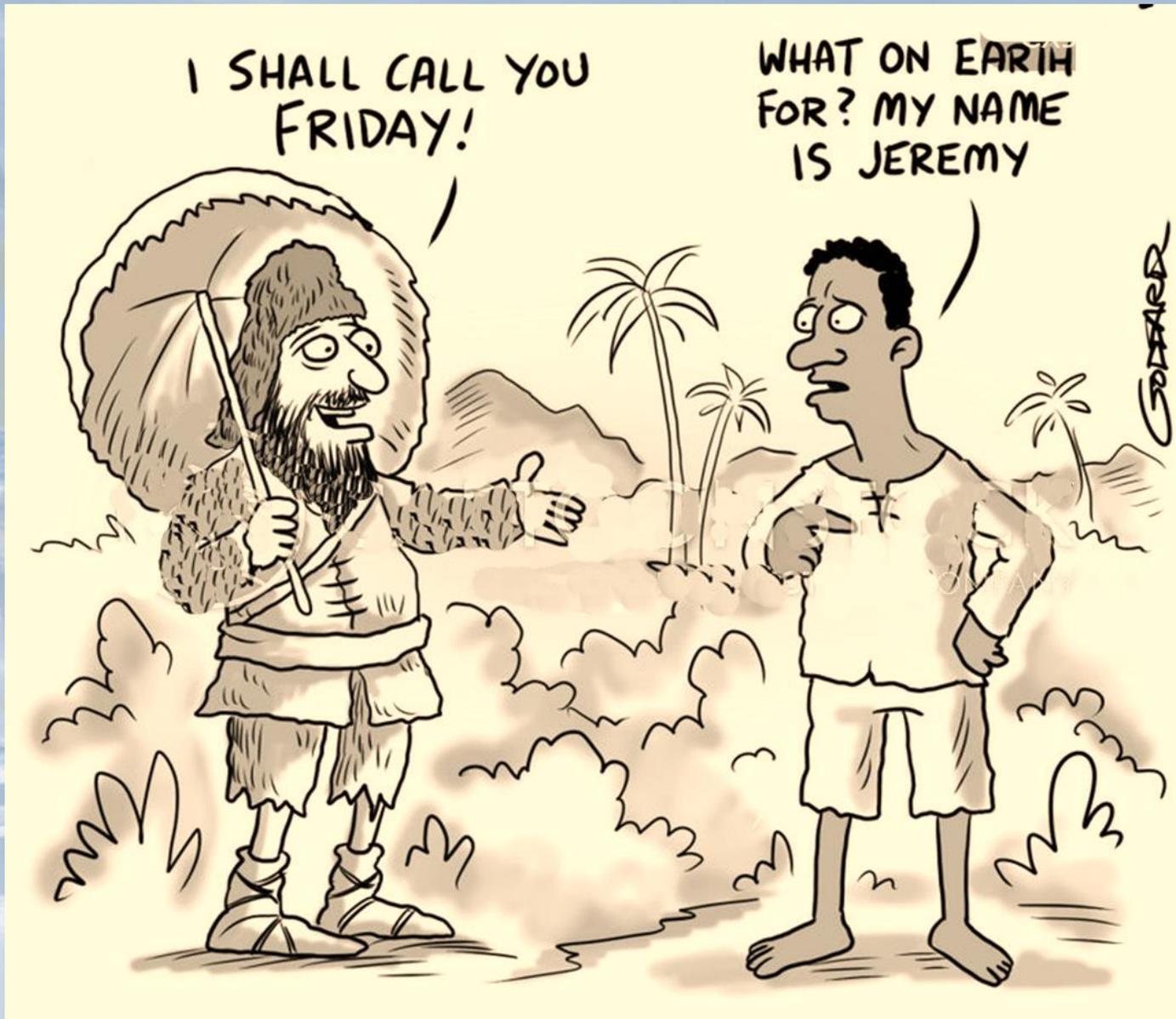
He was a comely, handsome fellow, perfectly well made, with straight, strong limbs, not too large; tall, and well-shaped; and, as I reckon, about twenty-six years of age. He had a very good countenance, not a fierce and surly aspect, but seemed to have something very manly in his face; and yet he had all the sweetness and softness of a European in his countenance, too, especially when he smiled. His hair was long and black, not curled like wool; his forehead very high and large; and a great vivacity and sparkling sharpness in his eyes. The colour of his skin was not quite black, but very tawny; and yet not an ugly, yellow, nauseous tawny, as the Brazilians and Virginians, and other natives of America are, but of a bright kind of a dun olive-colour, that had in it something very agreeable, though not very easy to describe. His face was round and plump; his nose small, not flat, like the negroes; a very good mouth, thin lips, and his fine teeth well set, and as white as ivory.





After he had slumbered, rather than slept, about half-an-hour, he awoke again, and came out of the cave to me: for I had been milking my goats which I had in the enclosure just by: when he espied me he came running to me, laying himself down again upon the ground, with all the possible signs of an humble, thankful disposition, making a great many antic gestures to show it. At last he lays his head flat upon the ground, close to my foot, and sets my other foot upon his head, as he had done before; and after this made all the signs to me of subjection, servitude, and submission imaginable, to let me know how he would serve me so long as he lived. I understood him in many things, and let him know I was very well pleased with him. In a little time I began to speak to him; and teach him to speak to me: and first, I let him know his name should be Friday, which was the day I saved his life: I called him so for the memory of the time. I likewise taught him to say Master; and then let him know that was to be my name: I likewise taught him to say Yes and No and to know the meaning of them.





Plot: leaving the Island

- Friday and Robinson spy a ship where there had been a mutiny .
- Crusoe and Friday rescue the captain and two other men and regain control of the ship.
- The grateful captain gives Crusoe many gifts and takes him and Friday back to England.
- Crusoe finds that in his absence he has become a wealthy man.
- Crusoe sells his plantation in Brazil for a good price, marries and has three children.
- Eventually he goes back to visit his old island.
- Friday will be killed in a sea battle as Robinson says in the other book : “The Further Adventures of Robinson Crusoe”



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The Arrival of "Black Friday"

