

Robinson Crusoe

An intriguing story from my English literature days was *Robinson Crusoe*, a novel by Daniel Defoe that was first published in 1719. The book is a fictional autobiography of the title character – a castaway who spends 28 years on a remote tropical island near Venezuela, encountering Native Americans, captives and mutineers before being rescued.



The story was perhaps influenced by Alexander Selkirk, a Scottish castaway who lived for four years on the Pacific island called *Mas a Tierra* (in 1966, its name was changed to Robinson Crusoe Island), Chile.

When Crusoe was wrecked on his lonely island, he drew up in two columns what he called the evil and the good:

- He was cast on a desolate island, but he was still alive, not drowned, as his ship's company was.
- He was apart from human society, but he was not starving.
- He had no clothes, but he was in a hot climate where he did not need them.
- He was without means of defense, but he saw no wild beasts such as he had witnessed on the coast of Africa.
- He had no one to whom he could speak, but God had sent the ship so near to the shore that he could get out of it all the things necessary for his basic wants.

So Robinson Crusoe concluded that there was not any condition in the world so miserable but that he could find something for which to be grateful.

Those of us in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home learn that lesson early. As one example, our health. No matter what challenge we may have to our physical wellbeing, we don't have to look far to find someone with a worse condition.

So there are many reasons to be grateful – among them the beauty of a sunrise or the warmth of a smile or the sweetness of love.

Just consider the possibilities, and the blessings.

– Beecher Hunter