

Swiss Family Robinson Study Guide

Swiss Family Robinson was written by a Swiss pastor who wanted his sons to learn about many topics that he felt were important to know, such as family values, self-reliance, good stewardship of natural resources, frugality, and many others. So he wrote this book and incorporated all of those lessons into the storyline.

Author: Johann David Wyss

Year Published: 1812–13

Perspective and Narrator: Father narrates the events of The Swiss Family Robinson. He tells the story as a first-person limited narrator through the journal he keeps while the family is on a deserted island.

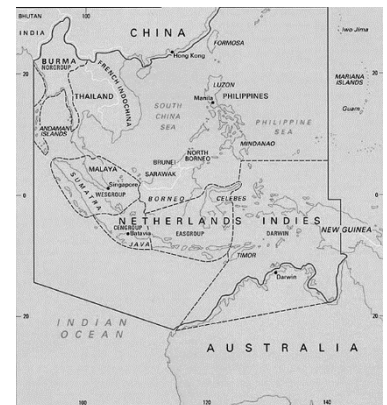
Tense: The Swiss Family Robinson is written in the past tense.

About the Title

The Swiss Family Robinson centers on the Robinson family from Switzerland. The family is traveling to Australia and a storm causes a shipwreck. The Swiss Family Robinson tells about the family's adventures and survival on a deserted island.

Overview

The Swiss Family Robinson is a fiction novel published in 1812 by Swiss author Johann Wyss. It chronicles the adventures of a family of Swiss immigrants shipwrecked in the East Indies. (In those days the East Indies referred to South East Asia and the north Eastern part of Australia.) 'Robinson' is not a Swiss name, but it was inspired by the author's reading of Daniel Defoe's novel, Robinson Crusoe, (another story about being stranded on an island.)



Wyss, a Swiss minister, wrote the story as an entertaining life lesson for his four sons, which he told them orally before eventually writing it down. Years later, Wyss's son edited and published the manuscript. This book is a childhood favorite for generations, the book is the source of over a dozen film and television adaptations, including a 1960 Disney film.

Plot Summary

Set in the late 1700s, The Swiss Family Robinson recounts the ten-year adventure of Robinson, his wife Elizabeth, and their four sons, Fritz, Ernest, Jack, and Franz on an uninhabited island in the south Pacific. En route to Australia, the Robinsons' ship is wrecked in a turbulent storm. The crew escapes in the lifeboats, leaving the family stranded aboard the shattered vessel. The wreckage is wedged between rocks within sight of land, giving the family precious little time to fashion a makeshift canoe in which they make landfall on the nearby island. They establish camp on the beach and, after several trips back to the wreckage, gather enough supplies for short-term survival.

The family immediately explores the surrounding area. They build a bridge across a stream, granting them access to the territory beyond the beach; they arm themselves with guns and ammunition from the ship's stores and hunt for food; they retreat from the oppressive heat of the beach to a shady wooded grove where they build a treehouse; and they assemble a small sailing vessel found packed in the ship's hold. Along the way, the ever-resourceful Robinson schools his sons in arcane species of plants and animals, and the devout family prays regularly to thank God for the island bounty.

As the weeks turn into months, seasonal monsoons force the Robinsons to look for warmer, drier accommodations. Exploring the cliff face along the beach, they discover a massive cavern behind the rock wall. Full of useful minerals and providing defensible cover, the cave is transformed by the family into a habitable dwelling complete with a workshop, a kitchen, and sleeping quarters. Settling in for the long haul, the family explores further inland, planting crops, amassing a menagerie of indigenous animals as pets and pack animals, and continually finding ingenious ways to use the island's resources for their survival and comfort.

As time passes, Robinson finds endless projects to keep himself and his family occupied. He builds a loom for Elizabeth; they block a gap in the cliff wall to prevent the incursion of hungry animals into their garden; and they explore the rocky outcrops in the shallows. After months of relative peace, the first life-threatening danger comes in the form of a gigantic boa constrictor, forcing the family to retreat into the cave for three days before they formulate a plan to slay it. All the while, Robinson reflects on his sons' physical and spiritual growth.

After ten years on the island, the boys are now robust, confident young men. Robinson marvels at the passage of time and contemplates his mortality. One day, Fritz finds a message attached to an albatross—a call for help. He sets out in his kayak to search for whoever sent the message and finds Jenny Montrose, the lone survivor of a ship bound for England three years prior. The Robinsons quickly accept Jenny as part of the family, and she and Fritz develop a romantic relationship.

Soon after, a Royal Navy ship searching for Montrose discovers the island and rescues the family. Having acclimated to their new home—named by them "New Switzerland"—Robinson and Elizabeth decide to remain on the island with Ernest and Jack. Fritz and Franz return to Europe. Robinson entrusts his journals to Fritz, hoping they will be published so they can serve as a moral and educational guide for other families.

Plot – step by step summary

Stranded

Father, Mother, Fritz, Ernest, Jack, and Francis Robinson are in the hold of a ship during a storm that has damaged the ship. Father hears the captain call out that all is lost. Father goes on deck to find that the captain and crew have deserted the ship and left the Robinson family behind. Father comforts his family while they wait for the storm to pass.

The Robinson family builds a raft out of barrels and rafts to the shore of a nearby island with two dogs named Turk and Flora. They make camp with some supplies taken from the ship. The family begins exploring the island and finds nearby animals that they can use for food. They spend the night in a tent made of sailcloth.

Father and Fritz explore part of the island and find a way to make eating utensils. They also find plants such as coconuts and sugarcane. The dog Turk kills a monkey which leaves its infant motherless. Fritz adopts the infant monkey. Jackals attack the camp that evening, and Father, Fritz, and the dogs kill the jackals.

Father and Fritz raft to the ship and spend two days gathering additional supplies. They bring livestock from the ship back to the island using life jackets made of empty barrels. Mother, Jack, Ernest, and Francis explore part of the island while Father and Fritz are on board the ship. Mother finds tall trees and suggests that they build a treehouse so that they will be safer from wild animals.

Building a New Life

The Robinson family moves their camp to the grove of large trees. Father captures a flamingo to add to their poultry and then builds a treehouse with a rope ladder. The family moves into the treehouse after celebrating the Sabbath. The Christian Sabbath is a day of rest and worship to the Christian God. Father wants to celebrate it because he is a pastor.

Father makes a bow and arrows so that Fritz, Ernest, Jack, and Francis can learn to use it before the gunpowder from the ship is gone. The family names different landmarks on the island and explores a new route to the shore where they find useful plants such as pineapples and a plant that can be used for sewing thread.

Father and Ernest build a sledge or cart to be pulled by their donkey and cow. The family uses the sledge to transport additional supplies from the shore to the treehouse. The family has a way to move supplies more easily, so Father and Fritz return to the ship to salvage additional supplies. Father and Fritz find agricultural tools, fishing equipment, and seedlings that were meant for a new colony in the South Pacific. Jack joins Father and Fritz to retrieve additional supplies, and Fritz finds a pinnace or small boat on board. Father, Fritz, and Jack spend over a week assembling the pinnace on board the ship and then use it to transport additional supplies to the island.

The family spends several weeks building items they need for their new home and exploring the island. They continue to find plants and animals that they can raise for a food source. The donkey runs away, and Father and Jack leave to search for it. Father and Jack do not find the donkey but capture a buffalo calf that Father trains as a replacement for the donkey. Fritz captures a young eagle and trains it to help hunt.

Father builds a staircase inside the tree as a replacement for the rope ladder. The family's donkey returns with an onagra or wild donkey as a mate. The family trains the onagra and adds it to their growing livestock. Father knows that the rainy season is coming, so the family builds a shelter under the tree that they hope will keep the family, livestock, and supplies

protected during the rains. They find that the shelter is too crowded during the rainy season and decide to find a better shelter during the summer.

Expansion

Father, Fritz, and Jack begin digging a cave in a mountain of rock and cut into a large cavern under the mountain. They spend the next several months adapting the cavern to be their new home. Father, Fritz, Jack, and Ernest decide to build a farmhouse near their crops and a cottage near a lake. They continue to find new animals and plants that they can use for survival.

The family marks each anniversary of their shipwreck on the island with a competition that includes marksmanship, racing, riding, and swimming. Father awards prizes to the winners in each category.

The Robinson family moves into the cavern home for the rainy season and find that it is better than the shelter under the tree. The cavern is large enough that the family has space for a workroom, library, and all of their livestock and supplies. The family enjoys a comfortable rainy season in the cavern.

A boa constrictor attacks the family outside the cavern. The boa kills the donkey before Father, Fritz, Jack, and Ernest can kill it. The family spends several days searching the island for any other boas that may be nearby. They do not find any other boas, but they find a desert with ostriches, kaolin clay that is used to make porcelain, rabbits, and talc. Father uses the kaolin clay to make pottery and the talc to make windows for the cavern. Fritz, Jack, and Francis corral a herd of antelopes on the family's side of the island.

The family builds a kayak that Fritz uses to explore the ocean. They harvest their crops and store food and convert the bridge over the river into a drawbridge to provide further protection from wild animals.

The Outside World

The family survives on the island for 10 years. Fritz explores the ocean one day and finds a bay containing oysters with pearls. Birds attack him as he is cleaning an animal he shot for food, and he finds a note attached to an albatross's leg. The note states that there is another shipwreck survivor nearby. Fritz replies by attaching his own note to the albatross's leg. He keeps the note a secret from everyone but Father.

Father, Fritz, Ernest, and Jack travel to the bay to gather pearls. A lion and lioness attack. The men kill the lions, but the lioness kills the dog Flora. The men bury Flora on the shore before leaving the bay.

Fritz leaves separately because he wants to look for the nearby survivor. He is gone for five days. He finds a girl named Emily Montrose who has been alone on a nearby island for three years. Emily joins the family and quickly becomes like a sister to the boys. Emily spends the rainy season with the Robinson family.

Fritz and Jack fire the cannons after the rainy season to be sure they are still working properly. A ship in the distance responds by firing cannons. The Robinson family and Emily prepare to defend themselves in case it is a pirate ship.

The ship arrives at the island several days later, and the family greets the English Captain Littleton and his passenger Mr. Wolston. Captain Littleton knows Emily's father and was sent to search for her. The Robinson family shows Captain Littleton and Mr. Wolston their island home. Emily, Fritz, and Francis want to leave on board the ship. Mother, Father, Jack, and Ernest decide to stay on the island. Mr. Wolston and part of his family ask to stay on the island. Father agrees. Father says goodbye to Europe in his last entry of the journal and gives Fritz the journal to take back to Europe.

Characters

Father

Father is the narrator of the story and the leader of the Robinson family. He has read many survival stories and has vast knowledge of the local plants and animals. The information he has gathered about survival and the local resources as well as his gentle instructions to the rest of the Robinson family ensure their survival after being shipwrecked on a deserted island in the South Pacific. He grows to think of the island as home and chooses to stay when there is a rescue opportunity.

Mother

Mother's bravery and resourcefulness play a large role in the Robinson family's survival on the deserted island in the South Pacific from the beginning. She brings supplies from the wrecked ship that Father and the boys would not have thought to get, and she continually surprises the rest of the family by thinking of ways to make their lives easier on the island. She loves the island and chooses to stay when there is a rescue opportunity.

Fritz

Fritz is 14 when the ship wrecks on the deserted island. He already knows several things about survival and how to hunt and contributes greatly to the Robinson family's success especially in the beginning. Fritz is compassionate and enjoys taming interesting animals the family finds on the island including a monkey and an eagle.

Ernest

Ernest is 12 when the ship wrecks on the deserted island. He is interested in plants and animals and studied them before the shipwreck. His knowledge helps the family identify the local flora and fauna and tame several animals. He also helps care for the animals while on the island. Ernest remains on the island when there is a rescue opportunity.

Jack

Jack is 10 years old when the ship wrecks on the deserted island. Jack assists with various tasks around the new home on the island and is an adventurous explorer. He is also

innovative and contributes to the family's welfare with several new tools such as a harpoon for catching fish. He remains on the island when there is a rescue opportunity.

Francis

Francis is six years old at the time of the shipwreck. He plays on the deserted island and loves growing up on the island. One of his tasks is to lead the goats and sheep to pasture, and he helps Mother and the other boys with various tasks on their island home. He returns to Europe when there is a rescue opportunity.

Symbols

The Treehouse

The treehouse is a symbol of the family's new life on the island. It is the first permanent structure that the family builds. The family camps in a tent made of sailcloth when they first reach the island. The tent is not adequate protection from wild animals, and Mother believes that the family should find a more permanent home. Father knows that ships do not travel the ocean near their island often, and he agrees that the family should have a strong home. Mother notes after discovering the large trees, "It occurred to me, that if we should but contrive a kind of tent that could be fixed in one of the trees, we might safely come and make our abode there." Father agrees after Mother shows him the grove of trees. He tells her, "To you be all the honour, my dear wife, of the discovery of this agreeable abode, in which we shall enjoy so many comforts and advantages."

The family builds the treehouse several days after arriving on the island. Their first permanent home on the island proves to be their favorite because of its beauty and the life it represents. The family builds several more homes on the island later but always uses the treehouse and the rock cavern as their primary dwelling places. Mother comments after a long stay in the rock cavern, "It is wrong to let that beautiful habitation go to ruin." She wants to return to it even though the rock cavern offers more protection from wild animals.

The Cavern

The rock cavern is a symbol of protection and safety. The treehouse that the family made as their first home is beautiful and provides most of their needs, but it is unprotected from the rain and wind during the rainy season. The family hopes to stay at the trees during the rainy season using a shelter built under the tree roots, but Father states, "Our little sheds between the roots, constructed for the poultry and the cattle, could scarcely contain us all." The treehouse does not provide enough shelter from the elements even though it is a good refuge from most wild animals.

The cavern is large enough that the family and all of their livestock can comfortably stay in it. The size of the cavern gives them protection from any wild animal that may happen to come near them. A boa constrictor comes near the cavern, and the family uses the cavern for protection. Father states, "I expressly commanded my whole family to remain in the grotto, and forbade them opening the door without my permission." The family stays in the cavern safely for three days. No wild animal can get through the rock.

The family hears the cannons on a ship in the distance after they have been on the island for over 10 years. Father knows that the cavern can help them remain safe from pirates if the ship's crew is not friendly. He "ordered that everything in the grotto should be put in a place of safety." He knows that the safest place for many of their supplies is in the cavern.

Themes

Family

The Swiss Family Robinson is primarily about family. Each member of the Robinson family cares about the others and wants the others to succeed. The family works well enough together that they not only survive on the deserted island but flourish.

Father tells the family during the storm that wrecks the ship, "Death may be well supported when it does not separate those who love." He loves Mother, Fritz, Ernest, Jack, and Francis and knows that they feel the same way. Father knows that the family will stay together no matter what the outcome of the storm and that they will be able to make anything work together. Father describes his family as they row the raft toward shore. He calls Mother "the most tender and exemplary of her sex." Francis is "remarkable for the sweetest and happiest tempter, and for his affection to his parents." Fritz is "full of intelligence and vivacity," and Father describes Jack as an "enterprising, audacious, and generous young lad." He describes Ernest as having a "rational, reflecting temper." All of Father's descriptions of the family show how much affection he has for them.

The family works together for survival. Father and Mother work as a team to make important family decisions. They respect each other's opinions and openly listen so that they can make the best decisions for the family. Father and Mother listen to the children as well. Fritz, Ernest, Jack, and Francis are each knowledgeable in several areas and work as a team to discuss ideas and create innovations that help the family in some way.

The Robinson family welcomes new people as family without hesitation. Fritz finds Emily Montrose after the family has been on the island for over 10 years. Fritz tells Father, "I want to enjoy their surprise when they find I have brought them back a sister, for I am sure she will allow them to call her so." Emily earns the respect of the Robinson family, and they gladly welcome her as a sister. Emily calls Father "papa" shortly after they meet because the family greets her so warmly and openly.

Survival

The Swiss Family Robinson is a story of survival. The Robinson family survives the shipwreck that leaves them stranded at the beginning of The Swiss Family Robinson. The ship is damaged but stays afloat so that the family is not injured. The Robinson family's first effort at survival is in leaving the ship. They find a way to do that by building a raft with barrels from the ship. Father describes the raft by saying, "We found we had produced a kind of narrow boat, divided into eight compartments, which I had no doubt would be able to perform a short course in calm water." The family's innovation allows them to survive the ship and raft to land.

The Robinson family is able to find plentiful food on the island that aids their survival. They take guns from the ship and hunt wild game. Father had studied plants. That knowledge allows the family to have enough fruit and vegetables to supplement the meat.

The Robinson family survives several wild animal attacks. They fight jackals away from the campsite soon after they land on the island with the help of the guns and dogs they found on the ship. They also have to kill a tiger, boa, shark, bears, lions, and other animals. The family is able to survive each animal attack, though they lose some of their faithful animal companions during the attacks.

Father, Mother, Fritz, Ernest, Jack, and Francis are able to survive for years on the island by working together and thinking through every problem to arrive at the best solution. Each member of the family is considered a valuable part of the team. Father and Mother provide the children with a valuable education in finding food and protecting themselves from danger.

Providence

Providence is a theme throughout *The Swiss Family Robinson*. Providence is another word for the Christian God. Christians use Providence to specifically name God's power of sustaining and guiding human destiny. Father is a pastor who believes in the power of Providence and encourages the family to seek God's help and guidance. The family prays together during the storm on the ship. Father explains, "We all fell on our knees, and supplicated the God of Mercy to protect us; and the emotion and fervour of the innocent creatures are a convincing proof that even in childhood devotion may be felt and understood." Father and Mother teach Fritz, Ernest, Jack, and Francis to worship and trust in God.

The family thanks Providence throughout *The Swiss Family Robinson*. They build their treehouse and are able to find plentiful resources on the island. Father makes sure that they observe the Sabbath or holy day. The Sabbath is a day specified as a day of rest and worship in the Christian Bible and is usually observed on Sunday. Father states, "I was penetrated with the most lively desire to impress upon the young minds of my children a subject I considered of the highest importance for their well-being." Father considers teaching his children about God to be the most important thing he can do for them.

Father, Jack, and Ernest are on the ocean in a canoe when a storm hits. They make it to shore after a long fight against the wind and rain and find that Mother, Fritz, and Francis are praying for their return. Father states that they are "kneeling on the beach: they were praying for our preservation."

Father thanks Providence after 10 years on the island. He writes, "Providence had willed that the land of our exile should be in one of the most favoured quarters of the globe, and every day we offered up our thanks to Him for His goodness and beneficent kindness towards us." He does not believe that the family was lucky to be stranded on an island with so many resources but believes that God took care of them by providing plentiful food.

Class Discussion

1. Fritz tells Franz, “We must not settle what God should do for us. We must have patience and wait His time.” Read Psalm 37:7, Psalm 10:14, Isaiah 30:18, and Nahum 1:7. Is it easy for you to wait for God’s timing? Why or why not? What do these verses tell us?

2. On the first few pages of the story, we find the family in great peril on a sinking ship. Father tells the family, “If the Lord will, He can save us even from this fearful peril; if not, let us calmly yield our lives into His hand, and think of the joy and blessedness of finding ourselves forever and ever united in that happy home above.” What does this tell us about the spiritual beliefs of the family?

3. Read John 5:24, and 1 John 5:9. According to these passages, how can we be assured of going to heaven when we die?

4. In Chapter 3, after breakfast, Father halts everyone and calls them to morning prayer. “We are only too ready, amid the cares and pleasures of this life, to forget the God to whom we owe all things.” Read Philippians 4:6–7 and 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18. According to these verses, when and how should we pray?

5. Father says, “We certainly did not expect to be so entirely alone—but what matters a few people, more or less? With God’s help, let us endeavor to live here contentedly, thankful that we were not cast upon some bare and inhospitable island.”

Later, Mother says, “If it be the will of God . . . to leave us alone on this solitary place, let us be content; and rejoice that we are all together in safety.”

How do their statements compare to Paul’s statement in Philippians 4:12–13?

6. At the beginning of Chapter 1, as the storm threatened the ship, the sailors “uttered frantic cries to God for mercy, mingled with strange and often ludicrous vows, to be performed should deliverance be granted.”

Why do people try to bargain with God? Can God be bargained with?

Read Deuteronomy 23:21–23, Judges 11:30–40, and Ecclesiastes 5:4–7. What are the dangers in making vows? Read Matthew 5:33–37. What does Jesus teach in these verses about making vows?

7. As they wait on the wrecked ship for the storm to abate, Father tells his children that there is land not far off, and that they should attempt to reach it. He continues, “You know God helps those that help themselves!”

Although this is a popular saying, it is not found explicitly in scripture.

What is meant by this saying? Do you agree with the sentiment? Are there any verses that imply the same meaning?

Activities

Chapter 1

A. Before you read the chapter:

If you were stranded alone on a desert island, what would be your first three priorities and why?

B. Choose a word from the list to complete each sentence.

soundly, prowess, reckless, drawing, courage, earnestness, utmost, wetting

1. Instead of _____ oaths, the seamen now uttered frantic cries to God for mercy, mingled with strange and ludicrous vows, to be performed should deliverance be granted.
2. We knelt down together, one after another praying with deep _____ and emotion.
3. "We must find some food, and take a good supper," said she, "it will never do to grow faint by fasting too long. We shall require our _____ strength to-morrow."
4. Fritz, as well as his brothers, now slept _____.
5. "I shall never," said she, "muster _____ to get into one of these!"
6. "Oh, look here, father!" cried Jack, _____ a little spyglass joyfully out of his pocket.
7. "As to that," said Ernest, "I found something very good to eat, as well as Jack, only I could not get at them without _____ my feet."
8. "I am glad to see the results of your _____, my boy," said I; "but I cannot approve of deceit, even as a joke; stick to the truth in jest and earnest."

C. Questions on Chapter 1

1. Describe the setting of the story as Chapter One begins.
2. What did the members of the ship's crew do when they were scared by the rough waters at the beginning of the chapter?
3. Why did the father tie all of the empty flasks and tin canisters together?
4. When the makeshift raft was initially too heavy for the family to lift, what idea did the father come up with in order to launch the craft?
5. What are the first names of all four boys in the Robinson family?
6. What did the two dogs do when they saw the family paddling to shore without them?

D. Language Activity

1. Alliteration

There are many writers that enjoy using alliteration – a literary device is where the author repeats the same sound at the beginning of several words.

Here's an example of an alliteration: "grouching, grouching, grumbling, griping about something or other."

Using your imagination, create your own examples of alliteration from the following topics. Each example must contain a minimum of three words.

The cry of a baby

The sound of a thunderstorm

The sound of nature (think of an appropriate setting)

Workers hammering a nail

A child eating a bag of chips

2. Similes

A simile is a comparison using the words "like" or "as". Here's an example from Chapter One: "Everyone sprang gladly out of the boat but little Franz, who, lying packed in his tub like a potted shrimp, had to be lifted out by his mother."

What two things are being compared in this example?

Invent your own similes comparing the following items with something from your own imagination:

a) A man hitting his thumb with a hammer

b) An airplane taking off on a runway

3. Creative thinking: What would you bring?

If you were stranded on a desert island, and you could only bring ten items along in your backpack or suitcase, what would you bring?

4. Chapters 1–6 Vocabulary

For each vocabulary word below, write its definition, then write a sentence using that word.

1. conjecture

2. riven

3. incessant

4. ludicrous

5. exertions
6. tedious
7. vexed
8. vigilant
9. assail
10. cumbrous
11. preliminary
12. derision

Questions: Chapters 1-6

1. In Chapters 1–6, the family finds many plants and animals on the island. List as many of these plants and animals as you can.
2. When the ship runs aground on the rocks, what happens to all the ship’s crewmen?
3. As the ship founders on the rocks, each person is sent to find what he or she thinks would be of most use. With what does each person return?
4. What is the first thing the family does when they land?
5. Why does Father conclude that the island must be located near the equator?
6. Throughout these six chapters, Father offers many words of instruction to his children. List at least three examples of advice that Father gives to his sons regarding their behavior.

Extension Activity: Storyboard

A storyboard is a series of pictures that tell about an important event in a story. A storyboard can tell the story of only one scene – or the entire novel.

Complete the storyboard below illustrating the events described in the first 3 chapters of *The Swiss Family Robinson*. You may wish to practice your drawings on a separate piece of paper. For each chapter, divide your paper into 6 squares.



Character Study

The opening chapters of *The Swiss Family Robinson* introduce us to the six members of the Robinson family: Father, Mother, Franz, Fritz, Ernest, and Jack. We learn about these characters by what they say, what they do, and what other characters say about them. Careful study of these things will help you become familiar with the characters.

Each of the statements below describes one of the six characters. Fill in the blank with the name of the character that best fits the given description.

1. This character narrates the story.
2. This character comes up with the idea of making swimming belts to escape the ship.
3. This character is described as “indolent” by the narrator.
4. This character is attacked by a lobster.
5. This character is reluctant to step into the water.
6. This character is described as “thoughtless” and “heedless” by the narrator.
7. These two characters first set out to explore the island.
8. These two characters return to the ship to retrieve the animals left behind.
9. These four characters, on a second expedition to explore the island, discover a peaceful grove of huge trees.
10. This character suggests building a home up in one of the trees.
11. Rank the four children from oldest to youngest.
(Oldest) • • • (Youngest) •

50 Questions for class discussion

1. What made the Swiss Family Robinson change over to their residence? What precaution did they take before building it?
2. What are the names of all the animals in The Swiss Family Robinson?
3. How old are the family members in The Swiss Family Robinson?
4. What moral values are presented in The Swiss Family Robinson?
5. In The Swiss Family Robinson, what was the father's purpose in teaching his sons through object lessons, devotions, physical exercise, and books of knowledge?
6. What are 3 reasons Fritz's suggestion to let the ship's crew shift for themselves was wrong in The Swiss Family Robinson?
7. In The Swiss Family Robinson, what is the setting of the first campsite the family makes?
8. In the novel The Swiss Family Robinson why does the family decide to leave the beach and find a new place to live on the island?
9. What are the conflict, climax, and resolution in The Swiss Family Robinson ?
10. How did the family reach the tropical island?
11. What are the names of the places on the island in the book "The Swiss Family Robinson"?
12. How does Fritz learn about another victim forsaken on a far away island in The Swiss Family Robinson?
13. In The Swiss Family Robinson, what did the mother and sons do on day three?
14. What does the phrase "The riven masts had gone by the board" mean?
15. In The Swiss Family Robinson, what is the difference with Tentholm, Rock House and Falconhurst?
16. How did the family work together as a team during crisis? What does this tell you about the importance of a family?
17. What is the plot structure of The Swiss Family Robinson? Meaning what is the exposition, rising action, climax, etc.
18. In Chapter 12 of Swiss Family Robinson, the boys see something they think are men on horseback, perhaps Arabs. What do the "Arabs" prove to be?
19. How do the fowls and dogs get to shore?
20. What enemy confronted them on their way back from the wreck, and how did Fritz dispose of them?
21. What was the journey to the Promised Land?
22. What were the most important things learned by the Robinson family in The Swiss Family Robinson, written by Johann David Wyss and Johann Rudolf Wyss?
23. What is the setting of The Swiss Family Robinson?
24. What were some foods found on the island in The Swiss Family Robinson?
25. How is Grizzle helpful in The Swiss Family Robinson?
26. In the book "Swiss Family Robinson", why does the father consider the dogs to be useless?
27. How did the Swiss family Robinson build their second home?
28. To what good uses did they put the porcupine quills, coconuts, hide, and the turtle?

29. What are three problems that the family faced on the island? Please discuss any three problems encountered in The Swiss Family Robinson.
30. What unusual purpose does tobacco serve in The Swiss Family Robinson?
31. What is the problem in the story The Swiss Family Robinson?
32. In The Swiss Family Robinson, what good uses did they put the shark's skin to?
33. What does the cry of the ostrich sound like in The Swiss Family Robinson?
34. In The Swiss Family Robinson, name three examples of advice that the father gives to his boys.
35. What is the female sailor's name in "The Swiss Family Robinson"? Like kinda at the end there is a female sailor and I want to know what her name is.
36. How does the adventure come to a happy end?
37. What was the father's purpose in teaching his sons through object lessons and devotion?
38. In the novel "The Swiss Family Robinson" what did the family have for breakfast the first day on the island?
39. How do the characters make their utensils in The Swiss Family Robinson?
40. According to The Swiss Family Robinson, how do you distinguish a male ostrich from a female ostrich?
41. In The Swiss Family Robinson, why does the family call the place where they land on the island "Safety Bay?"
42. The Swiss Family Robinson by Johann David Wyss (Summary, Themes, Characters, Analysis, Quotes)
43. What can be another ending for Johann David Wyss's The Swiss Family Robinson?
44. Tell me an essay about whom I admire the most in the Swiss Family Robinson.
45. How did they build their first home?
46. What is the use of a jackal hide in this book?
47. How does Mr. Robinson get the idea to build a house in the cave in The Swiss Family Robinson?
48. What is the main theme in The Swiss Family Robinson by Johann David Wyss and Johann Rudolf Wyss?
49. How does Fritz catch the huge turtle in The Swiss Family Robinson?
50. In The Swiss Family Robinson, where did the family decide to live during the rainy season?