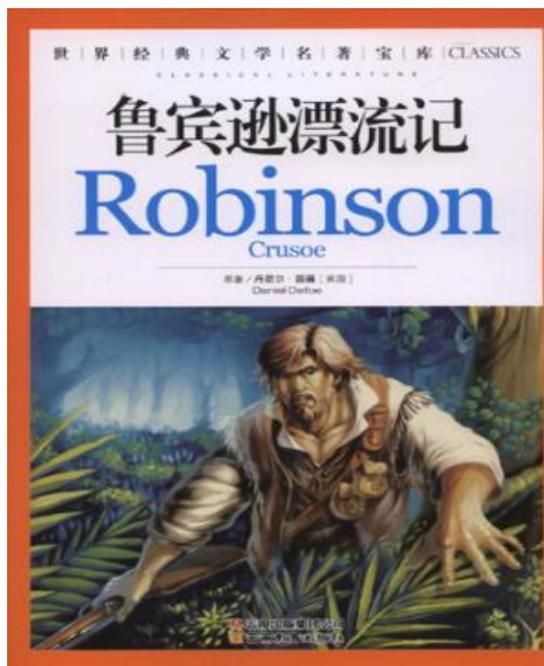


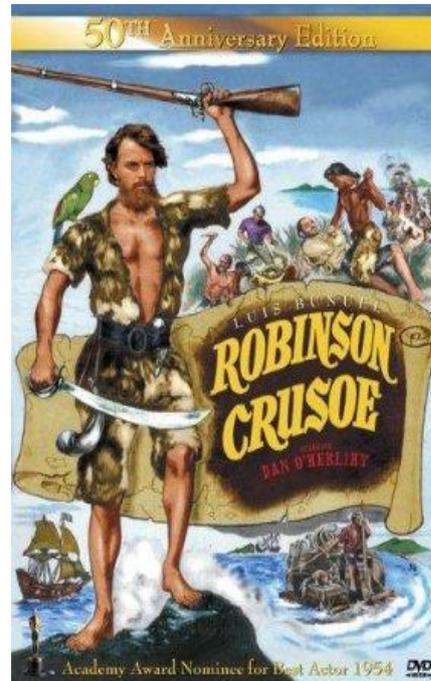
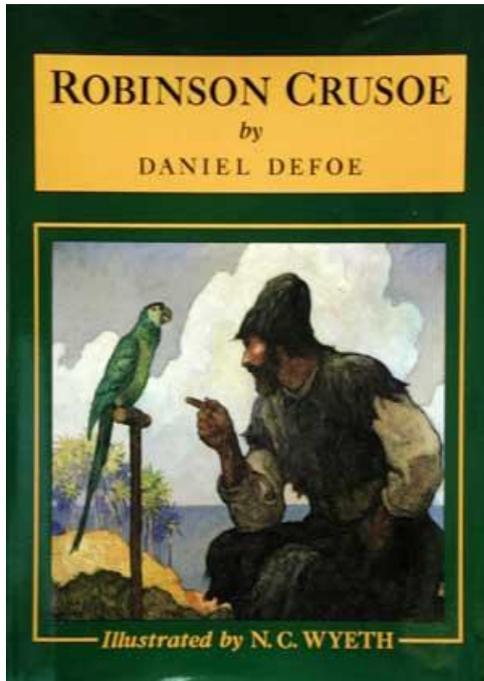
Reception

- ❖ published on April 25, 1719
- ❖ Before the end of the year, this first volume had run through four editions.
- ❖ Within years, it had reached an audience as wide as any book ever written in English.
- ❖ By the end of the 19th century, no book in the history of Western literature had had more editions, spin-offs and translations than *Robinson Crusoe*, with more than 700 such alternative versions, including children's versions with mainly pictures and no text.

versions



versions



- ❖ The term "[Robinsonade](#)" was coined to describe the genre of stories similar to *Robinson Crusoe*.
- ❖ Defoe went on to write a lesser-known sequel, *The Farther Adventures of Robinson Crusoe*.
- ❖ It was intended to be the last part of his stories, according to the original title-page of its first edition but a third part, *Serious Reflections of Robinson Crusoe* was written; it is a mostly forgotten series of moral essays with Crusoe's name attached to give interest.

Themes: colonialism

- ❖ Robinson Crusoe is the true symbol of the British conquest: The whole Anglo-Saxon spirit is in Crusoe.

- ❖ Crusoe attempts to replicate his own society on the island: application of European technology, agriculture, and even a rudimentary political hierarchy.
- ❖ The idealized master-servant relationship between Crusoe and Friday.
- ❖ Crusoe represents the “enlightened European.” Friday is the “savage” who can only be redeemed from his supposedly barbarous way of life through the assimilation into Crusoe's culture.
- ❖ Nevertheless, within the novel Defoe also takes the opportunity to criticize the historic Spanish conquest of South America.

Themes: Religion

- ❖ Robinson is not a hero, but an everyman--a wanderer to become a pilgrim, building a promised land on a desolate island.
- ❖ Robinson becomes closer to God, not through listening to sermons in a church but through spending time alone amongst nature with only a Bible to read.
- ❖ Defoe's central concern is the Christian notion of Providence.

Themes: The Importance of Self-Awareness

The Importance of Self-Awareness

Crusoe's arrival on the island does not make him revert to a brute existence controlled by animal instincts, and, unlike animals, he remains conscious of himself at all times. Indeed, his island existence actually deepens his self-awareness as he withdraws from the external social world and turns inward.