



# Daniel Defoe

1660-1731

was born in 1660 into a family of dissenters and he was educated at Newington Green, where he studied practical subjects. His father wanted a religious career for him, although he began working as an apprentice and then on his own. Furthermore he faced financial difficulties including being arrested for debt. After that he started to write in Whig papers; as a journalist his greatest achievement was "The Review". Therefore he became a well paid intellectual by writing

political essays and pamphlets till the reign of Queen Anne. Indeed the queen didn't like his critical attitude and had him imprisoned. He denied his Whig ideas so as to be freed and so he became a secret agent for the new government. Then he wrote novels like Robinson Crusoe, Captain Singleton, Moll Flanders, Colonel Jack, The Fortunate Mistress (Roxana). The earnings from his works allowed him to enjoy a comfortable lifestyle. Defoe's novels are fictional autobiographies that pretend to be true stories and they are inspired by the tradition of diaries and journals. The stories are made up of episodes and adventures focused on one main hero. The lack of a coherent plot is due to the fact that Defoe neither planned his works. He aimed to write a lot quickly rather than for critical readers. His first person narration influences how the characters are portrayed. The characters are presented from the inside and through their actions. **His narrative technique was original and became the basis for the development of the realistic novel**

## ROBINSON CRUSOE

Robinson Kreutzander born in York. When he was 19 he decides to leave his home to travel around the world and make his fortune. His first voyage leads him to Guinea and then back to England where he is captured by Moorish pirates but he is rescued by a Portuguese ship and brought to Brazil. During his journey in Africa he is shipwrecked on a desert island where he will remain for 28 years. To maintain an ideal contact with his motherland he writes a diary where he records his experiences. After years of solitude, Robinson discovers a human footprint and evidence of cannibalism on the island. He rescues a captive, naming him Friday and teaches him English and the Bible. Together, they free more prisoners, including Friday's father after another attack on the cannibals. The story concludes with Robinson's return to England, where he finds his Brazilian plantation has made him wealthy. The new hero comes from the middle classes, free from the struggles of the poor and the arrogance of the rich. Like classical travel heroes, Robinson is restless and seeks his own identity, rejecting his father's guidance. The island in the story is the perfect place to show the skills and prove he deserved to be saved by God's will. On the island he creates a basic empire, becoming an early example of an English colonizer. His stay on the island is a chance to exploit and dominate nature. The society he builds on the island mirrors 18th-century England, focusing on mobility, productivity, and individualism. While God is seen as the main cause of everything, individuals can still shape their destiny through hard work. To solve problems: Defoe observes the situation, lists possible solutions, weighs the pros and cons, and picks the best option. Defoe describes objects based on their main qualities, like size and shape and the structure and style of the novel are clear and precise. The language is simple and straightforward, which makes the story feel real and authentic. Robinson Crusoe is a realistic tale of survival, showcasing individual resilience and the ability to dominate nature. In contrast, Gulliver's Travels is a satirical journey through imaginary lands, critiquing human flaws and societal absurdities. While Crusoe focuses on personal achievement and colonial values, Gulliver explores the imperfections of society through humor and exaggeration.

