

Robinson Crusoe Pop-Up Book (Years 2-7)

Introduction

This one extended the warm-up game into a performance. I composed the song specifically for the first time we did this. You can see from the attached plan that we diverged from the original idea quite a bit in our final script, but this in-built flexibility means that ideas that crop up during the rehearsal time can be incorporated. The original class (Year 7) were reading an abridged version of the story with their class teacher and had been looking at the slavery aspects of the story, which is why this came into the final script. I've used this activity with other groups and each time the script has ended up being slightly different. One Year 3 class were fascinated by Robinson Crusoe's use of an umbrella for shade and we ended up incorporating an umbrella dance into our final performance!

Content	Possible Strategies	Resources
Creative Drama	★ Students create and act out sections of the Robinson Crusoe Story in short scenes to present as a pop-up book	Props
Creative music-making - composing and performing	★ In groups compose music to accompany one other group's part of the story. Perform the music to each other ★ Perform other Robinson Crusoe Song - voices and instruments	Classroom percussion instruments Instruments + arrangement of song
Music/ Drama performance	★ Performance of Musical Pop-Up Book to audience	Props for play Pop-Up Book?!
Performance Evaluation	★ Class evaluation of own performance and that of other group. Note potential improvements for next time	Evaluation sheets
Listening/Music Appreciation	★ Listening Activity with Island Music or Storm music	Listening Tape and Activity Sheets: William Tell Overture and music by Pacific Group Te Vaka
Movement/ Dance	★ Create Cannibal Dance/musical composition with Class	Instruments

Robinson Crusoe Musical Popup Book – possible tableaux to create for performance

Storm Music

1. Storm 1 -on the ship
2. Storm 2 - in the sea

Working Music

3. Washed up on the shore - Crusoe and ship
4. Rescuing some things from the ship
5. Building a shelter, shooting animals, growing food

Robinson Crusoe Song

6. Feeling lonely

Lonely Music

7. Exploring the island, sees the footprint on the beach

Cannibal Music

8. Cannibals and their captives
9. Rescues one captive, shoots one cannibal - others escape
10. Makes friends with new friend, shows him the island

Rescue Music

11. Rescue ship sailing in
12. Crusoe and Friday are rescued

Sea Shanty or other cheery song

Final Script (first performance, Year 7)

Good Afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen..... We, the _____ Players and Musicians, would like to present a musical version of the famous Daniel Defoe story about that pompous castaway Robinson Crusoe..... As you know he left England when a young man and after many adventures..... found himself as the owner of a tobacco plantation in South America. A sailing friend of his one day asked him to captain a ship..... bound for the West Coast of Africato pick up a load of slaves and bring them back for sale and distribution to wealthy landowners in the Americas..... They hadn't been sailing for long when...

Storm Music

.....Our friend Robinson awoke to find himself washed up on the shore of a deserted island. After several days of finding bits of the wreck of his ship.... he realised that no-one else had survived....., so he began to work hard to make himself a home on the island.

Work Music

He lived on the island, quite alone for several years

Robinson Crusoe Song

One day as he strolled along a beach on the other side of the island..... he saw to his alarm a footprint in the sand..... He then noticed a group of cannibals with three prisoners ready for lunch.....

Cannibal Music

With great bravery he managed to frighten away the cannibals by firing his rifle at them..... And he rescued one of the prisoners who became his great friend.....He called him Friday. One day he saw an English ship on the horizon... and much to his delight it came to rescue him.

Rescue Music

And that's the end of our story....., but before we go we'd like to sing two choruses of our Robinson Crusoe song and perhaps you'll join us

Robinson Crusoe Song - 2 choruses

Robinson Crusoe Song

Once I sailed on this sea.
Then a storm came and shipwrecked me.
Of all the crew on the ship I alone survived.
I was glad, glad to be alive.

I took what I could from the ship:
guns paper and food.
I used the wood from the wreck to build a home in a cave:
home away from home.

Now I live on this island in the sun, in the sun
on my own, I never see anyone.
Will I live here for the rest of my days?
I sit here and I gaze out to sea for a ship to rescue me,
to rescue me.

Then I made a canoe from a tree,
and an umbrella too, to protect me from the sun,
And then I rowed around the island,
but no-one I found.

Now I live on this island in the sun, in the sun
on my own, I never see anyone.
Will I live here for the rest of my days?
I sit here and I gaze out to sea for a ship to rescue me,
to rescue me.

Now I live on this island in the sun, in the sun
on my own, I never see anyone.
Will I live here for the rest of my days?
I sit here and I gaze out to sea for a ship to rescue me,
to rescue me.

You can hear this song here: <https://youtu.be/VAwRVcmI54M>