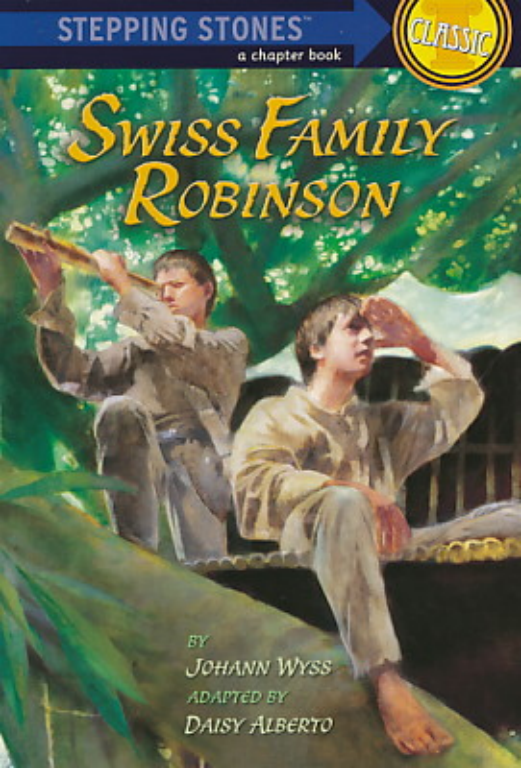


STEPPING STONES™

a chapter book

CLASSIC

# SWISS FAMILY ROBINSON



BY  
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ADAPTED BY  
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I

*SHIPWRECKED  
AND ALONE*

**F**or many days our ship had been tossed at sea. The storm raged and raged. Above us, the seamen yelled frantically to each other.

My heart sank as I looked around the cabin at my family. My brave wife was trying to calm the children. Our four sons were filled with terror.

Suddenly I heard a cry. At the same time, the ship struck something! Water poured in on all sides.

"Lower the boats!" the captain shouted.

I rushed on deck. The last lifeboat was already pushing off! I begged the sailors to wait for us. But it was too late.

After a moment, however, I saw that our position wasn't as bad as I had thought. The stern, or back of the ship, was jammed between two rocks. The rocks kept the ship from sinking. And through the rain, I could see land!

I returned to my family. "Courage, dear ones!" I said. "Our ship is secure and there is land nearby. We should be able to go ashore tomorrow!"

By morning, the storm had passed. I woke the boys. My wife and our youngest son, Franz, fed the animals on board. The rest of us gathered supplies we would need onshore.

We found guns, bullets, tools, and fish-hooks. My wife told us there were also some chickens, ducks, geese, and pigeons, and a cow, a donkey, two goats, six sheep, a ram, and a pig on board. And Jack had discovered two friendly dogs!

"Excellent," I said. "But how will we get everything to shore?"

"Why can't we each get into a tub and float there?" asked Jack. "That's what I do on our pond at home."

"Capital idea!" I cried.

We sawed four large barrels in half. I nailed them together into a makeshift boat and added poles to give it balance. The boys brought oars.

We stowed everything that we would need in the tubs. Then we set the ship's ducks, geese, and pigeons free. We would

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**A**fter being tossed by a storm for days, a ship crashes on the reefs of a deserted island. On board is the Swiss family Robinson: a clever man, his practical wife, and their four sons. The Robinsons cheerfully make the best of their bad luck—mining the shipwreck for supplies, taming friendly animals, and learning to survive on the island. They even build a giant tree house to live in! Still, the family longs to see other people again. Will they ever be rescued?