



The Swiss Family Robinson, Adventures On a Desert Island

Johann David Wyss

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The Swiss Family Robinson: Or, Adventures On a Desert Island by Jean Rudolph Wyss; Illustrated by Milo Winter, 1916 Written by Swiss pastor Johann David Wyss and edited by his son Johann Rudolf Wyss. The novel was intended to teach his four sons about family values, good husbandry, the uses of the natural world and self-reliance.

Wyss's attitude toward education is in line with the teachings of Jean-Jacques Rousseau, and many of the episodes have to do with Christian-oriented moral lessons such as frugality, husbandry, acceptance, cooperation, etc.

Many years ago, an English translation of the first part of this charming tale appeared; and few books have obtained such deserved popularity. The gradual progress of the family from utter destitution and misery, to happiness and abundance, arising from their own labour, perseverance, and obedience, together with the effect produced on the different characters of the sons by the stirring adventures they met with, created a deep and absorbing interest.

This conclusion was happily supplied by one of the most accomplished and elegant writers of her day, the Baroness de Montolieu; and, sanctioned and approved by the son of the lamented author, the entire work was published in France, and has for many years held a distinguished rank in the juvenile libraries there.

The adventures are presented as a series of lessons in natural history and the physical sciences, and resemble other, similar educational books for children in this period.

Johann Robert Wyss (1782-1830) was a Swiss author, writer, and folklorist who wrote the words to the former Swiss national anthem *Rufst Du, mein Vaterland* in 1811, and also edited the novel *The Swiss Family Robinson*, written by his father Johann David Wyss, published in 1812.

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