

Book Report by Li Chun Hei, 1A (18)

The Swiss Family Robinson

Johann Wyss

The writer of this story, Johann Rudolph Wyss (1782-1830), was a teacher at a university in Berne, in Switzerland. He was very interested in the stories that parents have told to their children for hundreds of years. But Wyss is remembered by most people because he wrote The Swiss Family Robinson.

The Swiss Family Robinson shows that a loving family can work together in very difficult times. The story is told by the father. He teaches his sons lessons that readers of the book can also learn. The children have to learn to be kind and patient. They have to work hard and help their parents and their brothers. They are alone, but together, and they must always think of others.

Nowadays, it is difficult to believe people can live on the island without modern facilities. But the Swiss Family Robinson is still an interesting and exciting story for people of all ages. It shows that with strong minds and useful skills, people can build their lives again in a new, strange place.

At the beginning of the story, everyone on the ship believed that death was very near because it was the seventh day of the storm. All sailors and passengers were in boats on the sea. Only the family was alone! 'My dear children', the father said, 'I don't think we're going to die. Tomorrow the sea will be calmer and we'll be able to reach the land.' The children immediately became happier.

So they started to work together to make a boat. At last everything was ready. They took guns and gunpowder, and bags of food. They also took many useful things, such as cooking pots, the tools, nails and knives. The father also brought sailcloth to make a tent. Finally they lowered the boat into the sea and started their journey.

At first, the boat turned round and round, but after a time they learned to sail it.

Finally, the family landed to a beach. They knew they had to live in this new place for a long time until a ship will come one day.

The father taught his sons many useful skills. The sons learned how to make use of everything they found on the island. They made a rope ladder with bamboo sticks. Next, they built a tree house because it was a safer place. Then they started to work for a garden where they could plant all the seeds from the ship. They also put bamboo around their garden and made huts for the animals. They had fish and shellfish for their meals.

I love the Robinson Family. When the father taught his sons how to make use of the things, he was always kind and patient. I know I am not clever enough. But my father is also kind and patient. I remembered when I was seven I wanted to learn how to cook. I like noodles very much so I tried to cook a bowl of noodle by myself. I was frightened when my father found me in the kitchen alone with a boiling pot. He tried his best to tell me follow his instruction and asked me to handle the hot pot carefully. Once he taught me how to make the sunny-side-up egg. He said slowly and showed me how to control the fire. I am always impatient. I tried again and again. My father always encourages me not to give up.

The Robinson family did not die at the sea because the father and mother had useful skills and they taught their sons many useful things. I learned that I should listen to my parents and they can also teach me many useful things. I should try to think more of my family members, my brother and my grandparents. I know there are problems when I grow up. But I have a loving family! I should work hard in school and equip myself to be a useful person. I hope you would also like this book “The Swiss Family Robinson” by Johann Wyss.