



# HOLY SPIRIT

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PREPARATORY SCHOOL

## *8th Grade English*

### Summer Assignment

Academic Year - 2023-2024

*The Swiss Family Robinson* by Johann David Wyss

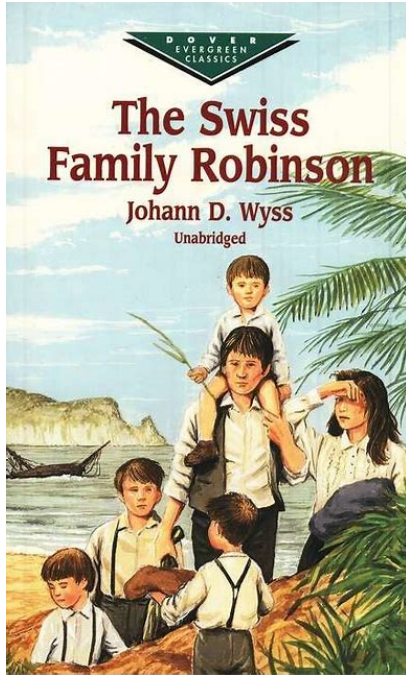
**On Reading Good Books. . .** Reading good books not only feeds the imagination and forms the intellect, it engages the reader in a conversation with the best and brightest creative thought of the centuries. Classic works close the gap between generations, enrich our knowledge of foreign lands, and teach us of fundamental human experiences in a way that history books never can. Children raised up on nursery rhymes, beautiful children's poetry, fairy tales, and folk songs - those simple, charming stories that nurture the imaginative soil and root the young mind in good culture - desire to continue in the grand adventure of life by reading good books. Here we follow various heroes and are inspired by the way they strive and overcome, are compassionate to their suffering, happy in their happiness, humbled by their shortcomings, and invested in their ultimate success. The classic good books are inspiring, and beautiful language teaches us how to speak and write and tell a story, even without explicit instruction.

During the summer months, 8th grade students are invited to read *The Swiss Family Robinson* by Johann D. Wyss. In this masterful tale of adventure, a family of immigrants from Switzerland are shipwrecked in the East Indies. It teaches life lessons of virtue, particularly the virtues of faith, love, prudence, and fortitude. The story recounts the adventures of the Robinson family, Mr. Robinson, his wife Elizabeth, their four sons, Fritz, Earnest, Jack and



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Franz who live on an abandoned island for ten years.

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## Assignment

**On notebook paper, students should be able to answer the following questions. Each answer should be 3 - 8 complete sentences long. Some questions will require longer answers than others. Write out the question before answering the question.**

- When does the story, *The Swiss Family Robinson* take place?
- Where is the Robinson family from? Where are they heading for?
- What happens to the ship that the Robinson family is on? Identify some of the details of the event.
- What do the Robinsons offer after they land on dry land?
- What does Mr. Robinson desire to do at the beginning of the day before going any further on the expedition with Fritz in chapter 2?
- Identify and explain, referring to the story, some of the characteristic traits of Mr. Robinson, the dad.
- Describe some of the qualities of the mother.
- What is Fritz's attitude towards looking for survivors from the shipwreck? How does the Father respond to Fritz?
- What is Mrs. Robinson's attitude about being on the Island? Briefly explain her thoughts.



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- Identify a theme that you think is in the story. Briefly explain how the theme is demonstrated in the story. (A theme is a major subject or idea in the story, and there can be more than one theme in a story.)
- What is the climax and resolution of the story, *The Swiss Family Robinson*? (The climax is the highest point of the story).

Contact [mverlander@holyspiritprep.org](mailto:mverlander@holyspiritprep.org) for any questions