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Dear Daniel Defoe,

Before I read your book, *Robinson Crusoe*, my mom asked me what I would do if I was stranded on an island. My brain went blank. I would probably be scared. I might cry for help. So far, I never had any big troubles. My parents take good care of me; they try their best to protect me. They give me enough food and clothes. But after a couple years I will have to control my own destiny because I will start college, and then begin to support myself. After I read your book I knew that the only way I could survive on a stranded island was to try my best, give it my all, and be persistent.

Life has its bad parts. Sure I have never faced anything like being stranded on an island, but small things like an F on a test, a day where I have a ton of homework: these things happen a lot. Sometimes, there something happens that I think that can be even worse than being stranded on an island like when a family member dies (My grandpa died before I was even born so I never met him.). Even though bad things did happen, I know now that I should consider myself lucky: I never had to face any true challenges. Robinson Crusoe in your book was like a daring adventurer and I am surprised at what he did. He did not panic. He did not sit there and cry. Robinson Crusoe showed me whatever the odds are never give up. Ever since, whenever I had a task at hand I would try my best and keep working until I finished.

Like the old saying goes, *when life hands you lemons, make lemonade*. We all should do that. I could still enjoy things even if something bad happened. Robinson Crusoe set a good example for me. He probably wasn't very happy but he still worked hard and tried to enjoy life on the island.

Your book opened my eyes to what the world is really like. There are accidents, there are tragedies but if we are not brave then we will never overcome hard times. People are usually so weak, sometimes little things can hurt them a lot. Robinson Crusoe taught me: *Never die until you're dead*. But many people "die" or give up many times before they're really in an impossible situation. I believe your book can help many people keep going when they had a bad time. I got lots of courage when I read your book.

Thank you, Daniel Defoe, for showing me that size doesn't matter when it comes to courage and life can be an exciting ride even with its ups and downs.

Sincerely,  
Edwin Ye Wu

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