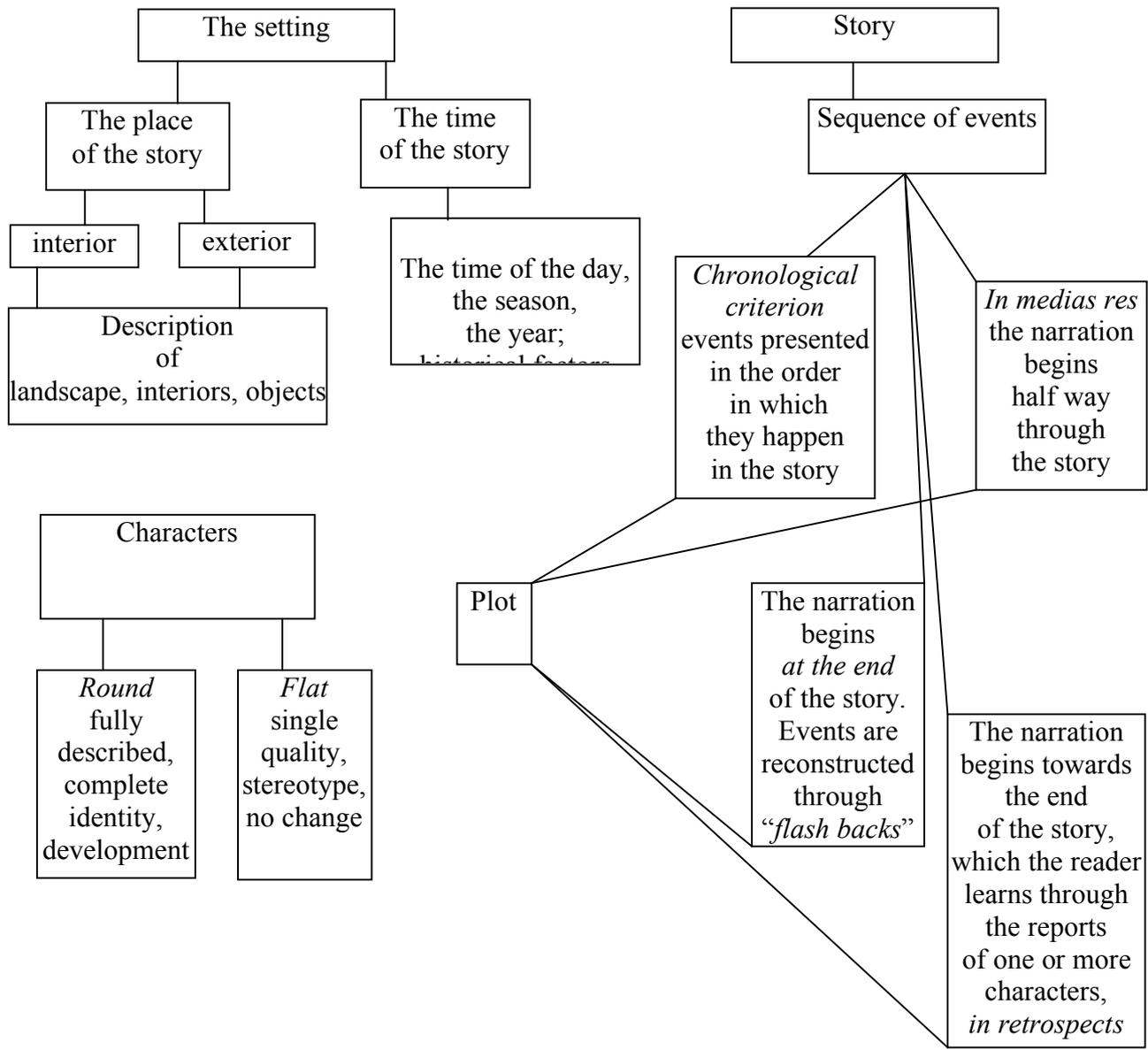


THE FEATURES OF A NARRATIVE TEXT



THE NARRATOR

First-person narrator
or
I-narrator
(one of the character; inside the story)

Third-person narrator
(outside the story)

Objective narrator
(non-committal, unobtrusive,
observes people and event,
reports what he sees and hears)

Omniscient narrator
(intrusive, assertive,
gives his own views,
comments,
directs and helps the reader
interpret things correctly)

IMPLIED READER
(The reader that an author has
in mind
when writing a novel
and
to whom the novel is

POINT OF VIEW

The angle of vision and perception

FOCALIZATION

The choice of point of view

INTERNAL

- a) The narrator is inside the story, is one of the characters, presents things from his/her point of view
- b) The narrator is outside the story, omniscient.

EXTERNAL

The narrator is outside the story, reports what sees and hears

NARRATIVE MODES

The author chooses the way to tell his story among dialogue, description or narration

TYPES OF NOVELS

THE SATIRICAL NOVEL

Satire
attacks
vices and follies
of
individuals, communities, groups.
Its tools are those of
ridicule, exaggeration, contempt.

THE PICARESQUE NOVEL

It deals with
a series of separate adventures
happening to the hero,
a vagabond or a rogue
(pizaro in Spanish)

THE ADVENTURE STORY

develops from
The picaresque novel

THE EPISTOLARY NOVEL

It is told through letters exchanged between different characters

THE DOMESTIC NOVEL OR NOVEL OF MANNERS

It portrays social behavior, domestic life,
presents the conversation, the habits, the mentality
typical of a historical period

THE HISTORICAL NOVEL

It is set in a past period.
The characters may be real or fictitious.
The main events narrated are historical.

THE BILDUNGSROMAN

(From the German "Bildung": formation, cultural training)

It describes the development of the hero
from childhood to maturity
with particular attention to the contribution of
life experience and education
on personality

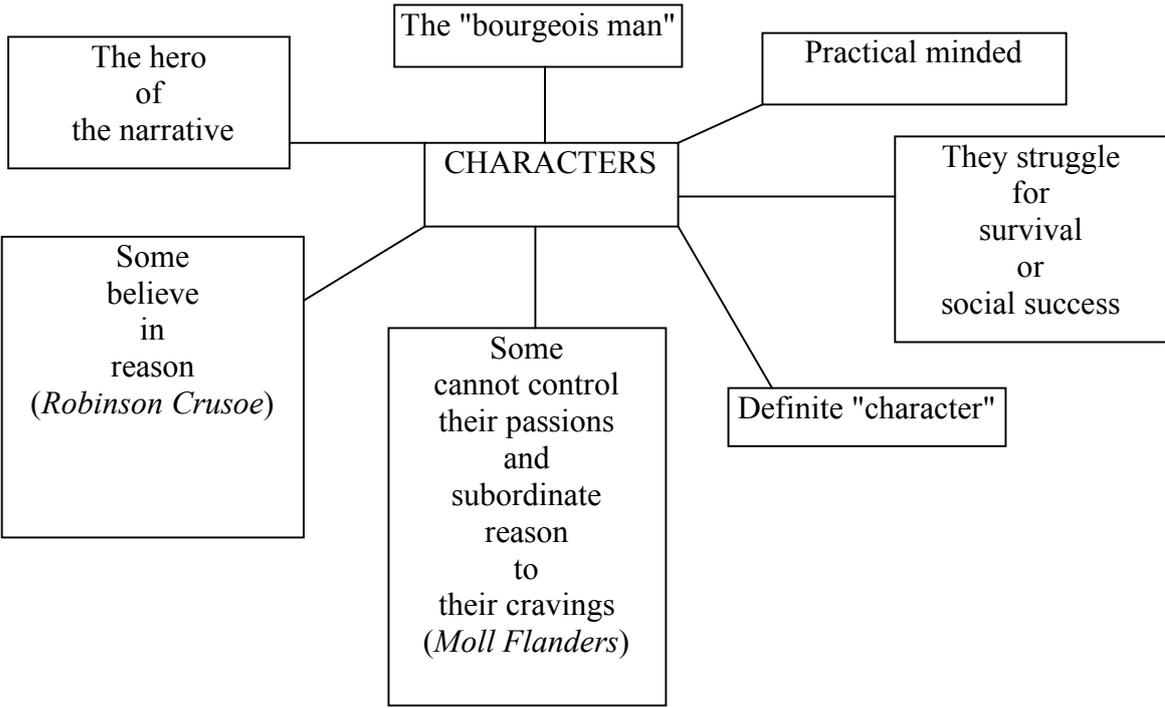
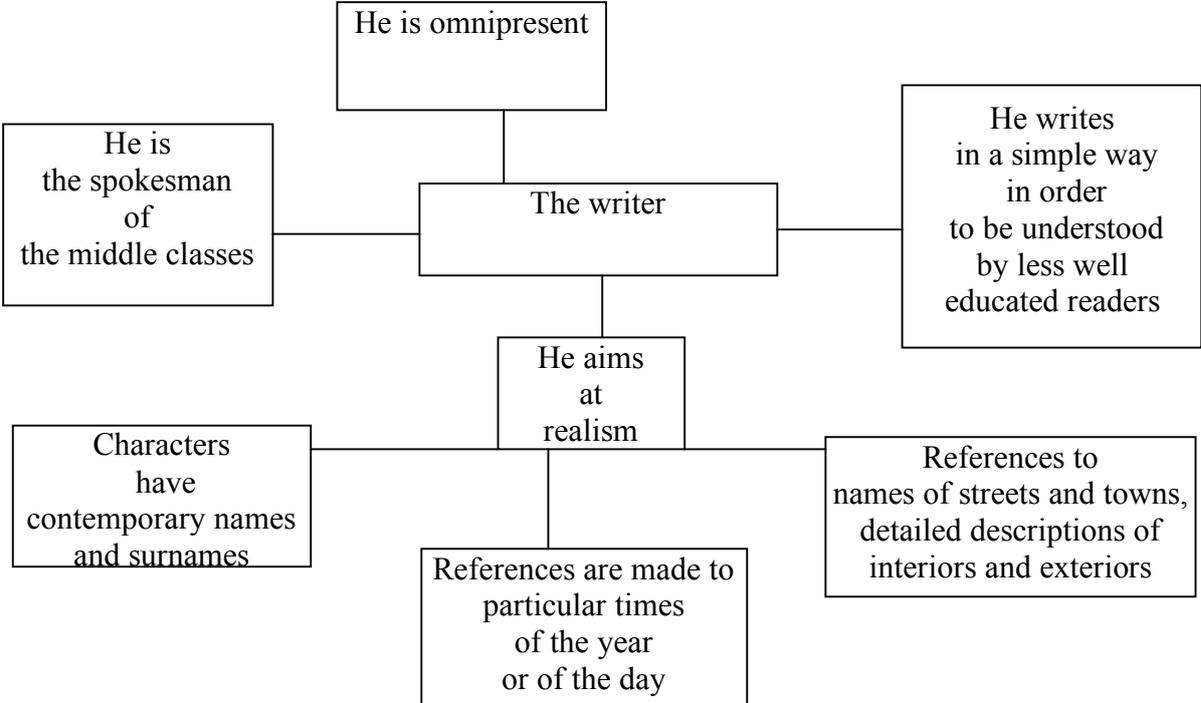
SCIENCE FICTION

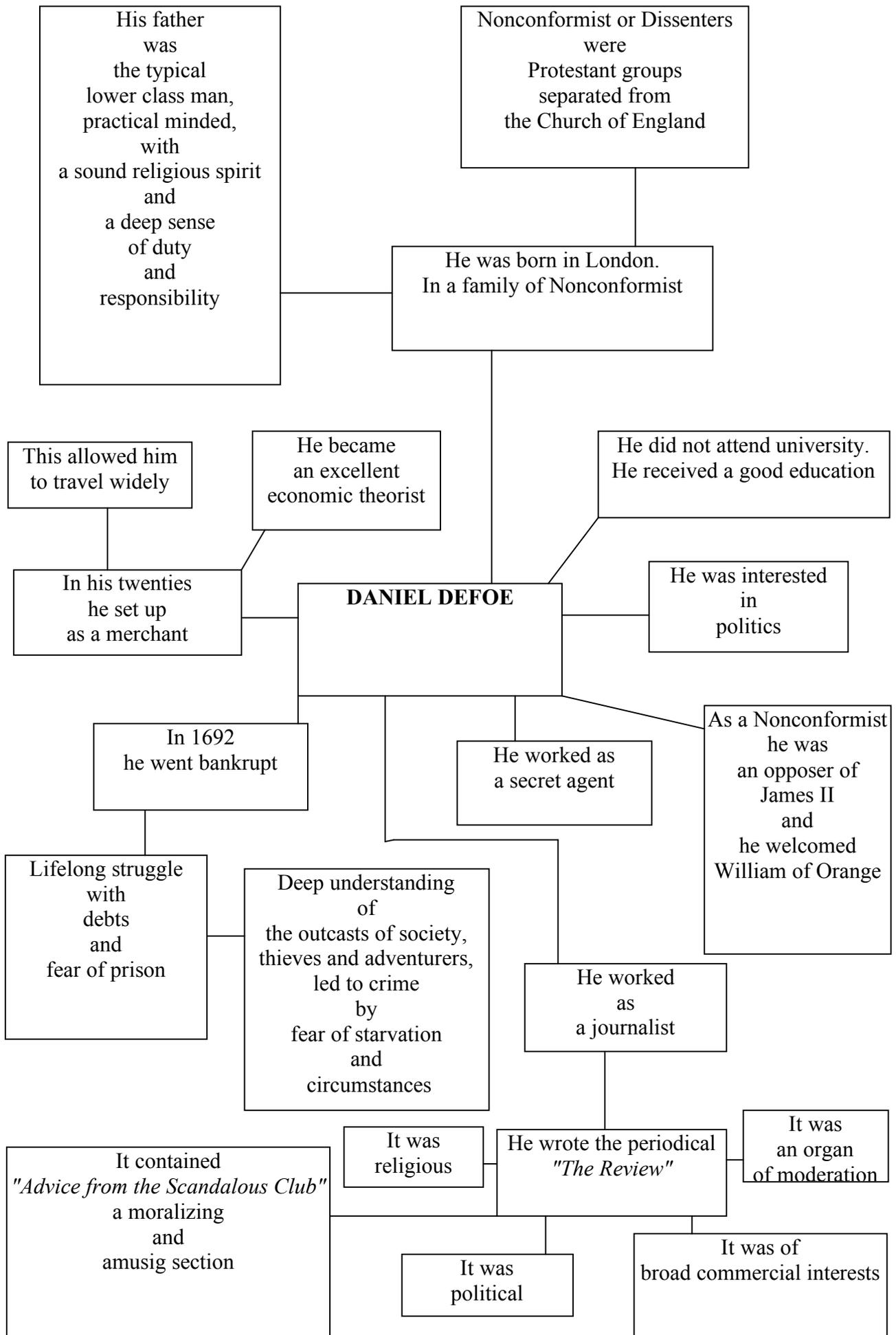
It deals with imaginary developments in
science and technology

THE GOTHIC NOVEL

It aims at arousing terror.
It is characterized by an atmosphere of
mystery and suspense.

THE RISE OF THE NOVEL





ROBINSON CRUSOE

This kind of novel is a product of the tradition of diaries and journals

To "justify" this work. According to Puritan ideas fiction was a form of lying

Provided by the protagonist

Biographical details

Memories

Pretended "true" story

"Preface" by the author to stress authenticity and moral teaching

STRUCTURE

Fictional autobiography

Long narrative

Series of episodes and adventures

Held together by the unifying presence of a single hero

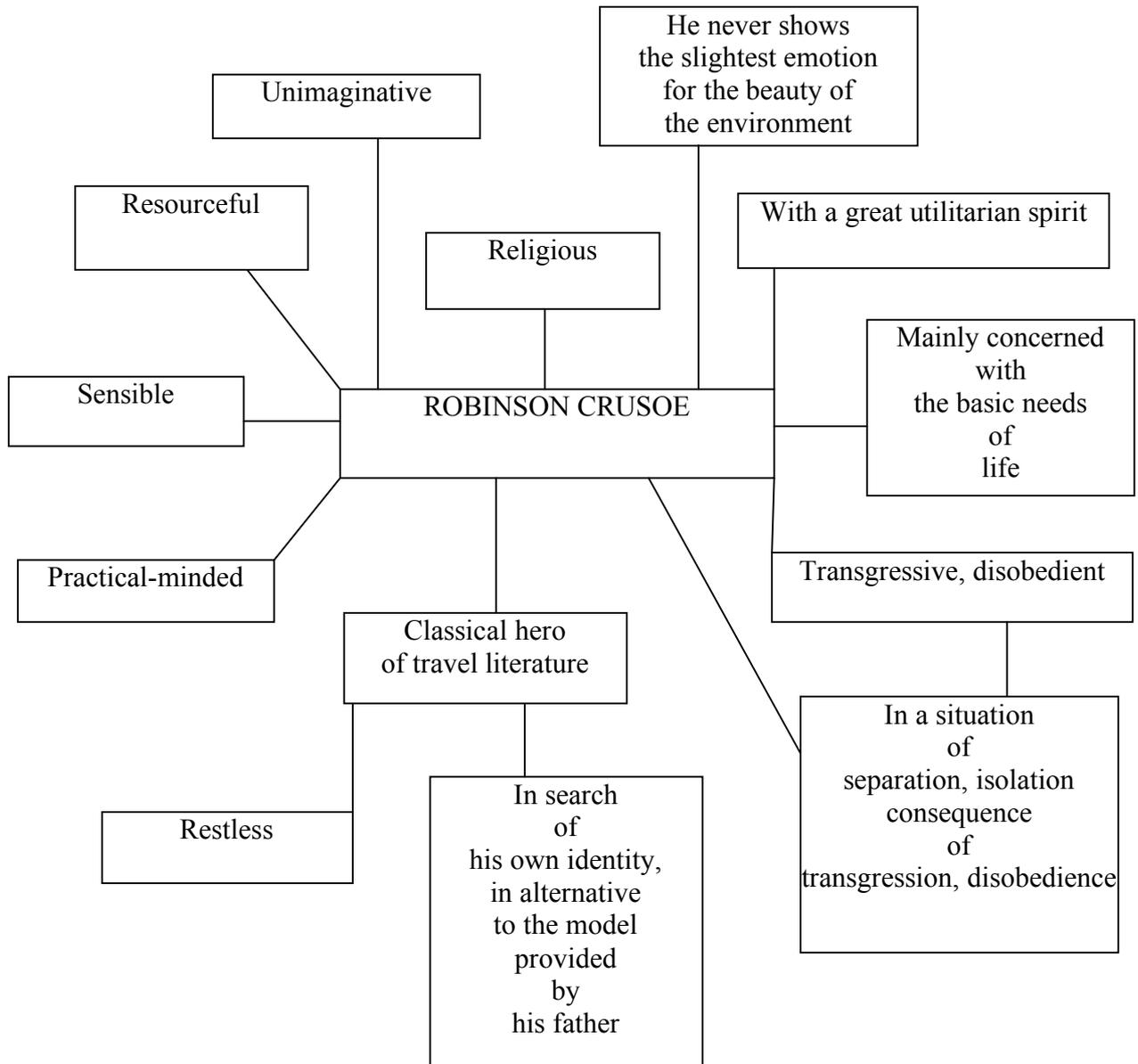
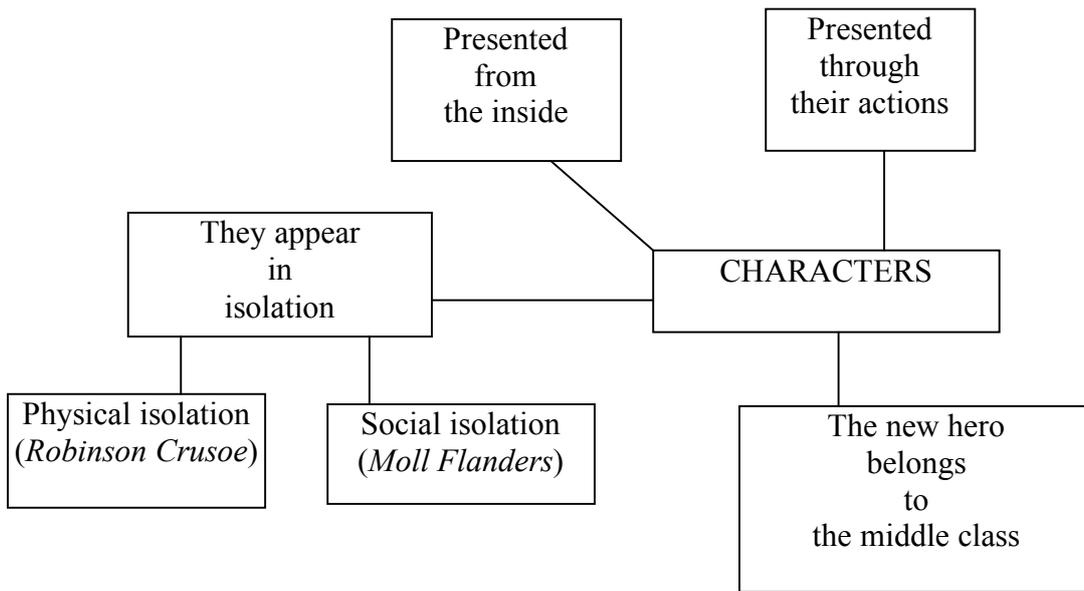
The author's point of view coincides with the main's character

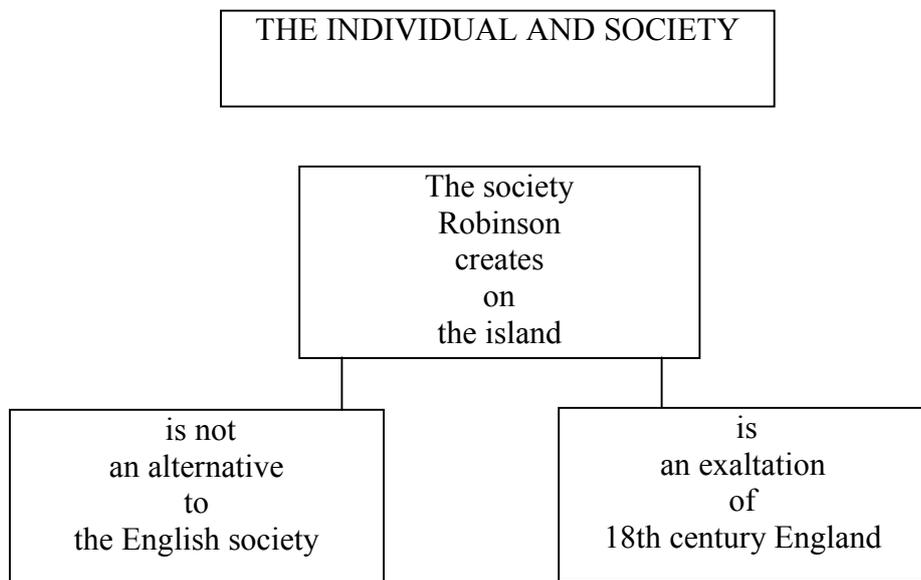
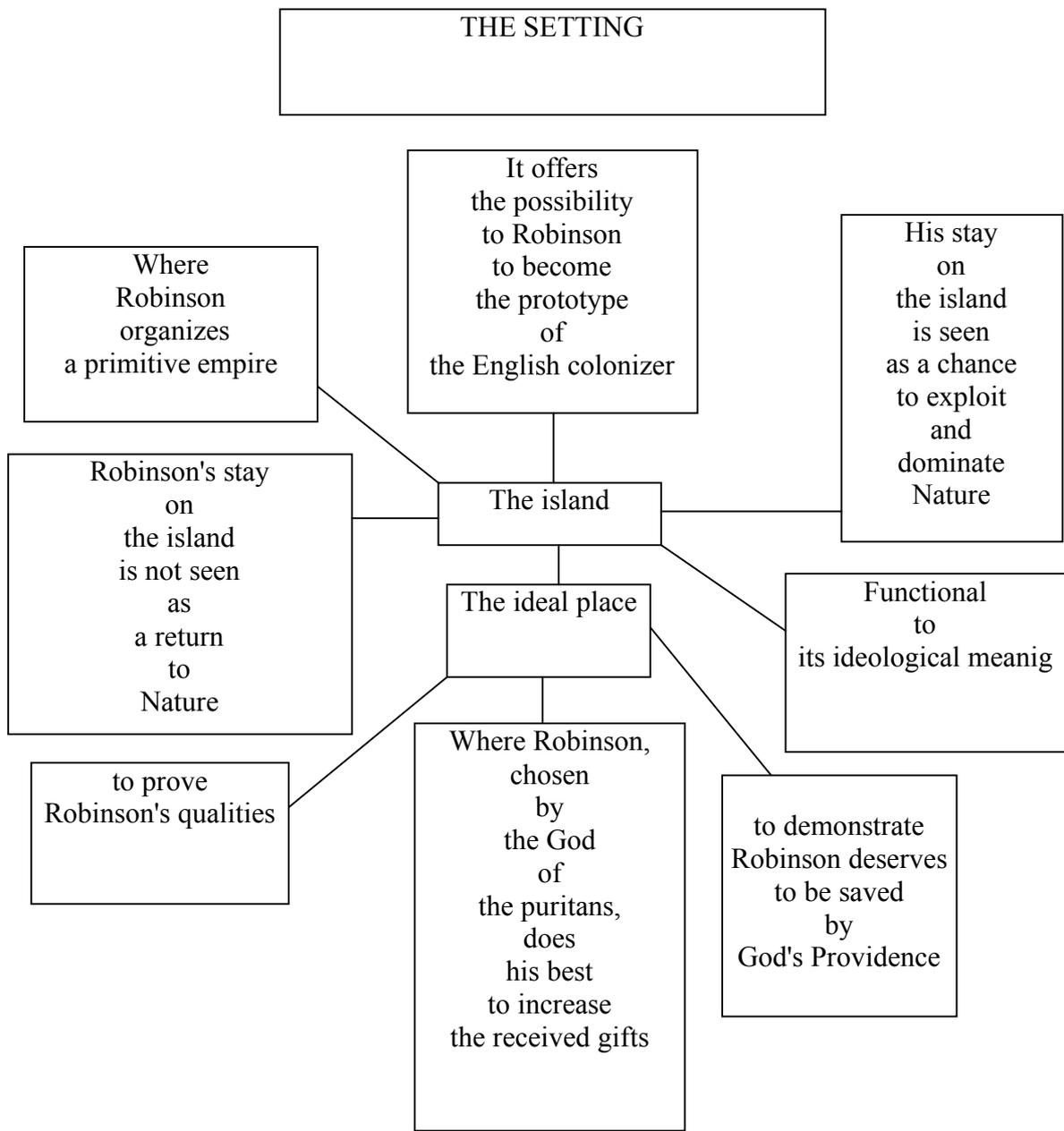
First person narration

Two different narrative methods

Passages of less detailed summary which set the stage and provide a necessary connective framework

Full scenic presentation where, at a definite time and place, the actions of the characters are reported





Robinson Crusoe can be read at various levels:

- as a kind of morality, in which the long isolation on the island is a form of punishment for Robinson disobeying his father, the "god" of the Augustan family;
-
- as the allegory of the "homo aeconomicus" who, far from regressing to a primitive stage, is able to build a perfect reproduction of the civilized world on a desert island;
-
- as a prophecy of the future British Empire in which, as Joyce says, Robinson was the prototype of the colonizer and Man Friday of the colonized people;
-
- as a metaphorical projection of Defoe's own life, of his isolation and social ostracism, but also of his ability to climb up the social ladder again and again

Robinson Crusoe – Plot

It is a travel novel, not divided in chapters. It is made up of three sections:

- the first relates how, in spite of his father's warning, at nineteen, Robinson left his family and went away to sea to make a fortune, and how, after many dangerous experiences, he landed in Brazil, where he became a successful planter. But one day, during an expedition to Africa to buy some slaves for his plantation, he was shipwrecked on a remote island;
-
- the second section describes Robinson's life on the island, where he spent twenty-eight years, two months and nineteen days, during which he kept a journal where he recorded what happened to him almost day after day;
-
- the third describes Robinson's return to Europe, where he learnt that his Brazil plantation, still intact, had made him rich, and where he met a lot of new adventures.

