

# The Tale of the Unknown Island

By Jose Saramago



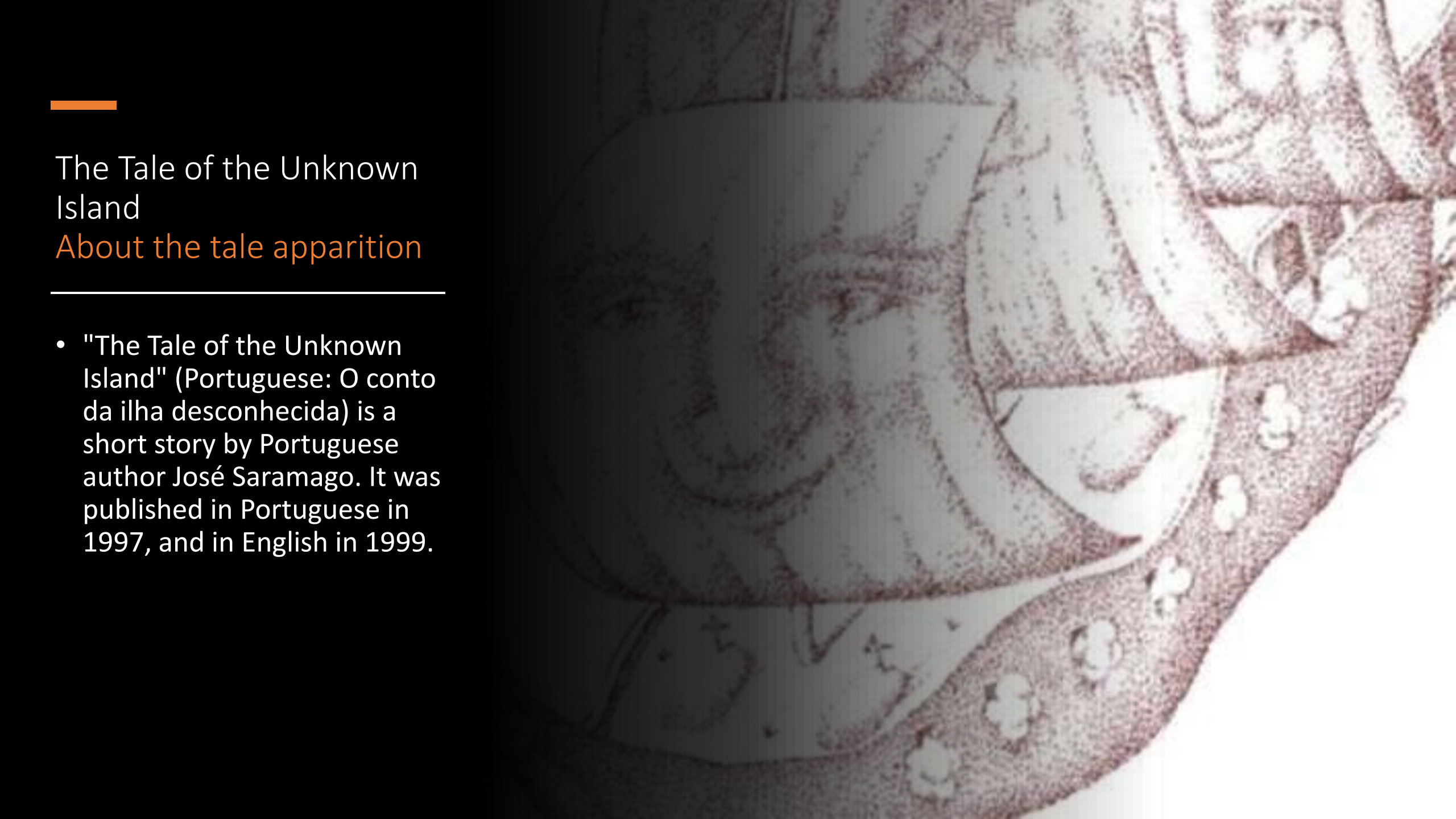
Luca Theodor  
Cirstoiu Sara  
Romania, Bucharest  
I.G Duca School

# Thinking about Jose Saramago

- Saramago was born in 1922 into a family of very poor landless peasants in Azinhaga, Portugal, a small village, some one hundred kilometers northeast of Lisbon. "Saramago", the Portuguese word for *Raphanus raphanistrum* (wild radish), was the insulting nickname given to his father, and was accidentally incorporated into his name by the village clerk upon registration of his birth.
- Saramago's experimental style often features long sentences, at times more than a page long. Many of his paragraphs extend for pages without pausing for dialogue; when the speaker changes, Saramago capitalizes the first letter of the new speaker's clause.

# Thinking about Jose Saramago

- A lot of Saramago's books are available in Romanian language, too. Of course, *Blindness* is the most known and had a great impact in our country during the covid Pandemic.
- As you may be aware, *Blindness* is the story of an unexplained mass epidemic of blindness afflicting nearly everyone in an unnamed city and the social breakdown that follows.




---

## The Tale of the Unknown Island

### About the tale apparition

---

- "The Tale of the Unknown Island" (Portuguese: O conto da ilha desconhecida) is a short story by Portuguese author José Saramago. It was published in Portuguese in 1997, and in English in 1999.




# The Tale of the Unknown Island


## Reflection ideas

---

- If you don't step outside of yourself, you'll never discover who you are.
- You have to leave the island in order to see the island.

...meaning ...

A person is silhouetted in a small boat on a calm sea during a sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow across the sky and water. The person in the boat is holding a long pole, possibly a fishing rod or a paddle. The water is still, reflecting the colors of the sunset.



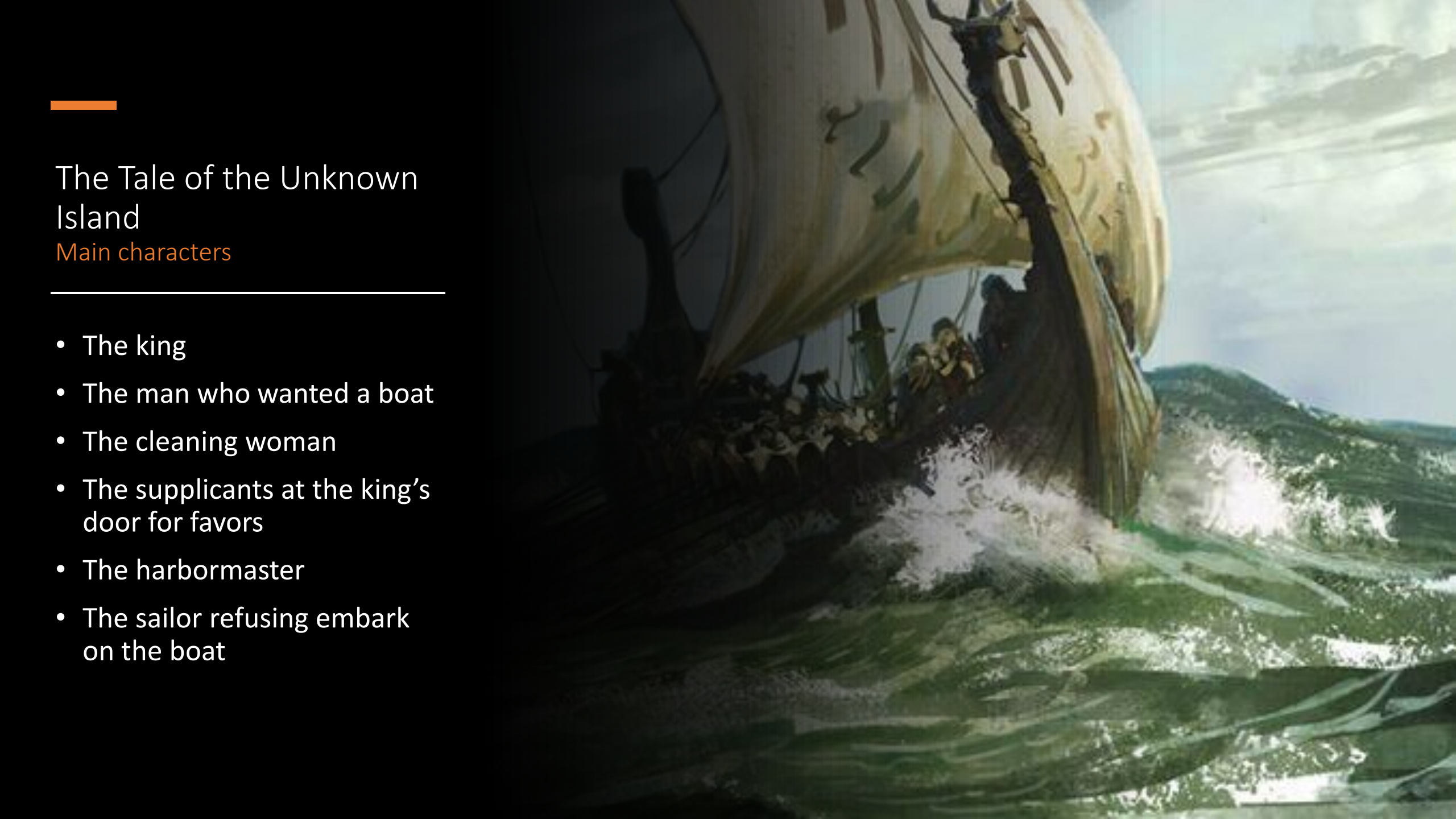
## The Tale of the Unknown Island

### Reflection ideas

---

- In order to discover new things you have to think differently, unconventionally and from a different perspective.
- Moreover, to know yourself you have to experience, to search and to find things and ideas, you have to challenge yourself and be curious!



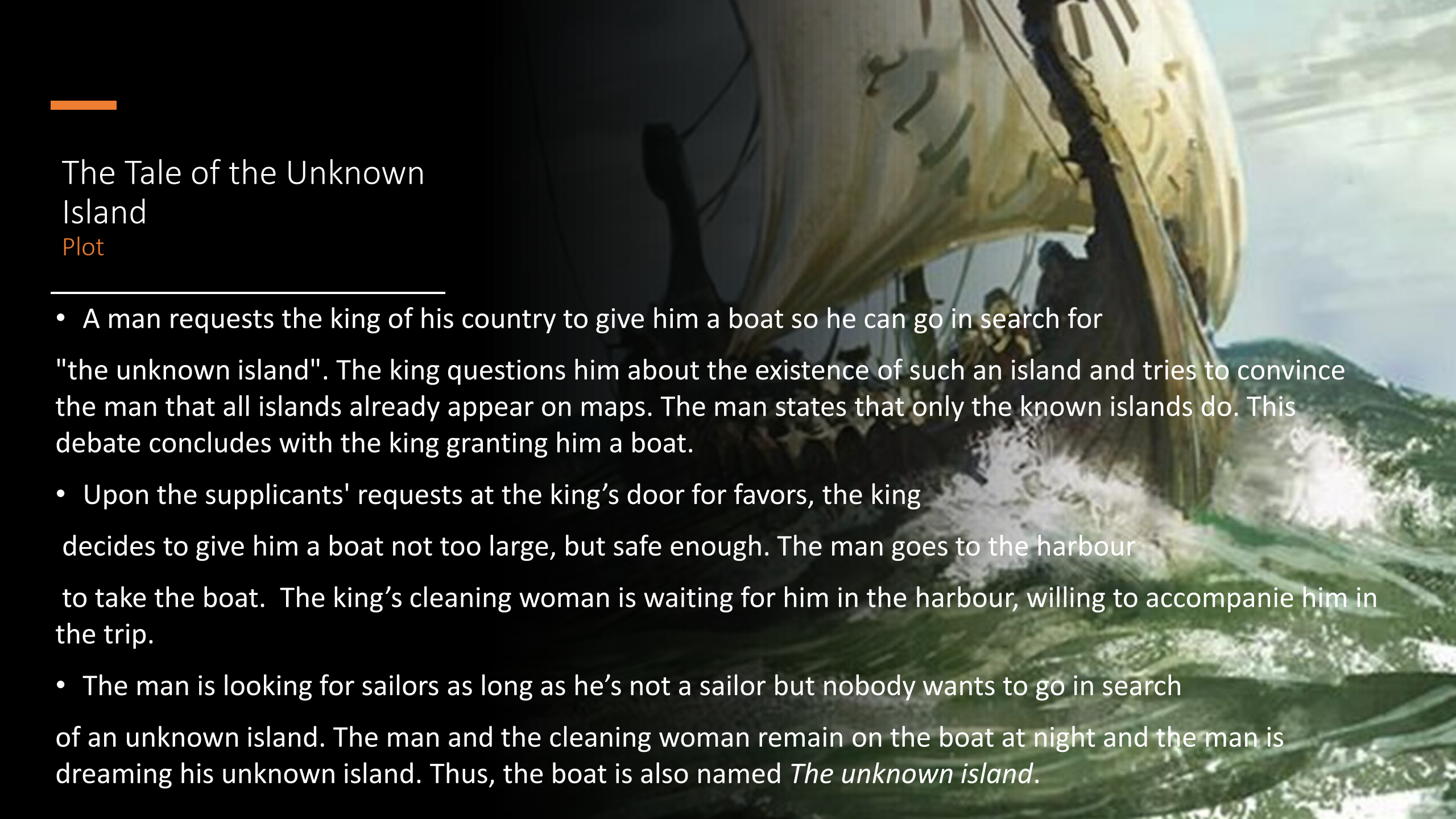
A large wooden sailing ship with a yellow sail is shown on a green sea. The ship is viewed from a low angle, emphasizing its size. The water is a vibrant green color, and the sky is a pale blue with some clouds. The ship's mast and rigging are visible, and the sail is partially unfurled. The overall scene is dramatic and evocative.

## The Tale of the Unknown Island

### Main characters

---

- The king
- The man who wanted a boat
- The cleaning woman
- The supplicants at the king's door for favors
- The harbormaster
- The sailor refusing embark on the boat

A large, golden, ornate ship with intricate carvings on its hull is sailing on a green sea. The ship is viewed from a low angle, emphasizing its scale. The sky is overcast with grey clouds. The overall scene is dramatic and atmospheric.

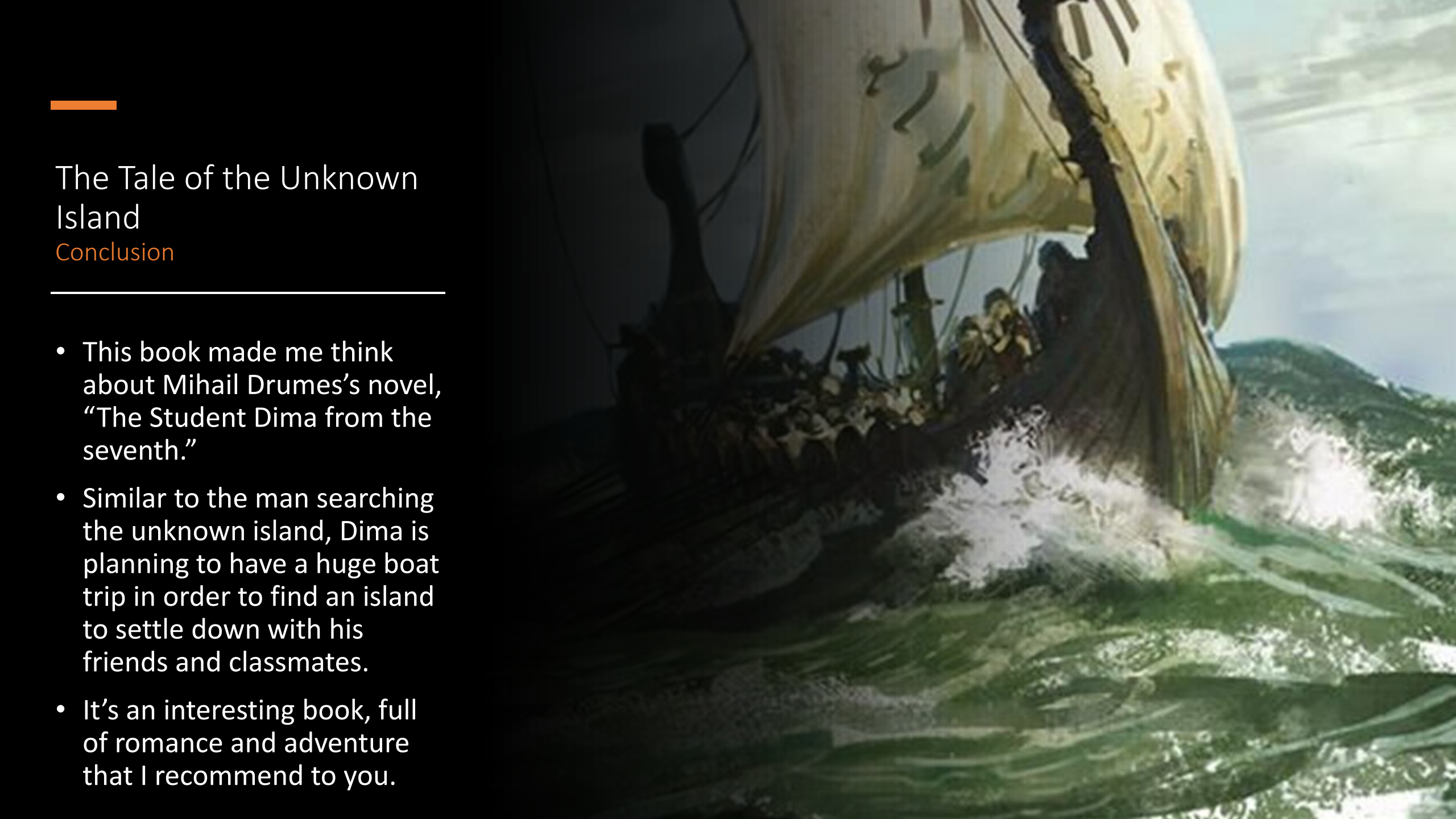
## The Tale of the Unknown Island

### Plot

---

- A man requests the king of his country to give him a boat so he can go in search for "the unknown island". The king questions him about the existence of such an island and tries to convince the man that all islands already appear on maps. The man states that only the known islands do. This debate concludes with the king granting him a boat.
- Upon the supplicants' requests at the king's door for favors, the king decides to give him a boat not too large, but safe enough. The man goes to the harbour to take the boat. The king's cleaning woman is waiting for him in the harbour, willing to accompany him in the trip.
- The man is looking for sailors as long as he's not a sailor but nobody wants to go in search of an unknown island. The man and the cleaning woman remain on the boat at night and the man is dreaming his unknown island. Thus, the boat is also named *The unknown island*.



A large sailing ship with white sails is shown from a low angle, sailing on a green sea. The ship's hull is dark, and the sails are billowing. The water is a vibrant green color, and there are white waves breaking against the ship. The sky is a pale, hazy blue. The overall scene is dramatic and adventurous.

## The Tale of the Unknown Island

### Conclusion

---

- This book made me think about Mihail Drumes's novel, "The Student Dima from the seventh."
- Similar to the man searching the unknown island, Dima is planning to have a huge boat trip in order to find an island to settle down with his friends and classmates.
- It's an interesting book, full of romance and adventure that I recommend to you.