

THE EYE OF THE HURRICANE

George Mackay Brown

Plot Summary

George Mackay Brown's story (from *A Time to Keep*) follows island characters dealing with the destruction of a **shipwreck**, the *Dinesen*, and the emotional "hurricane" within people's lives. Characters such as **Barclay** and **Captain Stevens** experience personal storms: loneliness, naivety, routine, alcohol, and moral dilemmas. The physical storm mirrors the emotional turmoil.

[\[quizlet.com\]](https://quizlet.com)

Themes

Isolation & Community

Barclay is isolated, religious, naïve, yet part of an island community that depends on routine and duty.

[\[quizlet.com\]](https://quizlet.com)

Decay & Mortality

The wrecked ship becomes a symbol of things that "cannot be refloated," representing death, deterioration and foreshadowing.

[\[quizlet.com\]](https://quizlet.com)

Moral Duty

Characters often act out of duty: e.g., Barclay retrieving rum "as an act of charity" despite not wanting to.

[\[quizlet.com\]](https://quizlet.com)

Illusion vs Reality

Island life appears simple and ordered but contains inner storms, suppressed desires, and hidden struggles.

Symbols

- The ship *Dinesen* — destruction, fate.

- **The hurricane / storm** — internal emotional turmoil.
 - **Routine** — how island life stabilises—or suffocates—individuals.
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