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I should note that there is of course a *literature* on *Pym*, much of it of the so-clever-it's-stupid variety; one might cite, e.g., Jean Ricardou, "The Singular Character of the Water" (transl. Frank Towne, *Poe Studies*, June 1976, Vol IX, No. 1, 1-6), which fixes on color symbolism to advance a couple of silly theories — one, that the multicolored water of the island would make it impossible for the natives to use streams to mirror their images, and therefore, etc. — two (very pomo) that blackness also excludes whiteness in any form, thus ending in whiteness suggests this is (as in Verne) a "journey to the bottom of the page", the whiteness is the blank surrounding the text — the natives, ink; the death of the last native, erasure — etc., etc.