



Author Study: Sir Michael Morpurgo

Topaz/Year 5 knowledge organizer

‘Stories make you think and dream; books make you want to ask questions’ – Michael Morpurgo 2005.



TOP 10 BOOKS:

1. [War Horse](#) (1982)
2. [Private Peaceful](#) (2003)
3. [Kensuke's Kingdom](#) (1999)
4. [The Butterfly Lion](#) (1996)
5. [An Elephant in the Garden](#) (2010)
6. [Kaspar: Prince of Cats](#) (2008)
7. [Friend or Foe](#) (1977)
8. [Shadow](#) (2010)
9. [Waiting for Anya](#) (1990)
10. [Born to Run](#) (2007)



2018 Knighthood

Who is Michael Morpurgo?

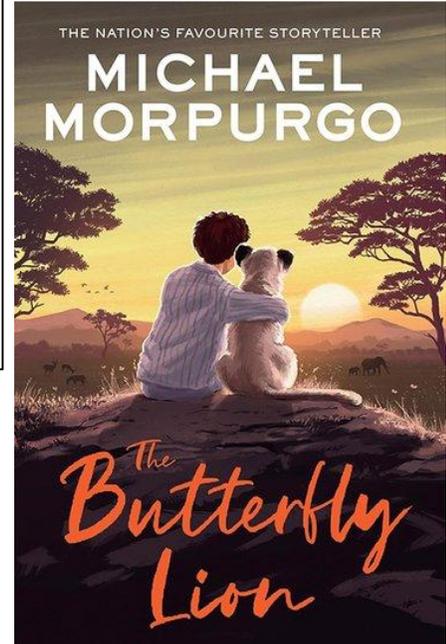
Michael Morpurgo is a famous British author who writes stories for children, born on the 5th October 1943 in St Albans. Before becoming a full-time writer, he worked as a primary school teacher. While teaching, he realised how much children enjoyed listening to stories, and this inspired him to start writing his own books.

Michael Morpurgo has written over 150 books. Many of his stories are about animals, friendship, and real historical events. Some of his most famous books include *War Horse*, which was inspired by the events of World War One and *Kensuke's Kingdom*, which tells the adventure of a boy stranded on an island. *War Horse* became so popular that it was turned into a stage play and a film!

In 2003, Michael Morpurgo became the Children's Laureate, a special role given to an author who promotes reading and books for young people. In 2018, he was given a knighthood for his services to literature and charity. He has helped many children discover the joy of reading through his exciting and moving stories.



The theatre show of War Horse.



A book written by Michael Morpurgo in 1996, which tells the story of friendship and love.

Narrative Writing Terms:

Narrative writing	A narrative is a piece of writing that focuses on telling a story using characters, setting and a plot.
Dialogue	Written conversation between two or more characters used to advance the plot, reveal character emotions/personalities, and make writing more engaging.
Third person	The writer reports action and dialogue of the characters using pronouns 'he, she, it, they' to tell the story. E.g. "He heaved himself up onto the ledge of the mountain."
Show not tell	The author uses emotions, thoughts and sensory details to describe a character and atmosphere in a story to help build a picture for the reader.

Timbavati – the now private nature reserve in South Africa that is home to white lions and the inspiration for the story, 'Butterfly Lion'.





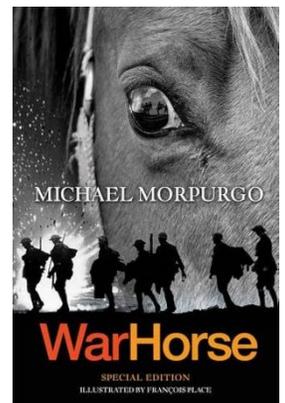
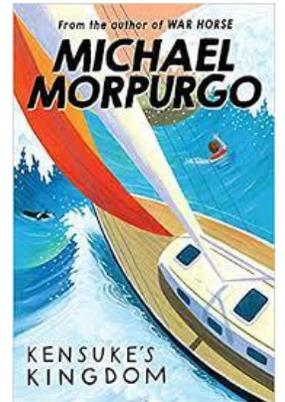
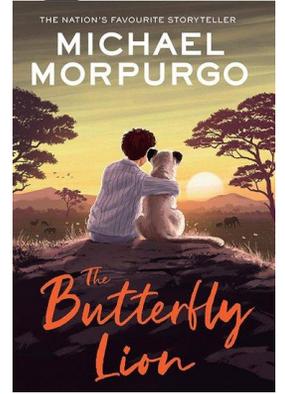
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Topaz Year 5 Homework Grid



<p><u>BOOK REVIEW</u> Choose one of Michael Morpurgo's books to write a review. Remember to include a summary of the story, maybe what characters you meet and whether you would recommend it to a friend!</p>	<p><u>MOVIE MAGIC</u> Watch one of the films inspired by the work of Michael Morpurgo. There are many to choose from so choose wisely! Share what you think with friends or family. You can even write a review after.</p>	<p><u>BIOGRAPHY</u> Using your new knowledge of Michael Morpurgo, write a biography about his life to teach someone else about his achievements. Remember it must be written in chronological order.</p>
<p><u>LANDSCAPE ART</u> Create a picture of Africa using 'The butterfly Lion' as inspiration. You can use water colours, oil pastels or even collage! Think about the range of colours you might need.</p>	<p><u>SCULPTURE</u> Use clay to make a model of one of the animals Michael writes about in many of his stories. Research your favourite and bring it to life through 3D art.</p>	<p><u>MUSIC</u> War horse is a story based on WW1. Listen to the music used in the film or theatre version online. How does it make you feel? Can you do a 'sound picture' based on what you listen to?</p>
<p><u>CREATIVE WRITING</u> Choose a character from one of the books and write your own story! What adventure might take place? Where does your character visit? Remember to use show not tell description!</p>	<p><u>WRITING WORKSHOP</u> Head over to BBC Teach online. Watch the video: Michael Morpurgo: How to write great stories. Can you write a checklist for creative writing using Michael's advice and put it into practise?</p>	<p><u>DRAMA</u> Grab a friend and read the story 'Kensuke's Kingdom' based on an island escape. Can you and your friend use drama to bring a scene of the story to life? Video yourself and send it into school!</p>
<p><u>INTERVIEW PREPARATION</u> Imagine you are going to be interviewing Michael Morpurgo. Create a list of questions you would ask. Maybe you can do a hot seating activity with a friend and pretend to be him! Take a picture and send it in!</p>	<p><u>TIMBAVATI</u> Timbavati is the area in South Africa famous for white lions. Unfortunately, these animals are endangered. Do some research on endangered animals in the world and share your findings in a report or poster.</p>	<p><u>TRACING PAPER PORTRAIT</u> Draw a portrait of Michael Morpurgo onto tracing paper. Underneath fill your page words to describe his work, e.g. 'inspirational' 'creative' 'exciting' 'unique'</p>



Try and complete at least 4 tasks above and return to school for Monday 30th March for marking a reward. Ask for any resources you need.