

Bok, Hallo, Hei, Hola, Ciao and Hello. I'm Harry, this is Olivia, Flora and Sam. Welcome to our presentation on our chosen national writer: Michael Morpurgo.

Michael Morpurgo is a highly regarded author in our country, and we want to give you just a flavour of why he is so highly looked upon. For us, Morpurgo means a lot to us. He is from the West of the UK as like us. Common themes in Morpurgo's work include nature and environmental issues, community and interdependence, and relationships between the old and the young. He often depicts people coming together and helping each other in times of crisis, such as war and natural disasters. Many of his books have historical and rural settings, and he uses his gift for telling enchanting stories to explore timeless values that are so unique to Great Britain. Thus, for Morpurgo, the grandparent and the storyteller style provide the next generation with an emotional and cultural link through which values, beliefs and experiences are passed on and given new life by the next generation. The individual person and the individual story are shown to be valuable, not merely for their own sake, but as part of a broader spectrum of interconnectedness.

Above, you can see him now on a beach in Cornwall (where we are from). Next to this you can Michael receiving his knighthood in 2018 or becoming a 'Sir'. Below this are a range of novels and texts published by Morpurgo- a writer renowned for writing stories aimed at children and young adults. As a result of his work, he has won many an award to celebrate his talent with the prime example of being Children's Laureate in the 2000's.

But, who is he? Well, Michael is now 75 years old and still going strong. He was born during the war and his father was in the army during that time. Once he was old enough, he too joined the Army. He rose through junior ranks very quickly before realising that he had a passion for teaching. So he left the army and went to university where it applied him with the skills to become a teacher. This led on to him writing books as a profession.

Here are just a few of his most known novels. War Horse from 1982, a story about the connection between horse and soldier in the War. Private Peaceful, a novel highlighting the effects of World War 1. Kensuke's Kingdom, a story about a stranded boy on an island. Finally, Butterfly Lion; a tale about a young boy growing up in Africa.

This is the book we have chosen to focus on- Shadow. A novel highlighting the many issues that come with migration especially in our country.

Michael himself knew what it was like to relocate having been an evacuee himself during WW2. Here are a few pictures showing what it was like within our own country during that time.

Above is the story of Shadow in a picture board format. It starts off with Taliban gunmen attacking local Afghans in Afghanistan, in particular Aman and his family. One day, Aman discovers a stray dog (Shadow) nearby that leads them to safety during the conflict. They escape to a cave to hide from the Talibans. From here, Aman and his mother have a big decision to make- stay or leave. In the end they decide to leave Afghanistan to flee the conflict with Shadow tagging along the entire way. On the way to a distant relative in Manchester, England, British Army soldiers pick them up and identify Shadow as their own. As a way of saying thanks to Aman and his mother, they take them to the UK to save the struggles of travelling across Europe. Upon entry to the UK, they are locked away in a Migrant Detention centre. After months of pain, anguish and torment the voices of protestors begin to get heard by the government. Aman and his mother are freed and they live a normal life in UK residence.

This an example with a happy ending but unfortunately, the United Kingdom is home to many of these detention centres with thousands of migrants locked away behind their gates. Here is a map showing just how many detention centres we are home to. It's embarrassing how we, the Great British, are turning our backs on those who need our help most. We make up excuses and try to make ourselves feel better but we are no better than those who drove them away from their homes in the first place. Many Europeans embrace them but why not us, the all-conquering Brits who are just laughing in the face of pain.

To show what Aman and his mother must have struggled through; here are just a few examples of refugees like them.

However, Michael Morpurgo doesn't just sit there and watch what is going on in the world around him. The next few slides contain some powerful things that he has had to say about the matter of migration.

The most powerful thing Michael has said though was, "We must not forget, we are all the same.", and how true he was.

Thank you for listening to our presentation on Michael Morpurgo.