

Michael Morpurgo Author Project



**How many
books by
Michael
Morpurgo
can you
name?**

Michael Morpurgo



- Morpurgo was born in October 1943 in St Albans, Herfordshire.
- Here are a few of the books which he has written:

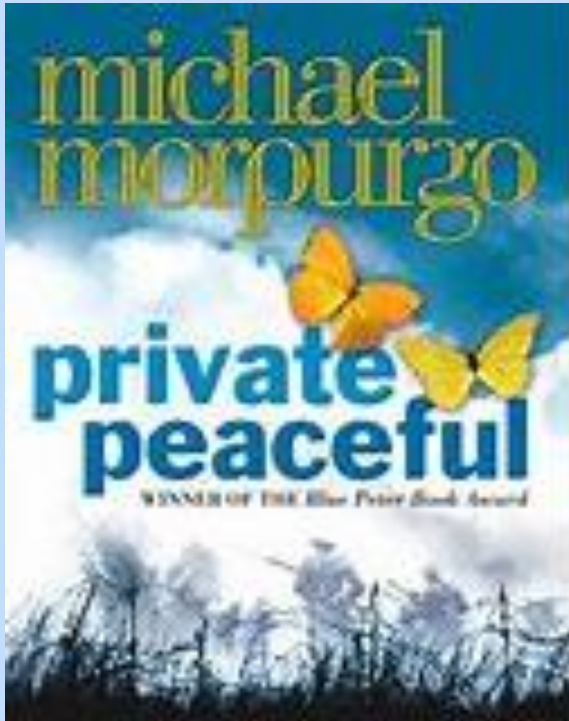
Some books by Michael Morpurgo



- Friend or Foe (1977)
- The Nine Lives of Montezuma (1980)
- War Horse (1982)
- Why the Whales Came (1985)
- The Wreck of the Zanzibar (1995)
- The Butterfly Lion (1996)
- Kensuke's Kingdom (1999)



Some books by Michael Morpurgo



- Private Peaceful (2003)
- Sir Gawain and the Green Knight (2004)
- Alone on Wide, Wide Sea (2006)
- Beowulf (2006)
- Running Wild (2009)

Early Life



- Michael Morpurgo is one of Britain's greatest living author's of children's books.
- His work spans 40 years and he has written over 150 books for children.

- He has worked with some incredible illustrators also.



**He has
worked with
Quentin
Blake, who
illustrated
Roald Dahl's
books.**

Early Life



- When Michael was growing up, his mother met his step-father, Jack Morpurgo.

Early Life



- One day, at the age of nineteen, Michael was watching the black and white film, “Great Expectations”, based on Charles Dickens’ famous novel.

Early Life



- At the end of the film, he noticed that the character Magwitch was played by an actor called Tony Van Bridge.



- Michael had never met his biological father, but knew his name was Tony Van Bridge.

Early Life



- He asked his mother if his biological father was Tony Van Bridge from the film and she answered, “Yes”.
- What a strange way to find out about your father!
- It’s almost like something from one of Michael’s books!

School



- He attended school in Devon until he was 13. He then went to a boarding school in Canterbury, which he did not like.

University



- He went to university at King's College, London and then enrolled at the Royal Military Academy.
- He decided a military life was not for him either!
- He decided to join the teaching profession with a job in a primary school in Kent.

Inspiration

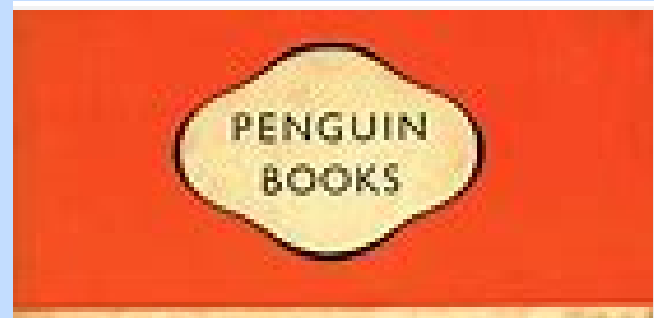


- Michael's writing career was inspired by the famous poet Ted Hughes, who later became a friend, mentor and neighbour.

Marriage



- Morpurgo married Clare, eldest daughter of Sir Allen Lane, the founder of Penguin Books.



Charity Work



In 1976 Michael and Clare established the charity Farms for City Children, with the primary aim of providing children from inner city areas with experience of the countryside

Charity Work



- The programme involves the children spending a week at a countryside farm, during which they take part in purposeful farmyard work.

Children's Laureate



- Morpurgo and Hughes, then Poet Laureate, originated the idea of Children's Laureate role.
- Morpurgo became the third person to fill the two-year position, from 2003 to 2005.

War and Conflict



- Michael is often asked why he writes books set during times of war and conflict. His answer is twofold.

War and Conflict



- Firstly, his mother lost her brother during the Second World War and created a hole in the family which could never be filled.

War and Conflict



- Secondly, he always felt a passionate concern about the devastating effects of war on the lives of children in particular.

Belonging



- Living in the village of Iddelsleigh in Devon for thirty years, Morpurgo has immersed himself in the local community, its people, animals and landscape. It is very important to Michael to feel that he belongs.

The Natural World



- It is also important to him to feel that he has a connection and empathy with the natural world.