

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023

## Friendship in Private Peaceful

Michael Morpurgo has used friendship to make characters develop with each other. Friendship is a clear representation of Molly and Tommo's relationship, they are a good example of unbiased friendship. Molly shows kindness and friendship when tying Tommo's shoelaces and in the book it says that 'she seemed to want to be with us all the time' referencing Molly. Molly also 'dabs' Tommo's nose when it's bleeding as well as 'my hands and my knee', this shows her caring nature and her want to help Tommo with his cuts and make sure he's OK. How Molly acts with Tommo, cleaning his cuts and hanging around him and Charlie, shows that she is a true friend and wants to help him. She cares for him like a little brother showing that they were very close. The author tells us that he wants us to understand that Tommo and Molly are very close and are always ready to help each other when in need. These examples of Molly and Tommo's friendship are clearly true and the author shows this well.

The author explores the idea of the brothers friendship interestingly; the relationship between Charlie and Tommo is more than brothers because they are 'best friends'. Charlie would fight for Tommo as seen when Tommo gets into a fight with Jimmy Parsons 'They're rolling over and over, punching each other and swearing', this shows how protective Charlie is of Tommo and how far he would go to protect him. Tommo also says 'I have the bravest brother in the world' showing that Tommo isn't

afraid to show everyone how great Charlie is. When they both go to war their friendship doesn't fade; even then Tommo shows this by thinking 'I'm not <sup>partic</sup> particularly worried Charlie's going with me', this is when they are going over the trench into the enemy trench. All of these examples show how much they trust each other and how they are always together and never afraid. The punctuation used by Michael Morpurgo is some of the best because he changes sentence length when Tommo is sure of something. When Tommo says he isn't worried because Charlie's here he uses two short sentences showing that Tommo doesn't need to think twice about being worried when he's with Charlie. The word 'particularly' shows that he's still slightly worried but for the most part he is confident in Charlie's abilities. Charlie makes Tommo feel brave when they are together as stated when they are going into enemy lines. They like spending time together and always knows what the other one is thinking. The author shows the relationship between these two well and how their dynamic barely changes ~~into~~ in different environments.

The author shows the friendship turned love triangle between Molly, Charlie and Tommo. Both brothers love and treasure Molly and their relationship established with her, this causes many events and impacts on their own friendship. An example of Charlie and Tommo's love for Molly is when Charlie and Molly had a baby and that upsets Tommo. Tommo avoids Charlie at work and Charlie said 'I was skiving off work, but he knew all I was doing was avoiding him'. In the quote he said 'I was skiving', skiving is a powerful word used

to induce laziness and a lack of effort when Charlie was annoyed at Tommo. The reader would feel sympathy for Tommo as he is in a devastating position, but they may also feel happy and hope that Tommo may move on from Molly and find someone new. The punctuation in the quote adds some depth to the sentence; a comma can add a lot to the way a sentence is read. Michael Morpurgo would have used this to break up the sentence and make it so you took a breath before you find out the true reason Tommo is 'skiving' off work. This quote can show the anger and sadness of Charlie when he knew his brother's heart has been shattered by the two people he loves most. Even before Molly and Charlie had their baby they were a proper trio but after Molly moved to the 'Bigguns' class, Charlie and Molly got closer without Tommo. Michael Morpurgo has shown many emotions in only one sentence, this conveys into why he is such an incredible author - every sentence has a meaning.

Michael Morpurgo has used war as coverage to introduce new and old friendships, as Private Peaceful is a ~~story~~<sup>book</sup> about how friendships blossom and the bumps along the way - war is a great turning point. Tommo has made many friends during the war they include: Pete, Little Les and Nipper. Martin are just a few to name. Wilkie is also an important person as he gives Charlie <sup>his</sup> watch and lifts the company's moral to fight harder after Sergeant Hanley made them

miserable. A quote to show Tommo needed friends and people around him is 'fortunately we have Little Les, our own professional rat-catcher, who is now called upon whenever a rat is spotted, whatever the time, day or night, he doesn't mind.' This quote shows how without the right people in Tommo's life he would be suffering. A key word in this quote is 'fortunately', I feel that this shows how grateful he is to have Little Les in his company and as his friend. The reader may feel a sense of happiness for Tommo to have something good in his life but also a sense of guilt for Little Les. He is asked to catch rats and although he says he doesn't mind he ~~may~~ may be tired because it says 'whatever the time, day or night', meaning that he is called upon in his sleep or when he is resting after a long day. The punctuation in the quote is interesting as there is as there is a list of things that Little Les is willing to do when catching a rat. The commas are also used as parenthesis in 'our own professional rat-catcher'. The ~~author~~ <sup>writer</sup> may have used this ~~to~~ technique to differ the sentences from each other and to add an extra bit of information about ~~to~~ Little Les so you can relate to the character. Tommo would've had a hard time during the war without the help and moral of his friends. This is why I think war adds new and old friends to create a more diverse list of people Tommo is friends with. Michael Morpurgo ~~&~~ demonstrate friendship in *Private Peaceful* amazingly and it is a very good book.