

MICHAEL MORPURGO

Michael Morpurgo was born in St. Albans in Hertfordshire in 1943.



MICHAEL MORPURGO

Michael was an evacuee during World War II. He was sent to live in Cumberland by his family.



MICHAEL MORPURGO

Michael did not like boarding school very much and his time there inspired part of his book *The Butterfly Lion*.



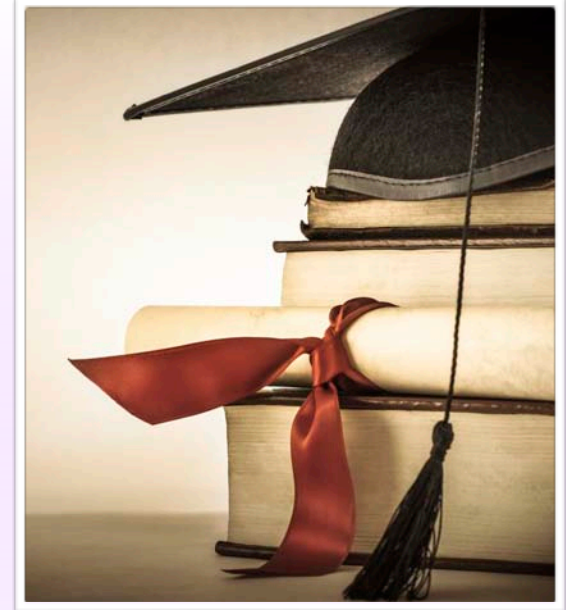
MICHAEL MORPURGO

Michael claims that he was 'stupid' at school, but he was good at playing rugby, which kept him out of trouble.



MICHAEL MORPURGO

Michael's favourite subjects at school were French and English. He studied both of these subjects at University.



MICHAEL MORPURGO

Michael joined the army when he left school. He hated it. He left the army as soon as he could to train to be a teacher.



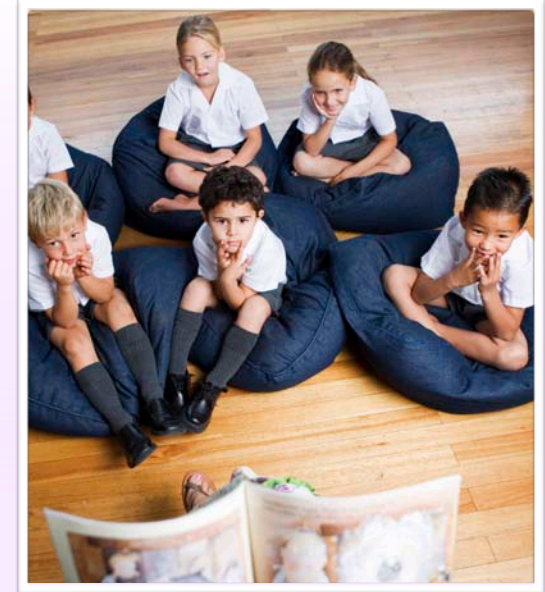
MICHAEL MORPURGO

Michael was a primary school teacher for ten years in Kent before he set up a charity with his wife called 'Farms for City Children'.



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While he was teaching, Michael used to make up his own stories and tell them to his class. He didn't like the children's books available at the time!



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Michael's headteacher asked him to write down his stories. She sent them to a publishing company who loved them and wanted to print them!



MICHAEL MORPURGO

Michael has now written over one hundred books. Private Peaceful was his 100th book.



MICHAEL MORPURGO

Michael has won lots of awards. Why the Whales Came won the Cercle D'Or Prix Sorciere and The Wreck of the Zanzibar won the 1995 Whitbread Children's Book Award.



MICHAEL MORPURGO

Michael thinks of new stories whilst working on his farm in Devon. He hates editing his stories but loves it once the book is printed, so he can share his 'dream' with his readers.



MICHAEL MORPURGO

Michael writes his books sitting on his bed as he hates working at a desk. He writes them down in a school exercise book.



MICHAEL MORPURGO

Michael uses the recurring themes of 'triumph of an outsider', survival, and characters' relationships with nature.

He sometimes uses the settings of Cornwall and World War I.



MICHAEL MORPURGO

The aim of 'Farms for City Children' is to give city children an experience of the countryside. This project earned both Michael and his wife an MBE in 1999.



MICHAEL MORPURGO

Five of Michael's books have been made into films. My Friend Walter (1988) and Out of the Ashes (2001) were both adapted for television.



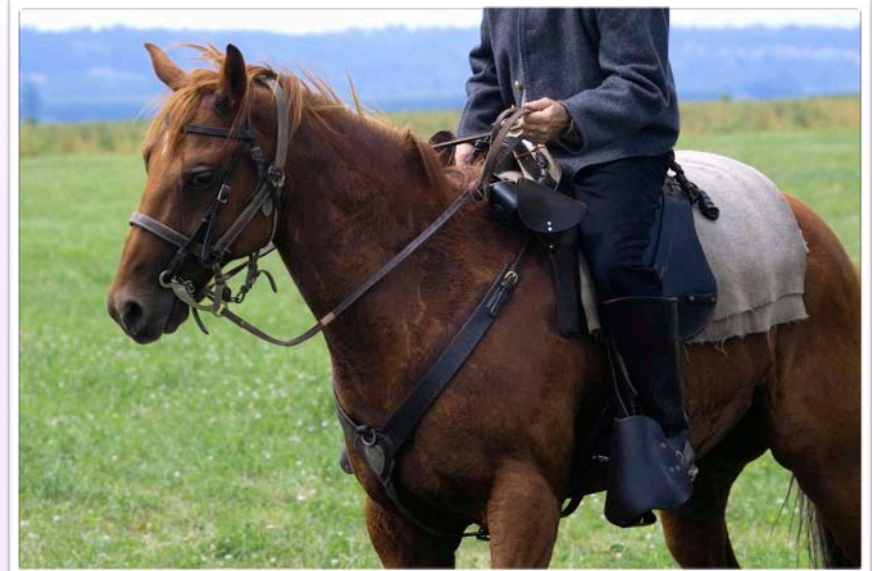
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Michael's book War Horse was adapted for the stage at the National Theatre in London in 2007.



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Film producer Steven Spielberg adapted War Horse into a film in 2011.



MICHAEL MORPURGO

From 2003 to 2005 Michael was the Children's Laureate. This rewards a lifetime contribution to children's literature and highlights the importance of children's books.



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Michael was awarded an OBE in 2006.



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