



Class Author Knowledge Navigator

Michael Morpurgo (Year 4)



AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

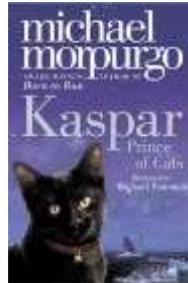
Who is Michael Morpurgo?

- He was born in October 1943 in St Alban's in Hertfordshire
- He used to be a primary school teacher and telling and reading stories to his class
- He has written over 100 books
- Many of his books are about war or animals.

Interesting Facts

- Michael was evacuated during the war when he was very young
- He joined the army himself
- He went to boarding school but hated it there
- Some of his books have been turned into films
- War Horse has been turned into a West End Show

AUTUMN TERM



JOURNEY TALE

A beautiful story about a young boy and his love for a cat called Kaspar. Jonny ends up keeping the cat in the Savoy Hotel in London but he must be kept a secret.

They end up boarding the Titanic on its voyage to America as stowaways. What will become of them both?

VOCABULARY

- aristocrat* - a person of the highest social class (usually very rich!)
- majestic* - beautiful or powerful
- entice* - to tempt
- endearing* = loveable
- tentatively* - to show that you are unsure about something
- despised* - did not like
- nimble* - to move quickly and lightly

SPRING TERM



WISHING TALE

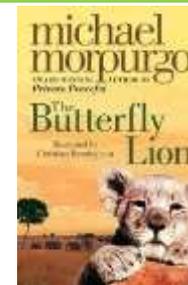
The story of the Wizard of Oz but told from the perspective of Toto, the dog.

When Toto and Dorothy survive a hurricane and end up on the yellow brick road, they find it enchanting. They both meet some interesting characters along the way but their key aim is to go back home. Can they help their new friends and defeat the Wicked Witch?

VOCABULARY

- lopsided* - one side is longer than the other
- scythe* - a tool used for cutting grass
- smithereens* - tiny pieces
- frantically* - in a great hurry
- plaintive* - sounding sad
- hackles* - hairs on an animal's back that rise when they are frightened
- in unison* - to speak, sing or perform at the same time
- creek* - a narrow waterway

SUMMER TERM



FINDING TALE

A story set in Timbavati, South Africa with rare animals such as the White Lion.

A young white lion cub is left vulnerable after his mother is killed. Michael forms an amazing bond with the cub and is devastated when the lion cub is taken away to work in a circus. Michael is then sent to boarding school. Will he ever be reunited with his white lion?

VOCABULARY

- scrutinise* - to examine something closely
- torment* - to cause suffering or unhappiness
- malaria* - a disease you can get caught from the bite of a mosquito
- vulnerable* - not able to defend itself well
- smothered* - cover something totally
- succulent* - pleasantly juicy

