

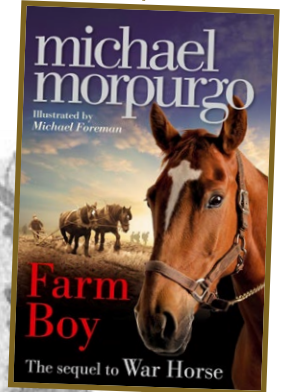
'Farm Boy'

First Impressions

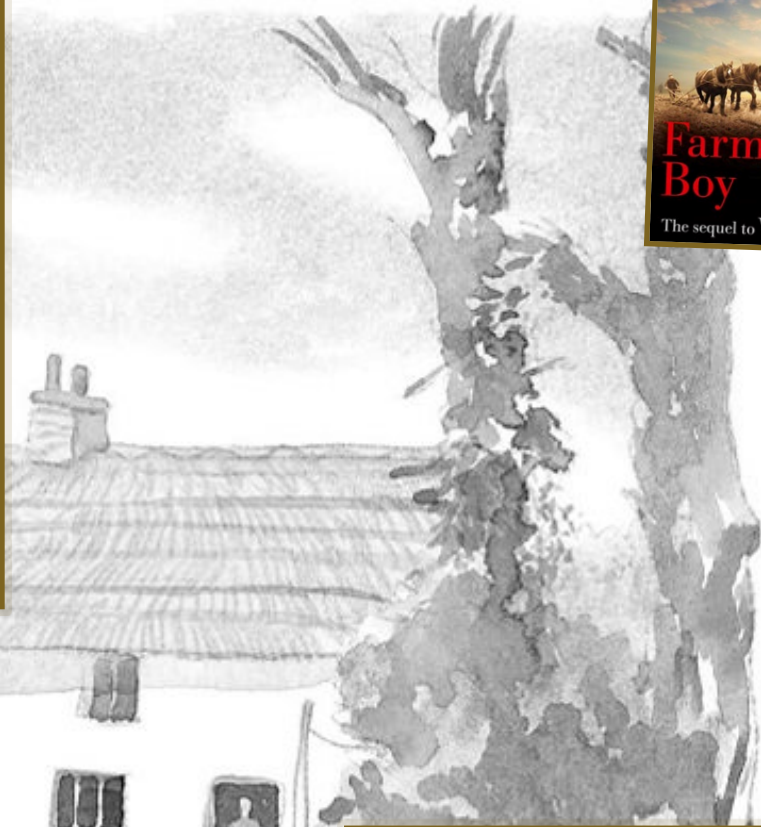
Read this extract from the first chapter of 'Farm Boy' (p.11).

Here, Michael Morpurgo introduces the farm's idyllic setting and also introduces Albert (the boy speaking) who talks a little about his grandad's life and character.

michael
morpurgo
month
Bookclub



I always loved going down to Devon, to Burrow, his old thatched house at the bottom of a rutty lane. He was born there. He'd never lived anywhere else, nor had any desire to do so. He's the only person I've ever met who seems utterly contented with his own place on earth, with the life he's lived. That's not to say that he never grumbles. He does – about the weather, about his television reception – he loves detective series, whodunnits, police dramas.

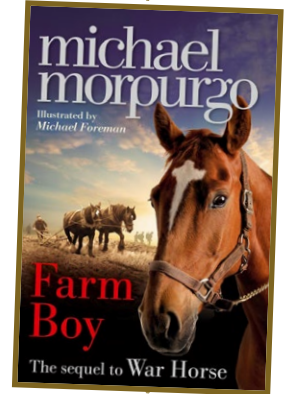


He'll curse the foxes when they tip over his dustbins, and shout abuse at the jets when they come screaming low over the chimney pots. But he never ever complains about his lot in life. Best of all, he never pretends to be someone he isn't, and what's more he doesn't want me to be anyone I'm not. I like that in him, I always have. That's maybe why I've spent so many of my school holidays with him down on the farm in Devon.

Quick Warm-Up Activity

Work with a partner, you have two minutes to find and copy one word from the extract that has a similar meaning to...

moans	_____	_____
aspiration	_____	_____
bumpy	_____	_____
insults	_____	_____



Challenge: Add another synonym that the author could have used.

Discussion Activity

Now, cut out these statements about the extract, discuss them with your partner and sort them into three piles on your table: **Agree**, **Disagree** and **Unsure**.

Grandad is always grumpy and irritable.

Albert would prefer to go on holiday with his parents.

Grandad was born in a hospital in Devon.

Grandad lives near an airfield.

Albert would like to be like Grandad when he gets older.

Grandad and Albert have a close relationship.