

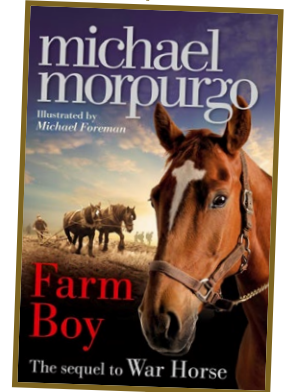
# 'Farm Boy' .....

## Adult Guidance

This 'Farm Boy' activity pack contains an adult guidance sheet which includes an overview of the story and key skill questions that can be used to target pupils' understanding as you are reading the book.

The answers contain example answers for the questions but pupils may have varied responses for some of the questions.

Additionally, there is an activity sheet for children who may have not read the whole text before. This contains an extract from the text, a warm-up synonym task and a discussion activity.




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## Overview .....

Joey was the last working horse on the farm and the apple of Grandpa's eye. In 'War Horse', Joey was sent away from the farm to be a warhorse in the First World War. Grandpa had joined the cavalry in order to find, and fight, with Joey. 'Farm Boy' brings us forward 50 years with Grandpa not only telling his grandson Joey's story but also a 'shameful secret', which he has held for years.

Every time Albert visits his grandfather on his Devon farm, he is spellbound by the tales he tells: powerful stories of war, rural life and changing times. When Grandpa reluctantly confesses that his ability to read and write has slipped away, can the young boy help him and repay the gift of his stories?



# 'Farm Boy' .....

## Key Skills Questions

Before reading: Think about Michael Morpurgo's stories.  
Are there any familiar themes and settings within his texts?

**Predict**

Look at the cover of 'Farm Boy'.  
Does it give you clues about the content of this book?

p.8: **'My mother grew up on the farm. She was the youngest of four sisters, and none of them had stayed on the farm any longer than they'd had to.'**

**Infer**

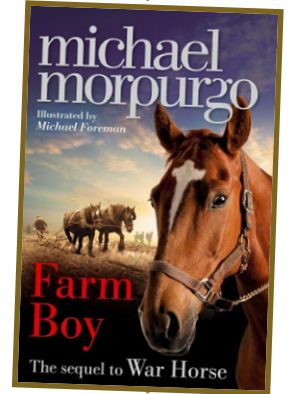
What do these sentences tell us about the sisters' opinions of growing up on a farm?

p.22: Father talked about his experiences of being a soldier in the war:

**Infer**

**'I was wounded a couple of times in the leg, lucky wounds, he said.'**

Why did Father describe his wounds as 'lucky'?



p.32: Listen how Albert describes Grandpa.

**Explain Vocabulary**

**'He talks with his eyebrows, with his hands. And he's good at listening and that makes me want to talk. He listens with his eyebrows, too.'**

What does this tell you about Grandpa and how Albert feels about him?

p.48: Which of Albert's purchases in the Iddesleigh Village Hall jumble sale made the biggest difference to Grandpa's reading?

**Retrieve**

p.53: Albert uses words like **'smelly'** and **'backbreaking'** to describe his time on the farm. What impression does this give you of his time there?

**Explain Vocabulary**

pp.62-68: What words and phrases does the author use to demonstrate Harry Medicott's character?

**Discuss Authorial Choices**

# 'Farm Boy' .....

## Key Skills Questions

Retrieve

pp.66-67: In Grandpa's story, when do Father and Harry Medlicott arrange a ploughing match for?

Compare and Contrast

pp.57-107: How does the vocabulary, punctuation and grammar in Grandpa's story differ from the rest of the text? Why might this be?

Infer

p.109: 'By then I think I had already made up my mind.'  
What do you think Albert had made his mind up about?

Explain Vocabulary

p.111 The author says Albert spends most of his evenings '**restoring**' the old green Fordson. What word could he have used instead of restoring?

Summarise

What is the most important message in 'Farm Boy'? What did it teach you?

Compare and Contrast

In what ways is the character Albert similar to Grandpa?

Summarise

Using fewer than 30 words, write a new blurb for 'Farm Boy' that would encourage people to read the story.

Predict

After reading: What do you think is likely to happen if Albert goes on to have his own family in the future?

