

A close-up portrait of Michael Morpurgo, a middle-aged man with light brown hair and blue eyes. He is looking slightly upwards and to the left. He is wearing a blue collared shirt under a red jacket. The background is a soft, out-of-focus mix of grey and light green.

Michael Morpurgo

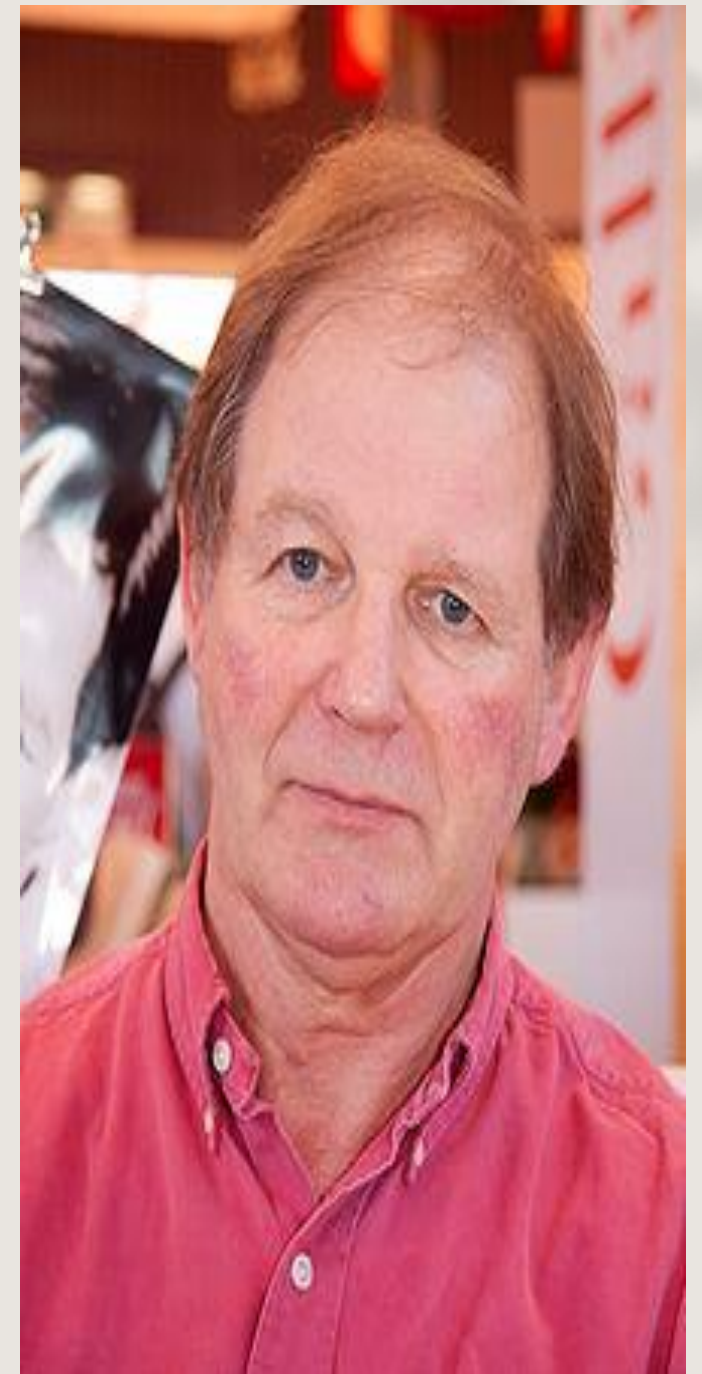
Sir

## Michael Morpurgo

**OBE FRSL FKC**

Morpurgo at a Paris book fair in March 2009

Born	Michael Andrew Bridge 5 October 1943 (age 77) <u>St Albans, Hertfordshire</u> , England
Occupation	•Author •poet •playwright
Nationality	<u>British</u>
Alma mater	<u>King's College London</u>
Notable works	<u>War Horse</u> , <u>Why the Whales Came</u> , <u>Private Peaceful</u>
Spouse	<u>Clare Morpurgo</u> (1963-)
Children	3



Micheel Morpurgo is a famous English children's author. Michael was born on 5th October 1943 in St Albans, Hertfordshire. He has written over 100 books. I have chosen Michael Morpurgo because his books are very enjoyable to read.



In 1976, Michael and his wife Clare set up the charity Farms for City Children, with the primary aim of providing children from inner city areas with experience of the countryside. The programme involves the children spending a week at a countryside farm, during which they take part in purposeful farmyard work. The charity's first president was the couple's close friend and Neighbour, Ted Hughes. About 85,000 children have taken part in the scheme since it was set up, and the charity now has three farms in Wales, Devon, Gloucestershire. Morpurgo has referred to the charity as his greatest achievement in life.

After graduating from the 'King's College London', he got employed at a primary school as a teacher where he narrated stories to his students. This story-telling exercise made him find the hidden story-teller in him and eventually, he embarked on his journey as an author. In 1974, he published his first book 'It Never Rained: Five Stories'.

Michael Morpurgo has been awarded the J M Barrie Award for his contribution to children's literature. The award, which champions the arts for children, is now in its 12th year.

Story maker, playwright and performer, Michael Morpurgo's work reaches across the arts. He is the author of over 140 books, and his novels have been adapted into hugely successful productions for both the stage and screen. Most notably the National Theatre's production of **War Horse**, and more recently Kneehigh's production of 946: **The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips** at the Globe.

Michael Morpugo's books are very good and interesting. I really enjoyed reading 'friend or foe'. Michael is very talented writing his books. Michael was once a primary school teacher then became an author.

Katie Clarke