

Michael Morpurgo

- 6** Award-winning children's author, Sir Michael Morpurgo,
16 was born in St Albans, Hertfordshire on 5th October 1943.
- 26** As a child, Michael and his brother Pieter were evacuated
35 from their homes to live in Northumberland. Michael later
44 attended boarding school before joining the army and then
55 embarking on a career in teaching. It was during this time
66 that Michael began writing books; he has gone on to pen
75 over 120 children's books, many of which include animals
78 as pivotal characters.
- 87** As well as writing children's books, Michael has also
94 penned screenplays and libretti (texts of operas).

97 Did You Know...?

- 106** In 1976, Michael and his wife founded the charity
114 Farms for City Children; the charity's farms offer
122 opportunities for city children to acquire new skills
126 and develop their self-esteem.

Quick Questions

- **1.** Which statement shows that Michael was born during the Second World War? Tick one.
- he joined the army
- he founded a charity
- he attended boarding school
- he was evacuated from his home
- **2.** **...he has gone on to pen over 120 children's books, many of which include animals as pivotal characters.** What does the word 'pivotal' mean in this sentence?
- _____
- _____
- **3.** Why do you think that the farms that Michael and his wife founded are aimed at city children?
- _____
- _____
- **4.** How does Michael remind you of someone else that you know or have heard about? Explain your answer.
- _____
- _____

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Answers

- **1.** Which statement shows that Michael was born during the Second World War? Tick one.
- he joined the army
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 he attended boarding school
 he was evacuated from his home
- **2.** ...he has gone on to pen over 120 children's books, many of which include animals as pivotal characters. What does the word 'pivotal' mean in this sentence?

Pupils' own responses, such as: The word 'pivotal' means that the animal characters played roles that were important to the story.

- **3.** Why do you think that the farms that Michael and his wife founded are aimed at city children?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think this is because city children may not have experienced farming life so would benefit from enjoying the space in the countryside and the rural experience.

- **4.** How does Michael remind you of someone else that you know or have heard about? Explain your answer.

Accept any reasonable answer, such as: Michael reminds me of E. B. White because he wrote books that involved animals, such as 'Charlotte's Web'.

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