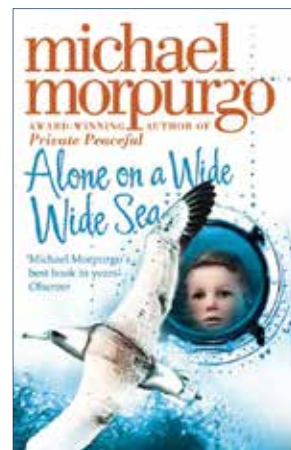


michael morpurgo



Alone on a Wide Wide Sea



Alone on a Wide Wide Sea – Marty

'Sea-sickness was my chief dread. It came upon me often and violently. To begin with I'd do what everyone else seemed to do, I'd vomit over the rail – if I could get there in time. It was while I was doing this one day that I first met Marty. We were vomiting together side by side, caught one another's eye, and shared each other's wretchedness. I could see in his eyes that it was just as bad for him. It helped somehow to know that. That was how our friendship began. Some kindly sailor came along and took pity on us both. He gave us some advice: when it gets rough, he told us, you should go below, as far down as you can go. It's the best place, because down there you don't feel the roll of the ship so much. So that's what we did, and it worked – mostly. Marty came down to my cabin, or I'd go to his. But sometimes I'd get caught out and find myself having to be sick on the cabin floor. I'd clean it up, but I couldn't clean the smell of it, so if I'd done it in my cabin they'd send me to Coventry again. It was to avoid having to face them that I sought out Marty's company more and more. I think it was because I felt safe with him. He was a fair bit older than me, about ten he was, older even than the boys in my cabin and taller too – the tallest of all of us, and tall was important. I never asked him to protect me, not as such. But I knew somehow he might, and as it turned out he did.'

(Alone on a Wide Wide Sea , Part One, Chapter 1, Page 18)

'You need people like Marty just to keep you going. Even if things don't seem to be working out quite as you'd like them to, you need to feel they're going to, that all will be well in the end. If you don't believe that, and sometimes in my life I haven't, then there's a deep black hole waiting for you, a black hole I came to know only too well later on. I learned a lot from Marty on that ship, about hope, about friendship. Mighty Marty everyone called him, and it was a nickname that suited him perfectly.'

(Alone on a Wide Wide Sea, Part One, Chapter 1, Page 21)

Marty and Arthur met in unlikely circumstances, thrown together by their collective unhappiness. They remained best friends throughout their lives, sharing the good times and the bad.

Who is your best friend?

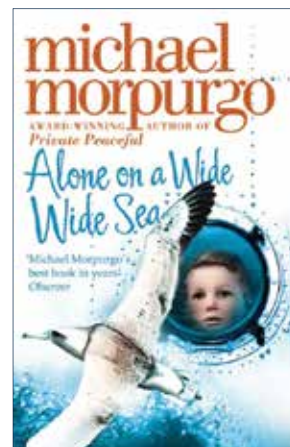
How did you meet?

What shared memories do you have – good and bad?

michael morpurgo



Alone on a Wide Wide Sea



Alone on a Wide Wide Sea – Cooper's Station and The Ark

'Evening was coming on by the time we got to Cooper's Station, but we could still see enough. We could see it was a place on its own, way out in the bush, and we could tell straight away it was a farm.'

(*Alone on a Wide Wide Sea*, Part One, Chapter 3, Page 26)

READ PAGES 28 TO 38 TO THE CLASS.

'Suddenly there it was, a long low shack of a place, a chimney at one end and a verandah all around.'

(*Alone on a Wide Wide Sea*, Part One, Chapter 15, Page 108)

READ PAGES 108 TO 122 TO THE CLASS.

Michael Morpurgo uses his words powerfully to create effective descriptions of people and places.

For example Patrick describes his first night at Cooper's Station as 'sweltering darkness'.

His first sighting of The Ark is one of 'trees and green paddocks.'

Write down as many words as you can to describe Cooper's station and The Ark.

Compare the two lists. Using some of your words, write a brief description of the two contrasting places.

Cooper's Station	The Ark