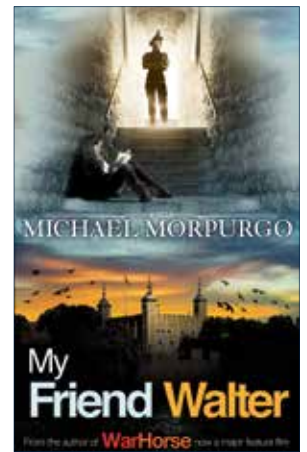


michael morpurgo



My Friend Walter



My Friend Walter – Tobacco Smoke

‘Walter Raleigh left me wrapped in his black velvet cloak and limped across the room to the door. ‘They’ve gone,’ he said and he closed the door again.

‘But why didn’t they see us?’ I asked. ‘That little boy, he was looking right at me.’

‘Cousin Bess, though I yearn often to be once more amongst the living, there are some advantages to be had in my present more spiritual state. Since I am but a spirit, and a spirit has no body, I may go where I will unseen. My cloak is part of me and I may hide what I will under it. I may pass through walls and doors as if they were not there, and I may eavesdrop invisibly on the living world as much as I wish – indeed there is little else to do in this wretched damp place. Oh, do not think cousin, that I do not still feel the damp in my bones. To be a ghost is to live with all the pain of the living but with little of the pleasure.’

‘But I still don’t understand: how can I see you and they can’t?’ I asked.

Sir Walter smiled. ‘You can only see me because I wish you to see me. I do not wish them to see me, so they cannot.’
(*My Friend Walter*, Chapter 2, Pages 23-24)

Imagine that you have the power of invisibility.

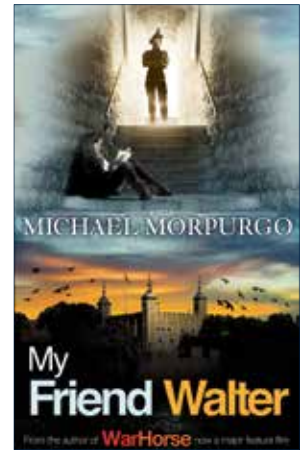
Where would you go? Who could you spy on? What adventures could you have with your power?

Draw a comic strip sequencing one of your adventures.

michael morpurgo



My Friend Walter



My Friend Walter – The Beefeater

'The Beefeater was the first to come in, followed by a troop of several tourists all hung about with cameras and anoraks. 'Can't think how the door came to be shut. Always left open,' said the Beefeater. 'Anyway, here it is, the Bloody Tower, so called because it was from here in the cold light of dawn that many an unfortunate prisoner was taken down below to Tower Green for his execution. It was in this very place that Sir Walter Raleigh spent thirteen years of his natural life.' He bent down, put his hands on his knees and spoke to the children.

'You've heard of Walter Raleigh...'

(My Friend Walter, Chapter 2, Page 18)



You are a Beefeater working in the Tower of London.

A group of children are sent to visit the Bloody Tower for a school trip. They have never heard of Sir Walter Raleigh and ask you for an information sheet about him.

Use books and the internet to find out as much as you can about Sir Walter Raleigh. Present your information as a simple factsheet for the children who visit the tower.

Include some drawings in your factsheet, as well as key dates and events in the life of Sir Walter Raleigh.

and his kindness to the poor undermine them and show them to be the baddies they really are. However it is Robin they condemn as a criminal and a reward is offered for his capture.

michael morpurgo



My Friend Walter



My friend Walter – Gold Sniffing Sheepdog

'Father broke the news beautifully, in such a matter-of-fact voice. He went into the hallway of the house and called them. He said he was sorry he'd been gone longer than expected but that Humph had just found the golden orb from the Crown Jewels in a hedgerow; and that was not all, he said, there could be a small reward too, just a quarter of a million pounds. There was a moment of hollow silence and then they all cried like babies. Some people are very strange...'

Within half an hour we were besieged in the house by reporters and television cameras. They photographed us for hours outside the front door under bright lights they'd set up and we all had to cuddle Humph. (He couldn't understand it – all this sudden affection). Mother and Auntie Ellie had groomed him till he glistened so that he looked really quite presentable for his press conference. They tried to make him bark into the microphone, but he wouldn't; and they asked us the same questions again and again and again. How old were we? Where did we go to school? What was it like to find the Crown Jewels? What was it like to be famous? And then the most common question of all: 'What will you do with all the reward money Mr Throckmorton?'

'Perhaps we'll buy ourselves a farm,' said Father. 'We'd like a place of our own, wouldn't we?'

And that made the headlines in most of the papers the next day. 'Gold sniffing sheepdog finds Crown Jewel in hedgerow...'

(My Friend Walter, Chapter 10, Pages 166, Page 167)

Imagine you are one of the reporters who interviewed the Throckmorton family. Write your newspaper article about the discovery of the Orb. Try to include some answers to the questions included in the paragraph above. Draw a picture of the family and the Orb.

Gold Sniffing Sheepdog finds Crown Jewels in Hedgerow!

