

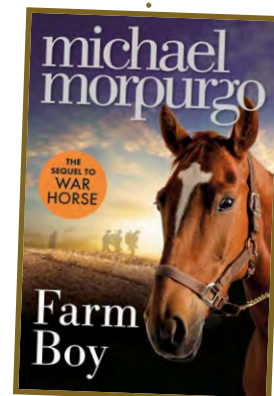
# Farm Boy

## The national curriculum states that:

Pupils in years 3 and 4 should be able to read books written at an age-appropriate interest level. They should be able to read them accurately and at a speed that is sufficient for them to focus on understanding what they read rather than on decoding individual words. They should be able to decode most new words outside their spoken vocabulary, making a good approximation to the word's pronunciation.

This resource aims to give you the ability to test a pupil's level of fluency to this expected standard. Each 60-Second Read Activity Card features a short extract of age-appropriate text with an average word count of around 90-120 words. The cumulative word count for each line of text is shown in the left-hand margin of each card. Each of the cards also contains a set of comprehension questions that link to the KS2 reading content domains.

Each different question type has its own canine helper to remind children of what they need to do to answer a question appropriately.



### Vocabulary Questions

Vocabulary Victor is there to help you work out the meaning of unknown words and phrases using context clues.

2a: Give / explain the meaning of words in context.

### Summary Questions

Summarising Sheba is there to remind you to summarise the main point(s) or main event(s) of a paragraph or text.

2c: Summarise main ideas from more than one paragraph.

### Prediction Questions

Predicting Pip tries to see the future and she will help you to work out what might happen next from clues in the text.

2e: Predict what might happen from details stated and implied.

### Author Choice Questions

Arlo the Author likes to help you to spot examples of ambitious vocabulary and figurative language, and explain how these words/phrases add to the meaning of the text.

2g: Identify/explain how meaning is enhanced through choice of words and phrases.

### Retrieval Questions

Rex Retriever is there to help you to go into a text and just simply retrieve the facts and key details.

2b: Retrieve and record information / identify key details from fiction and non-fiction.

### Inference Questions

Inference Iggy will help you hunt for clues in a text about how someone might be feeling or why something is happening.

2d: Make inferences from the text / explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text.

### Compare, Contrast & Comment

Cassie the Commentator discusses the content of a paragraph/text and compares events and characters. Can you do the same?

2f: Identify/explain how information/narrative content is related and contributes to meaning as a whole.

2h: Make comparisons within the text.

# What Is Ploughing? .....

- 9 To prepare for planting or sowing seeds, farmers plough  
16 their land by turning over the soil.
- 26 Ploughing allows for fresh **nutrients** to be brought to the  
37 surface of the soil. It also aerates the earth, which means  
49 it makes air holes in the soil to allow more moisture to  
51 get inside.
- 59 Modern ploughing is usually carried out by tractors  
66 pulling specialist equipment. Before that, farmers would  
77 use animals, such as horses or **oxen**, to pull the plough.

## 80 Did You Know...?

- 89 The long trenches made in the ground from ploughing  
92 are called 'furrows'.

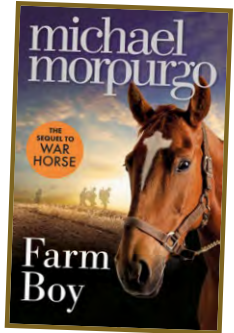
## 93 Glossary

- 103 **nutrients:** These are substances that are needed to keep a  
112 living thing alive and to help it to grow.
- 119 **oxen:** These are cattle that have been  
124 trained to pull farm equipment.



# Quick Questions

- ... 1. Why do farmers plough soil before sowing seeds? Tick **two**.
- ☐ to aerate the earth
  - ☐ to remove stones from the soil
  - ☐ to harvest vegetables
  - ☐ to bring nutrients to the surface
- ... 2. What does the word 'modern' mean?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- ... 3. Why has the glossary been included in the text?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- ... 4. What do you think might happen if seeds were sown in a field that hadn't been ploughed?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_



# What Is Ploughing?

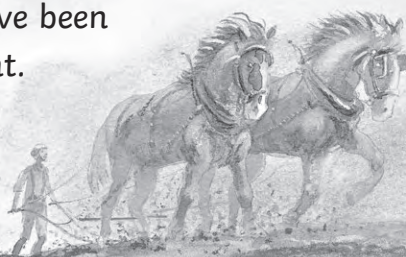
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- 103 **nutrients:** These are substances that are needed to keep a  
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124 trained to pull farm equipment.



# Answers

- ... 1. Why do farmers plough soil before sowing seeds? Tick **two**.

- ☒ to aerate the earth
- ☐ to remove stones from the soil
- ☐ to harvest vegetables
- ☒ to bring nutrients to the surface

- ... 2. What does the word 'modern' mean?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: The word 'modern' means recently or in present times.**

- ... 3. Why has the glossary been included in the text?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the glossary has been included to help the reader understand any technical words.**

- ... 4. What do you think might happen if seeds were sown in a field that hadn't been ploughed?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I don't think that the seeds would grow very well because they wouldn't get the nutrients or the moisture they needed.**





# Grandpa

- 11 I always loved going down to Devon, to Burrow, his old  
23 thatched house at the bottom of a ruddy lane. He was born  
33 there. He'd never lived anywhere else, nor had any desire  
45 to do so. He's the only person I've ever met who seems  
55 utterly contented with his own place on earth, with the  
67 life he's lived. That's not to say that he never grumbles. He  
75 does — about the weather, about his television reception  
82 — he loves detective series, whodunnits, police dramas.  
93 He'll curse the foxes when they tip over his dustbins, and  
103 shout abuse at the jets when they come screaming low  
113 over the chimney pots. But he never complains about his  
116 lot in life.

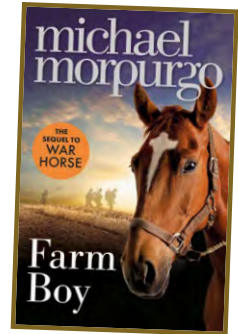
Extract from 'Farm Boy'  
by Michael Morpurgo.



## Quick Questions

- ... 1. He's the only person I've ever met who seems utterly contented with his own place on earth...  
Which word means the same as 'contented'? Tick one.
- ☐ grumpy      ☐ satisfied  
☐ lonely      ☐ excited
- ... 2. Give **two** things that make Grandpa grumble.
- \_\_\_\_\_  
• \_\_\_\_\_
- ... 3. Discuss how you think Grandpa feels about his home.
- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ... 4. The author uses the word 'ruddy' to describe the lane. What impression does this give you of the lane?
- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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# Grandpa

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**116** lot in life.

Extract from 'Farm Boy'  
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# Answers

- ... **1.** He's the only person I've ever met who seems utterly contented with his own place on earth

Which word means the same as 'contented'? Tick one.

- ☐ grumpy      ☒ **satisfied**  
☐ lonely      ☐ excited

- ... **2.** Give **two** things that make Grandpa grumble.

**Accept any two of the following: the weather; his television reception; foxes (when they tip over dustbins); jets (when they come screaming low over the chimney pots).**

- ... **3.** Discuss how you think Grandpa feels about his home.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think Grandpa feels very attached to his home because of the memories he has there. I think he is happy living there.**

- ... **4.** The author uses the word 'ruddy' to describe the lane. What impression does this give you of the lane?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I get the impression that the lane is very old with lots of holes and bumps in it.**



# Backpacking in Australia

- 10** In the book 'Farm Boy', the narrator journeys to Australia  
**15** to travel before starting college.
- 24** Each year, around 180,000 students take a 'gap year'  
**33** before carrying on with their studies. Many of these  
**43** students decide to travel to far away places like Australia  
**52** to take in the sights and experience new adventures.
- 59** Backpacking usually involves travelling from place to  
**69** place and staying in cheap places, such as hostels, with  
**77** other people. Backpackers usually travel light; they need  
**89** to be able to travel from place to place (often using buses  
**98** or trains) without having to carry too many belongings  
**100** with them.

## 102 Tourist Destinations

### 106 Popular cities:

- 108** • Sydney  
**111** • Melbourne  
**115** • Brisbane

### Famous sights:

- Uluru  
• Blue Mountains  
• Great Barrier Reef

# Quick Questions

- ... **1.** What is the name given to the break that some students take between their studies? Tick one.
- ☐ break year      ☐ fun year  
☐ travel year      ☐ gap year
- ... **2.** Find and copy a phrase from the text that means 'to take little with you when you go on a trip'.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- ... **3.** Why do you think that the author has included 'Famous sights' and 'Popular cities' in the text?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- ... **4.** Why do you think that some backpackers choose to stay in hostels?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_



# Backpacking in Australia

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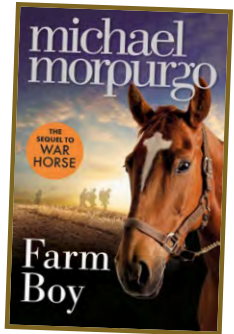
# Answers

- ... **1.** What is the name given to the break that some students take between their studies? Tick one.
- ☐ break year      ☐ fun year  
☐ travel year      ☒ gap year
- ... **2.** Find and copy a phrase from the text that means 'to take little with you when you go on a trip'.
- travel light**
- ... **3.** Why do you think that the author has included 'Famous sights' and 'Popular cities' in the text?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the author has included this in the text because it shows the types of places that backpackers in Australia may choose to visit.**

- ... **4.** Why do you think that some backpackers choose to stay in hostels?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think they stay in hostels because the text says that these places are cheap and they would want to save money. They may also want to make new friends.**





# Mayday .....

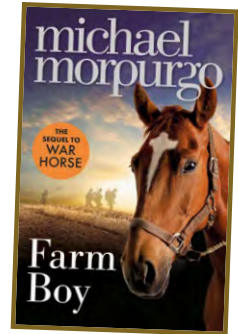
- 12** This is the opening of a story written by Grandpa after he  
**18** had learnt to read and write:
- 29** When I was a littleun Mayday up in Iddesleigh village was  
**36** always the best day of the year.
- 45** There was the march around the village behind the  
**53** Hatherleigh Silver Band all the menfolk following the  
**62** Friendly Society banner blue ribbons on their jackets and  
**72** Father standing a head higher than any of the others.
- 83** There were swing boats up around the village green and a  
**92** carousel and pasties and toffee apples and lemonade and  
**103** then in the afternoon we all had games down on West  
**105** Park Farm.



Extract from 'Farm Boy'  
by Michael Morpurgo.

## Quick Questions

- ... **1.** What foods were available on Mayday?  
Tick **two**.
- ☐ hot dogs                      ☐ candyfloss  
☐ pasties                        ☐ toffee apples
- ... **2.** Why do you think Grandpa describes  
Mayday as the best day of the year?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- ... **3.** **When I was a littleun Mayday up in  
Iddesleigh village was always the best  
day of the year.**
- What do you think Grandpa means by 'littleun'?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- ... **4.** Look at the text from **When I was a littleun...** to the end.  
Explain how you can tell that Grandpa had only just  
learnt to read and write before writing this story?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_



# Mayday

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# Answers

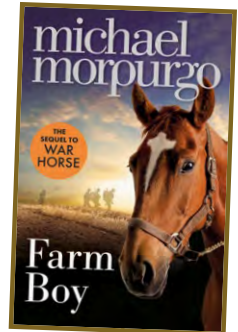
1. What foods were available on Mayday?  
Tick **two**.
- ☐ hot dogs      ☐ candyfloss  
☒ **pasties**      ☒ **toffee apples**
2. Why do you think Grandpa describes Mayday as the best day of the year?
- Pupils' own responses, such as: I think this is because it sounds like a fun and exciting day with games, food, music and a happy atmosphere.**
3. When I was a littleun Mayday up in Iddesleigh village was always the best day of the year.

What do you think Grandpa means by 'littleun'?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think he means 'little one' because he is talking about when he was a young child.**

4. Look at the text from **When I was a littleun...** to the end. Explain how you can tell that Grandpa had only just learnt to read and write before writing this story?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I can tell because he doesn't use much punctuation. For example, there aren't any commas and his sentences are long.**



# TWINKL TIMES

## Shock Winner in Ploughing Contest

9 There was high drama at Candlelight Field yesterday as  
17 crowds gathered to watch a ploughing match between  
20 two local farmers.

30 Harry Medlicott from West Park Farm is reported to have  
37 challenged Corporal Narracott to the match following  
45 the village Mayday celebrations. Mr Medlicott claimed his  
53 modern Fordson tractor would plough faster than the  
56 Corporal's horse-drawn plough.

65 Farmer Northley waved his flag shortly after 6:30 a.m.  
77 to signal the start of the match. To begin with, it seemed  
87 that Mr Medlicott would win. However, in a shock turn  
95 of events, Medlicott's tractor broke down. Meanwhile, the  
105 Corporal and his two horses ploughed on until the farmer  
114 was replaced by his grandson, who managed to secure  
118 their surprise narrow victory.

## Quick Questions

1. Where did the ploughing match take place?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Find and copy one word or phrase that shows that people did not expect the Corporal to win the ploughing match.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why do you think a crowd gathered to watch the ploughing match?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Predict what might have happened if Harry Medlicott's tractor didn't break down.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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105 Corporal and his two horses ploughed on until the farmer  
114 was replaced by his grandson, who managed to secure  
118 their surprise narrow victory.

## Answers

- ... 1. Where did the ploughing match take place?

**The match took place at Candlelight Field.**

- ... 2. Find and copy one word or phrase that shows that people did not expect the Corporal to win the ploughing match

**Accept any one of the following: shock (winner/turn of events); surprise (victory).**

- ... 3. Why do you think a crowd gathered to watch the ploughing match?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think a crowd gathered because they thought it would be exciting to watch a tractor in a ploughing match against a horse-drawn plough.**

- ... 4. Predict what might have happened if Harry Medlicott's tractor didn't break down.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I predict that if his tractor didn't break down, then Harry Medlicott would have won the competition easily.**

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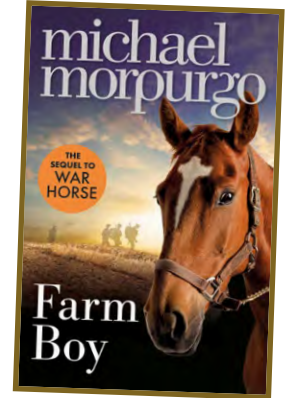


# Farm Boy .....

Extract from 'Farm Boy' by Michael Morpurgo.

There's an old green Fordson tractor in the back of Grandpa's barn, always covered in cornsacks. When I was very little, I used to go in there, pull off the cornsacks, climb up and drive it all over the farm. I'd be gone all morning sometimes, but they always knew where to find me. I'd be ploughing or tilling or mowing, anything I wanted. It didn't matter to me that the engine didn't work, that one of the iron wheels was missing, that I couldn't move the steering wheel.

Up there on my tractor, I was a farmer, like my Grandpa, and I could go all over the farm, wherever I wanted. When I'd finished, I always had to put the cornsacks back and cover it up. Grandpa said I had to, so that it didn't get dusty. That old tractor, he said, was very important, very special. I knew that already of course, but it wasn't until many years later that I discovered just how important, just how special it was.

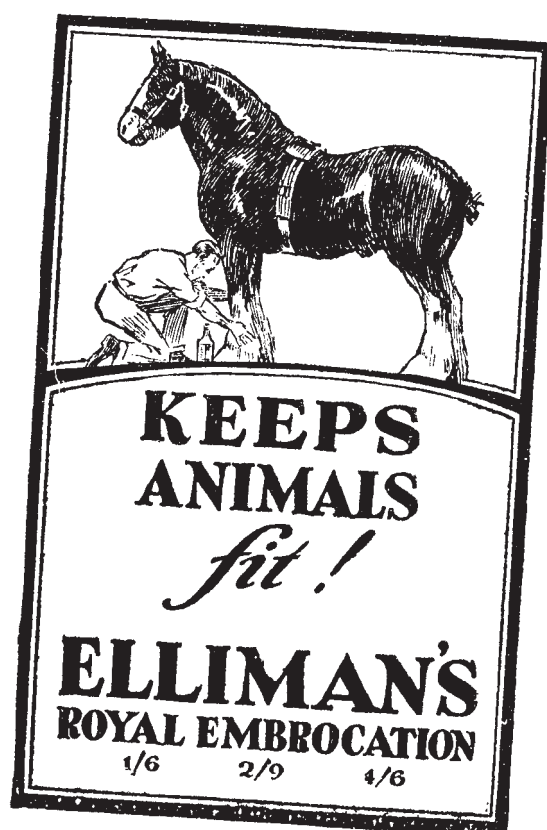
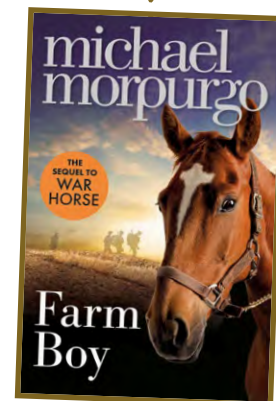


# Farm Boy .....

Extract from 'Farm Boy' by Michael Morpurgo.

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I come from a family of farmers going back generations and generations, but I wouldn't have known much about it if Grandpa hadn't told me. My own mother and father never seemed that interested in family roots, or maybe they just preferred not to talk about them. 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. School took her away to college. College took her off to London, to teaching first, then to meeting my father, a townie through and through, and one who made no secret of his dislike for the countryside and everything to do with it.



'All right in pictures, I suppose,' he'd say, 'just as long as you don't have to smell it or walk in it.' And he'd say that in front of Grandpa, too. I have always felt they were a little ashamed of Grandpa and his old-fashioned ways, and I never really understood why — until recently, that is. When I found out, it wasn't Grandpa I was ashamed of.

I always loved going down to Devon, to Burrow, his old thatched house at the bottom of a rutty lane. He was born there.

He'd never lived anywhere else, nor had any desire to do so. He's the only person I've ever met who seems utterly contented with his own place on earth, with the life he's lived.



# Questions .....

1. What is a Fordson a type of? Tick one.

- ☐ car ☐ college  
☐ tractor ☐ farm

2. Number the events in the narrator's mother's life from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- ☐ She went to college.  
☐ She met the narrator's father.  
☐ She went to school.  
☐ She grew up on the farm.

3. Which word from the text shows that the narrator's family have been farmers for a long time? Tick one.

- ☐ old ☐ family  
☐ generations ☐ important

4. What does the narrator's father **not** want to do when in the countryside? Tick **two**.

- ☐ drive in it ☐ walk in it  
☐ smell it ☐ look at it

5. Fill in the missing words.

Up there on my \_\_\_\_\_, I was a \_\_\_\_\_,  
like my Grandpa, and I could go all over the farm, wherever I wanted.

6. What type of house did Grandpa live in?

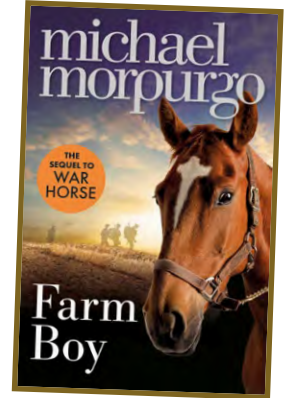
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Why does the narrator love going to visit his Grandpa on his farm?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# Answers .....

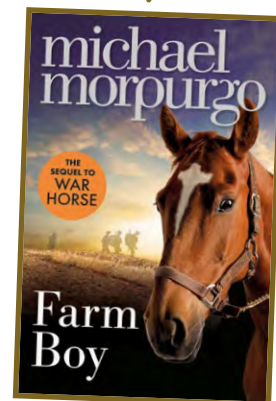
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- 3** She went to college.  
**4** She met the narrator's father.  
**2** She went to school.  
**1** She grew up on the farm.



3. Which word from the text shows that the narrator's family have been farmers for a long time? Tick one.

- ☐ old
 ☐ family  
☒ **generations**
☐ important

4. What does the narrator's father **not** want to do when in the countryside? Tick **two**.

- ☐ drive in it
 ☒ **walk in it**  
☒ **smell it**
☐ look at it

5. Fill in the missing words.

Up there on my **tractor**, I was a **farmer**,  
like my Grandpa, and I could go all over the farm, wherever I wanted.

6. What type of house did Grandpa live in?

**Grandpa lived in an old thatched house (at the bottom of a rutty lane).**

7. Why does the narrator love going to visit his Grandpa on his farm?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the narrator loves to visit his Grandpa because he loves spending time with him in the countryside and enjoys learning about the farming life.**

# Questions .....

1. Where is Grandpa's farm? Tick one.

- |                                 |                              |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> London    | <input type="radio"/> Dorset |
| <input type="radio"/> Yorkshire | <input type="radio"/> Devon  |

2. Draw **four** lines and match each word to its correct meaning.

thatched

An area of land used for growing crops or keeping animals.

rutty

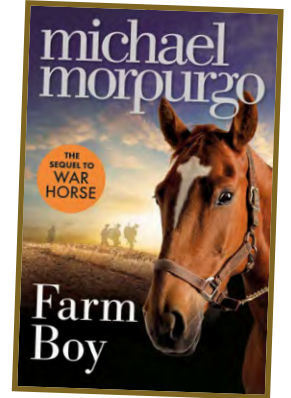
A bumpy road.

barn

A roof covered with dry straw.

farm

A large farm building for storing animals or grain.



3. Where do you think the narrator's father grew up? Tick one.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> in the countryside | <input type="radio"/> in a town or city    |
| <input type="radio"/> by the sea         | <input type="radio"/> in a faraway country |

4. Underline **one** word in the quotation below that suggests that the narrator's parents may feel embarrassed by Grandpa.

*I have always felt they were a little ashamed of Grandpa and his old-fashioned ways, and I never really understood why...*

5. Find and copy one word or phrase from the text that means 'no longer fashionable'.

\_\_\_\_\_



# Questions .....

6. Fill in the missing words.

My own mother and father never seemed that interested in family \_\_\_\_\_, or maybe they just preferred not to \_\_\_\_\_ about them.

7. How can you tell that the narrator's father doesn't like the countryside?

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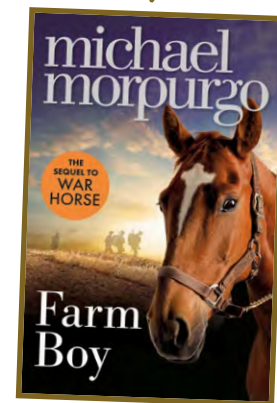
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8. Think of a title for this extract. Explain your choice.

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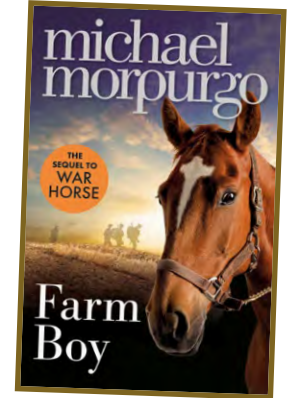
# Answers

1. Where is Grandpa's farm? Tick one.

- ☐ London ☐ Dorset  
☐ Yorkshire ☒ **Devon**

2. Draw **four** lines and match each word to its correct meaning.

thatched	An area of land used for growing crops or keeping animals.
rutty	A bumpy road.
barn	A roof covered with dry straw.
farm	A large farm building for storing animals or grain.



3. Where do you think the narrator's father grew up? Tick one.

- ☐ in the countryside ☒ **in a town or city**  
☐ by the sea ☐ in a faraway country

4. Underline **one** word in the quotation below that suggests that the narrator's parents may feel embarrassed by Grandpa.

*I have always felt they were a little ashamed of Grandpa and his old-fashioned ways, and I never really understood why...*

5. Find and copy one word or phrase from the text that means 'no longer fashionable'.

**old-fashioned**

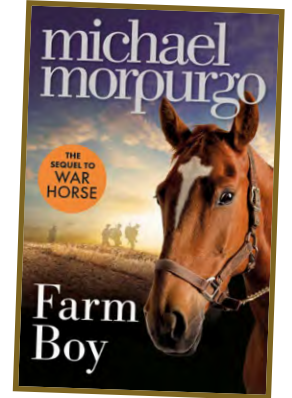
# Answers .....

6. Fill in the missing words.

My own mother and father never seemed that interested in family **roots**, or maybe they just preferred not to **talk** about them.

7. How can you tell that the narrator's father doesn't like the countryside?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I can tell he doesn't like the countryside because he says it's 'all right in pictures', which suggests he would rather not visit there.**



8. Think of a title for this extract. Explain your choice.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: An alternative title might be 'Tractor Adventures' because the narrator talks about the fun he has playing on Grandpa's old tractor at the farm.**



# Questions .....

michael  
morpurgo  
month  
Bookclub

1. What took the narrator's mother to London? Tick one.

- ☐ farming ☐ school  
☐ college ☐ teaching

2. Underline **one** word in the quotation below that suggests that the narrator's Grandpa doesn't want to change his life.

*He's the only person I've ever met who seems utterly contented with his own place on earth, with the life he's lived.*

3. Give **two** things that the narrator's father doesn't want to do in the countryside.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

4. Why did Grandpa want the tractor to be covered with cornsacks?

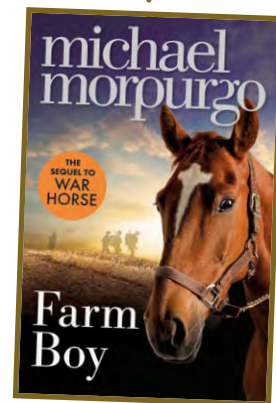
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Fill in the missing words.

It didn't matter to me that the \_\_\_\_\_ didn't work, that one of the iron wheels was \_\_\_\_\_, that I couldn't move the steering wheel.

6. How do you think the narrator feels about his Grandpa? Explain your answer.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# Questions .....

7. The author uses the word 'rutty' to describe the lane. What impression does this give you of the lane?

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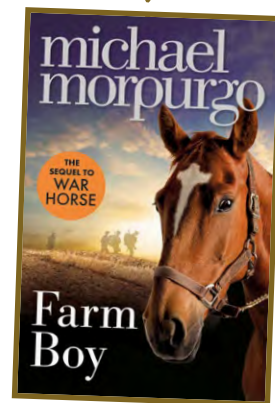
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8. Sum up this text in one sentence.

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# Answers

michael  
morpurgo  
month  
Bookclub

1. What took the narrator's mother to London? Tick one.

- ☐ farming
 ☐ school  
☒ college
 ☐ teaching

2. Underline **one** word in the quotation below that suggests that the narrator's Grandpa doesn't want to change his life.

*He's the only person I've ever met who seems utterly contented with his own place on earth, with the life he's lived.*

3. Give **two** things that the narrator's father doesn't want to do in the countryside.

- smell it
- walk in it

4. Why did Grandpa want the tractor to be covered with cornsacks?

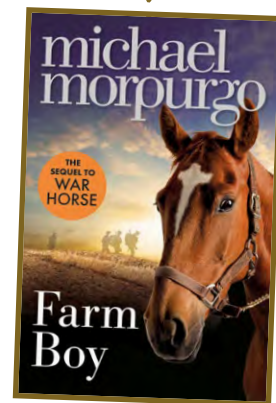
**Grandpa wanted the tractor to be covered with cornsacks so that it didn't get dusty.**

5. Fill in the missing words.

It didn't matter to me that the **engine** didn't work, that one of the iron wheels was **missing**, that I couldn't move the steering wheel.

6. How do you think the narrator feels about his Grandpa? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the narrator loves his Grandpa and enjoys spending time with him on his farm. This is because he is sincere and doesn't pretend to be someone he is not.**





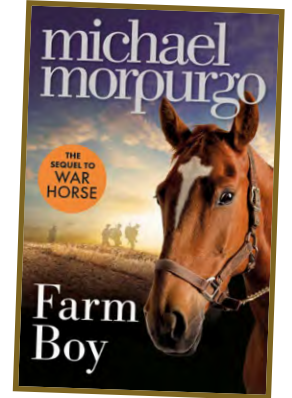
# Answers .....

7. The author uses the word 'rutty' to describe the lane. What impression does this give you of the lane?

**Pupils' own responses, such as:** The word 'rutty' gives me the impression that the lane is bumpy and has a rough and uneven surface.

8. Sum up this text in one sentence.

**Pupils' own responses, such as:** The text is about a grandson who enjoys spending time with his grandfather on his farm in the Devon countryside.



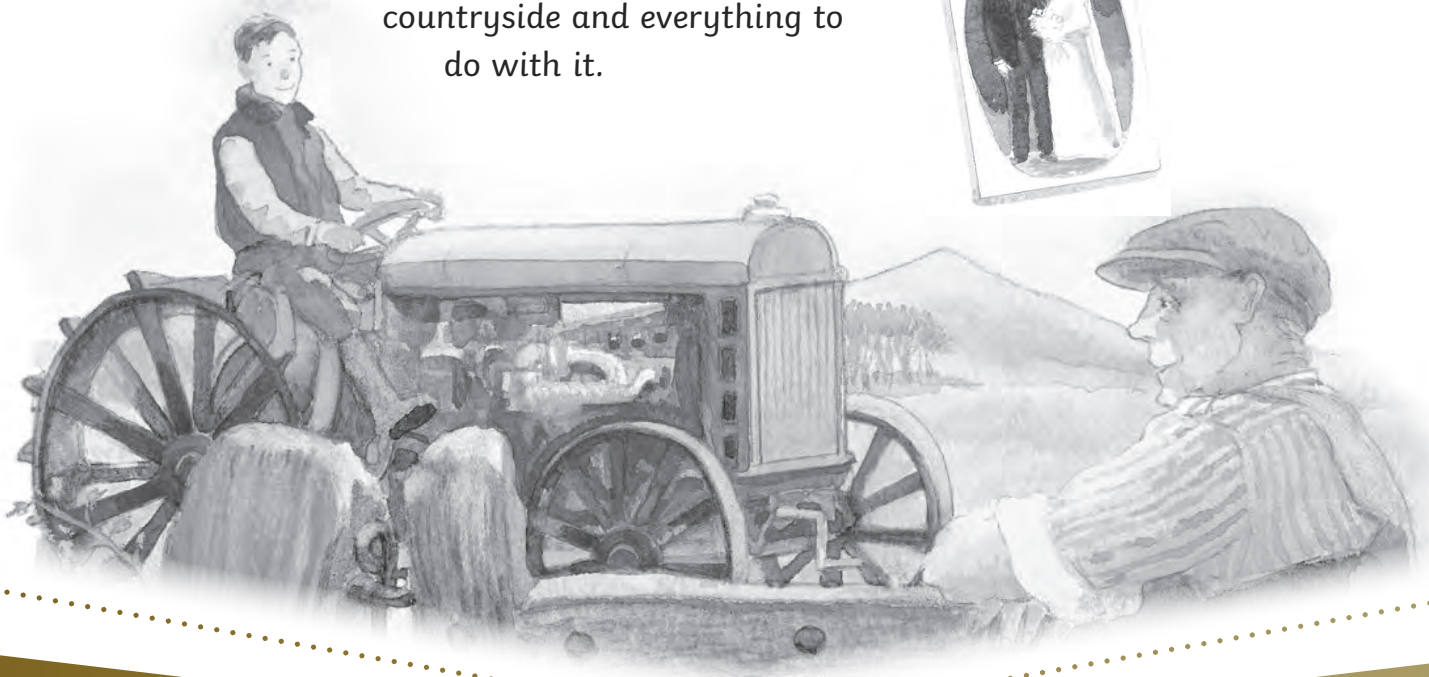
# Farm Boy

Extract from 'Farm Boy' by Michael Morpurgo.

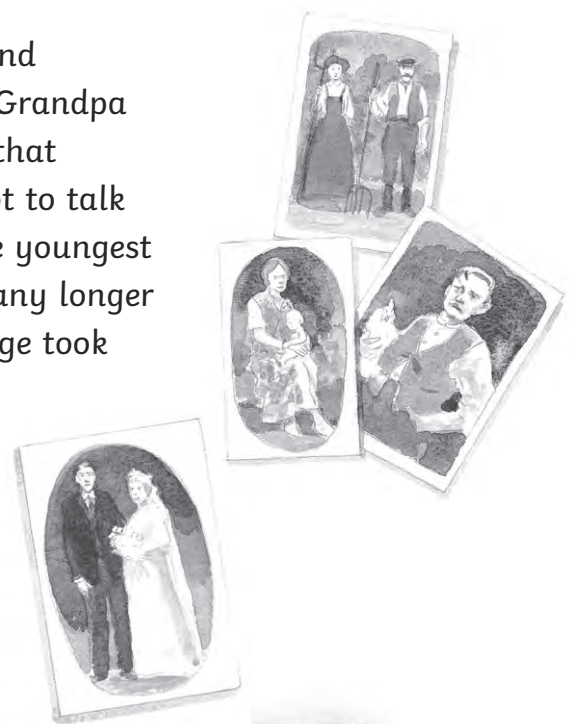
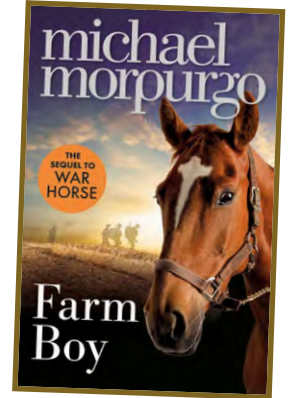
There's an old green Fordson tractor in the back of Grandpa's barn, always covered in cornsacks. When I was very little, I used to go in there, pull off the cornsacks, climb up and drive it all over the farm. I'd be gone all morning sometimes, but they always knew where to find me. I'd be ploughing or tilling or mowing, anything I wanted. It didn't matter to me that the engine didn't work, that one of the iron wheels was missing, that I couldn't move the steering wheel.

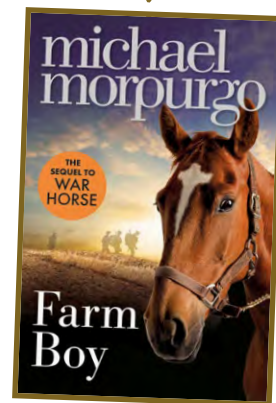
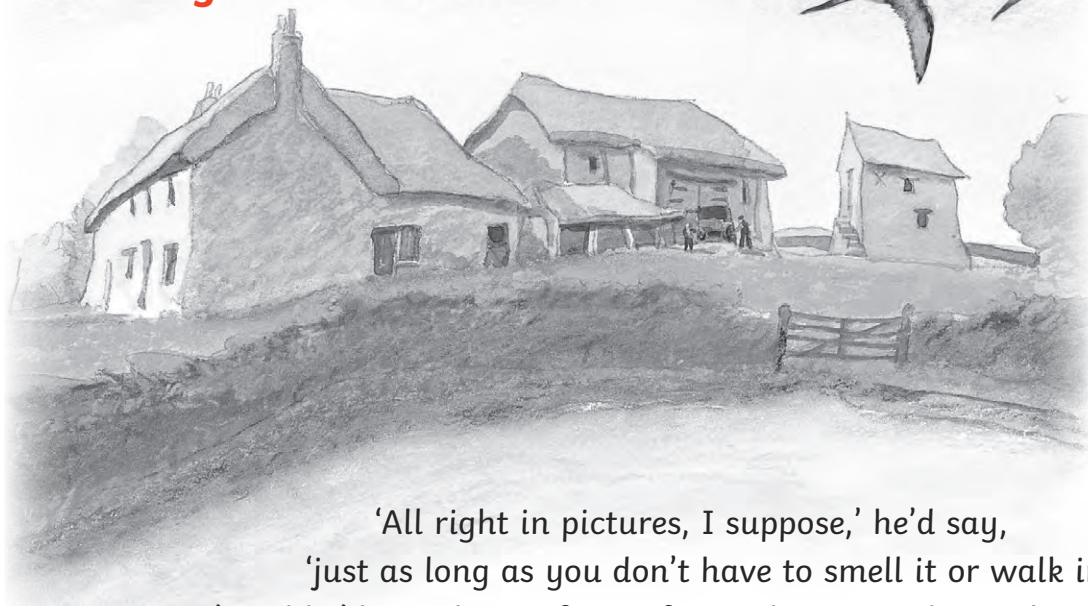
Up there on my tractor, I was a farmer, like my Grandpa, and I could go all over the farm, wherever I wanted. When I'd finished, I always had to put the cornsacks back and cover it up. Grandpa said I had to, so that it didn't get dusty. That old tractor, he said, was very important, very special. I knew that already of course, but it wasn't until many years later that I discovered just how important, just how special it was.

I come from a family of farmers going back generations and generations, but I wouldn't have known much about it if Grandpa hadn't told me. My own mother and father never seemed that interested in family roots, or maybe they just preferred not to talk about them. 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. School took her away to college. College took her off to London, to teaching first, then to meeting my father, a townie through and through, and one who made no secret of his dislike for the countryside and everything to do with it.



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'All right in pictures, I suppose,' he'd say,  
'just as long as you don't have to smell it or walk in  
it.' And he'd say that in front of Grandpa, too. I have always  
felt they were a little ashamed of Grandpa and his old-fashioned  
ways, and I never really understood why – until recently, that is.  
When I found out, it wasn't Grandpa I was ashamed of.

I always loved going down to Devon, to Burrow, his old thatched house at the bottom of a  
rutty lane. He was born there.

He's never lived anywhere else nor had any desire to do. He's the only person I've ever met  
who seems utterly contented with his own place on earth, with the life he's lived. That's not  
to say he never grumbles. He does – about the weather, about his television reception – he  
loves detective series, whodunnits, police dramas. He'll curse the foxes when they tip over  
his dustbins, and shout abuse at the jets when they come screaming low over the chimney  
pots. But he never complains about his lot in life. Best of all, he never pretends to be  
someone he isn't, and what's more he doesn't want me to be anyone I'm not. I like that in  
him, I always have. That's maybe why I've spent so many of my school holidays with him  
down on the farm in Devon.

Sometimes he'll tell me how things were when he was young. He doesn't say things were  
better then, or worse. He just talks about how they  
were. I think it's because he loves to remember.

Grandpa loves his swallows. We'd often watch them  
together as they skimmed low over the fields and  
he'd shake his head in wonder. He once told me why  
it was that he loved swallows so much. That was when  
he first told me about his father, my great-grandfather, or  
'the Corporal', as everyone in the village called him. And  
that's when I first heard about Joey, too.





# Questions

1 What took the narrator's mother to London? Tick one.

- ☐ farming
- ☐ college
- ☐ school
- ☐ teaching

2 He's the only person I've ever met who seems utterly contented with his own place on earth.

Which word means the same as 'contented'? Tick one.

- ☐ grumpy
- ☐ lonely
- ☐ satisfied
- ☐ excited

3 Underline **one** word in the quotation below that suggests that the narrator's parents may feel embarrassed by Grandpa.

*I have always felt they were a little ashamed of Grandpa and his old-fashioned ways, and I never really understood why*

4 Why did Grandpa want the tractor to be covered with cornsacks?

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5 Fill in the missing words.

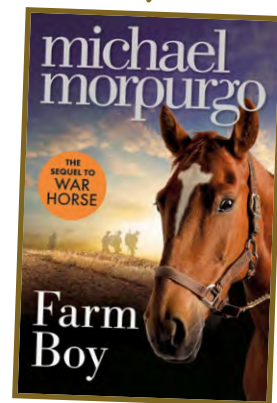
It didn't matter to me that the \_\_\_\_\_ didn't work, that one of the iron wheels was \_\_\_\_\_, that I couldn't move the steering wheel.

6 How do you think the narrator feels about his Grandpa? Explain your answer.

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# Questions

- 7 The author uses the word 'rutty' to describe the lane.  
What impression does this give you of the lane?

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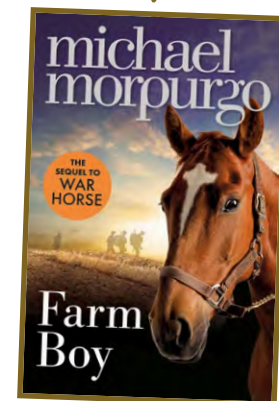
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- 8 Sum up this text in one sentence.

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# Answers

1 What took the narrator's mother to London? Tick one.

- ☐ farming
- ☒ college
- ☐ school
- ☐ teaching

2 He's the only person I've ever met who seems utterly contented with his own place on earth.

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*I have always felt they were a little ashamed of Grandpa and his old-fashioned ways, and I never really understood why*

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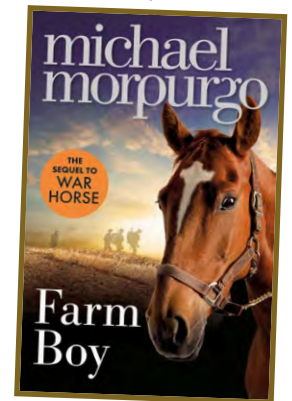
**Grandpa wanted the tractor to be covered in cornsacks so that it didn't get dusty.**

5 Fill in the missing words.

It didn't matter to me that the **engine** didn't work, that one of the iron wheels was **missing**, that I couldn't move the steering wheel.

6 How do you think the narrator feels about his Grandpa? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the narrator loves his Grandpa and enjoys spending time with him on his farm. This is because he is sincere and doesn't pretend to be someone he is not.**





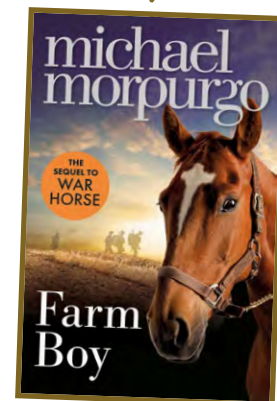
# Answers

- 7 The author uses the word 'rutty' to describe the lane.  
What impression does this give you of the lane?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: The word 'rutty' gives me the impression that the lane is bumpy and has a rough and uneven surface.**

- 8 Sum up this text in one sentence.

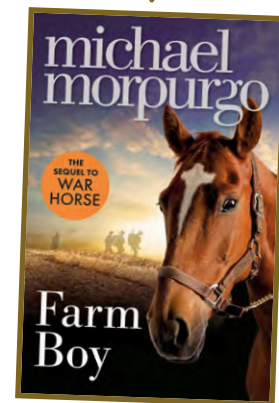
**Pupils' own responses, such as: The text is about a grandson who enjoys spending his summer holidays with his grandfather on his farm in the Devon countryside.**



# Questions

1 Draw **four** lines and match each word to its correct definition.

thatched	A person who lives or comes from a town or city.
rutty	An uneven road with deep track marks.
whodunnits	A roof covered with dry straw.
townie	A type of crime story.



2 Which two characters grew up on a farm? Tick **two**.

- ☐ Grandpa
- ☐ the narrator
- ☐ the narrator's father
- ☐ the narrator's mother

3 Find and copy a word or phrase that shows that farming has been in the narrator's family for a long time.

---

4 What took the narrator's mother to London?

---

5 Give **three** things that Grandpa grumbles about.

- ---
- ---
- ---

# Questions

- 6 He's the only person I've ever met who seems utterly contented with his own place on earth.

Explain what the word 'contented' means in this sentence.

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- 7 Explain why the word 'old-fashioned' is used to describe Grandpa.

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- 8 How can you tell that the narrator's parents weren't interested in their family roots?

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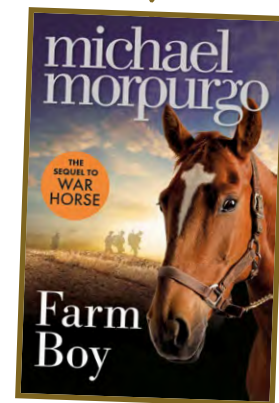
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- 9 Discuss how the narrator feels about his Grandpa.

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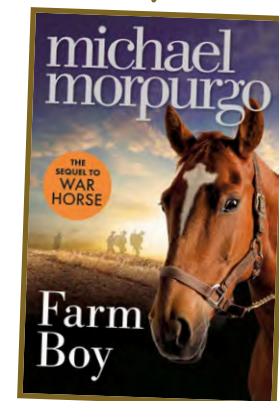
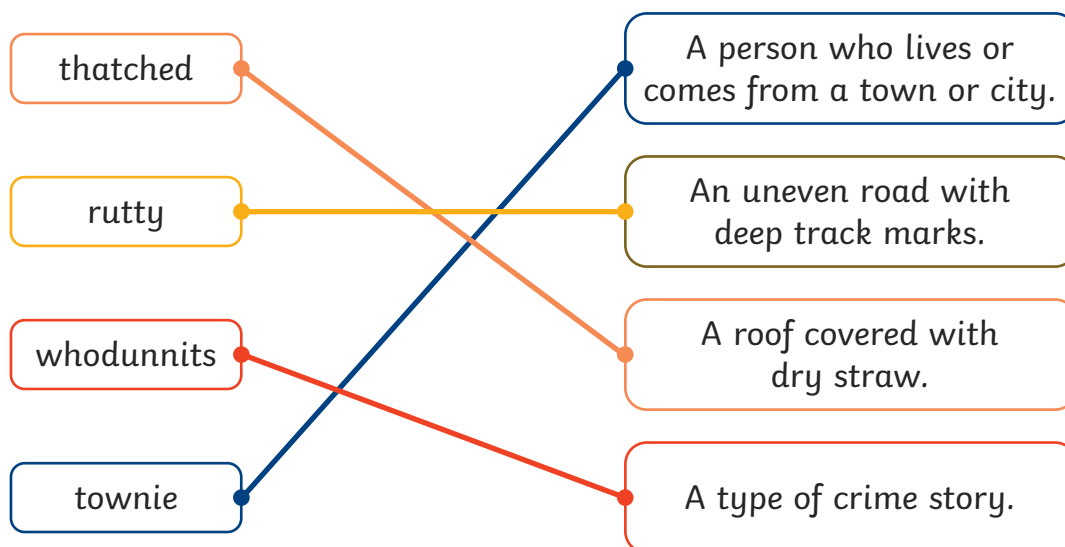
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# Answers

1 Draw **four** lines and match each word to its correct definition.



2 Which two characters grew up on a farm? Tick **two**.

- ☒ **Grandpa**
- ☐ the narrator
- ☐ the narrator's father
- ☒ **the narrator's mother**

3 Find and copy a word or phrase that shows that farming has been in the narrator's family for a long time.

**generations and generations**

4 What took the narrator's mother to London?

**College took the narrator's mother to London.**

5 Give **three** things that Grandpa grumbles about.

**Accept any three of the following: the weather; his television reception; foxes (when they tip over dustbins); jets (when they come screaming low over the chimney pots).**



# Answers

- 6 He's the only person I've ever met who seems utterly contented with his own place on earth.

Explain what the word 'contented' means in this sentence.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: The word 'contented' means that Grandpa is satisfied and wouldn't want to change anything about his life.**

- 7 Explain why the word 'old-fashioned' is used to describe Grandpa.

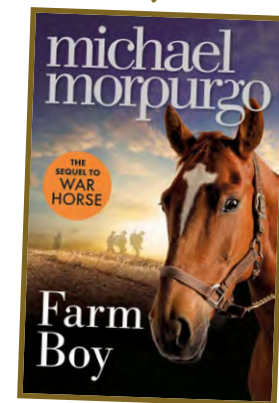
**Pupils' own responses, such as: The word 'old-fashioned' is used to describe Grandpa because he lives his life simply in an old cottage in the countryside.**

- 8 How can you tell that the narrator's parents weren't interested in their family roots?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: You can tell they weren't interested because they don't enjoy the countryside so probably aren't interested in their family's farming history.**

- 9 Discuss how the narrator feels about his Grandpa.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the narrator loves his Grandpa and enjoys spending time with him on his farm. I think he is proud that he is sincere and doesn't want him to be anyone he isn't.**



# Questions

1 Which of the following best describes the types of television programmes that Grandpa loves? Tick one.

- ☐ comedy
- ☐ crime
- ☐ documentary
- ☐ thriller

2 **My own mother and father never seemed that interested in family roots, or maybe they just preferred not to talk about them.**

Which words mean the same as 'preferred in this sentence'? Tick **two**.

- ☐ chose
- ☐ enjoyed
- ☐ elected
- ☐ refused

3 Find and copy a word from the text means 'a story about a crime and the attempt to discover who committed it'?

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4 What does the narrator like about his Grandpa?

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5 Give a phrase from the text that shows that the narrator's father prefers to admire the countryside from afar.

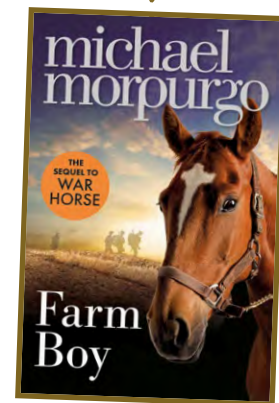
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6 Discuss how you can tell that the narrator enjoys spending time with his Grandpa.

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# Questions

7 What does the word 'townie' tell us about the narrator's father?

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8 I have always felt they were a little ashamed of Grandpa and his old-fashioned ways.

Discuss why the narrator may feel this way.

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9 Based on what you have read so far, how do you think the story will develop next?

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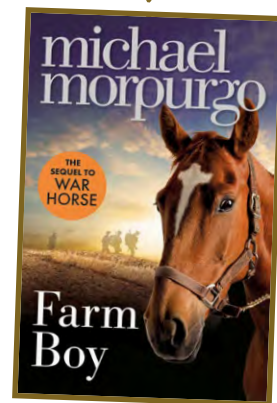


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10 What impression do you get of Grandpa from the story?

Give two impressions, using evidence from the text to support your answer.

Impression	Evidence
<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>



# Answers

- 1 Which of the following best describes the types of television programmes that Grandpa loves? Tick one.

- ☐ comedy  
☒ **crime**  
☐ documentary  
☐ thriller

- 2 **My own mother and father never seemed that interested in family roots, or maybe they just preferred not to talk about them.**

Which words mean the same as 'preferred in this sentence'? Tick **two**.

- ☒ **chose**  
☐ enjoyed  
☒ **elected**  
☐ refused

- 3 Find and copy a word from the text means 'a story about a crime and the attempt to discover who committed it'?

**whodunnit**

- 4 What does the narrator like about his Grandpa?

**He likes that he never pretends to be someone he isn't/he doesn't want me to be anyone I'm not.**

- 5 Give a phrase from the text that shows that the narrator's father prefers to admire the countryside from afar.

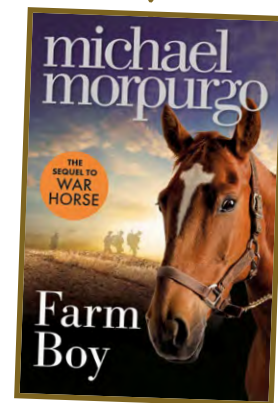
**all right in pictures**

- 6 Discuss how you can tell that the narrator enjoys spending time with his Grandpa.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I can tell he enjoys spending time with his Grandpa because he chooses to spend his summer holidays at his farm.**

- 7 What does the word 'townie' tell us about the narrator's father?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: The word 'townie' tells us that the narrator's father comes from a town or city and doesn't have much experience of living in the countryside.**





# Answers

- 8 I have always felt they were a little ashamed of Grandpa and his old-fashioned ways.

Discuss why the narrator may feel this way.

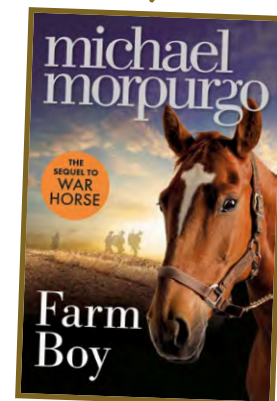
**Pupils' own responses, such as:** The narrator may feel this way because his parents prefer their modern life away from the countryside.

- 9 Based on what you have read so far, how do you think the story will develop next?

**Pupils' own responses, such as:** I think that Grandpa will start to tell his grandson about who/what Joey was and why he loves swallows so much.

- 10 What impression do you get of Grandpa from the story?

Give two impressions, using evidence from the text to support your answer.



Acceptable points (impression)	Likely evidence
1. old-fashioned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• he lives in an old thatched house</li> <li>• he keeps an old Fordson tractor on his farm</li> <li>• the narrator says his parents are ashamed of his old-fashioned ways</li> </ul>
2. unassuming/humble	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• he has no desire to live anywhere else</li> <li>• he is content with his own place on earth</li> <li>• he doesn't want his grandson to be someone he's not</li> </ul>
3. bird lover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• he loves swallows and enjoys watching them/he shakes his head in wonder at them</li> </ul>

**Award 3 marks** for **two** acceptable points, at least **one** with evidence.

**Award 2 marks** for either **two** acceptable points, or **one** acceptable point with evidence.

**Award 1 mark** for **one** acceptable point.

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*Michael*  
*Morpurgo*  
*month*  
*Bookclub*

FEBRUARY 2023









# Farm Boy















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# Fordson tractor



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# Grandpa



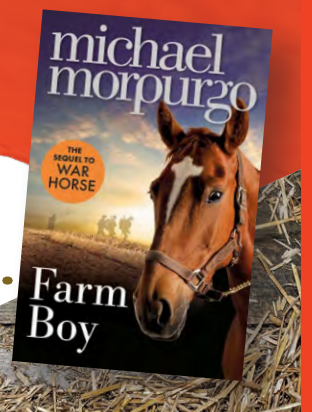
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# Devon



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# Burrow



twinkl.com

# swallows



# farm boy



# First World War



# soldier





# trenches



twinkl.com

# No-Man's-Land



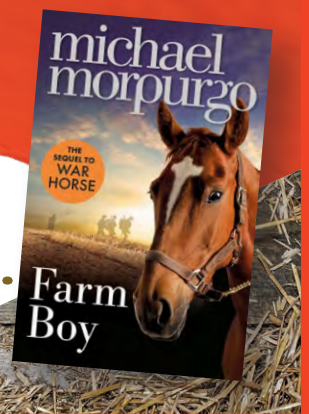
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# Joey



twinkl.com

# Zoey



twinkl.com

# warhorse



twinkl.com

# Corporal



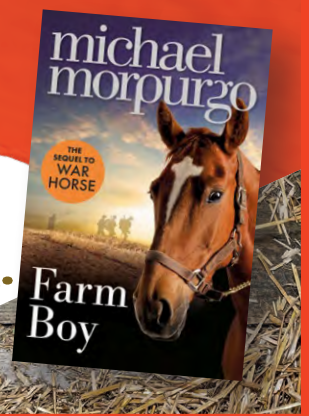
twinkl.com

# harvest



twinkl.com

# Agatha Christie



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# Australia



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# reading



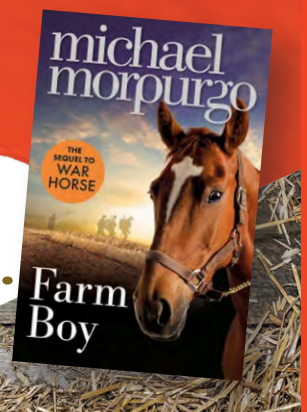
twinkl.com

# writing



twinkl.com

# Mayday



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# ploughing



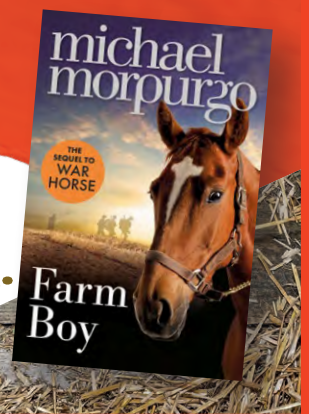
# Harry Medlicott



# furrow



# Candlelight Field





# Farmer Northley



# rucksack



# backpacking



# gap year

