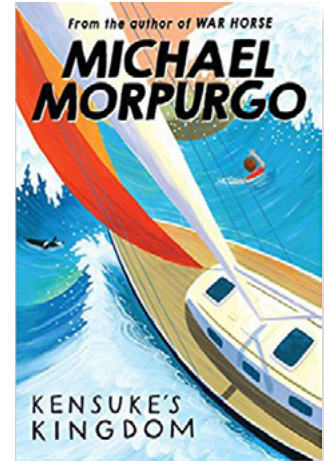


# KENSUKE'S KINGDOM

This is one of 16 activities to try during Michael Morpurgo Month, each of which explores an extract from a different book written by the world famous author. The books are grouped into four themes: natural world, animal adventures, tales retold, and times of war. All the activities can be used as either a quick starter or a longer lesson and provide a great opportunity to develop children's comprehension and vocabulary - not to mention a love of Michael Morpurgo's books.



## Kensuke's Kingdom

*Kensuke's Kingdom* tells the story of Michael, a schoolboy stranded on a strange island. There he meets Kensuke, an old man who has made the island his home after WWII. They form a friendship, learning from and helping each other. Together they rescue the orangutans of the island from a boatful of poachers.

### Using the resource

This resource shares an extract from the story in which Michael is alone, listening to the unfamiliar sounds of the jungle at night.

After reading the text, there are suggested discussion activities. These focus on:

- Retrieving and recording key information from a text
- The author's craft and effective features of evocative descriptive writing
- Specific vocabulary choices made by an author, introducing unfamiliar vocabulary

Depending on time and the needs of your class, you may want to work through all of these interrelated activities or focus on just one.

There is also a pupil activity sheet with a writing challenge based on the extract. For *Kensuke's Kingdom* it focuses on effective descriptive writing. This could be used a short classroom activity or as homework to consolidate the learning in the teaching session.

After reading and discussing the extract some children will be inspired to read the book itself. You could read it aloud as a class novel or direct children to where they can find a copy to read themselves: the book corner, school library, local library or a local bookshop.



## Teacher's notes for the PowerPoint

### Slide 2

- Share the front cover and blurb to introduce the book and give context.
- Ask children if anyone has read the book before. Does the blurb make them want to read on?

### Slide 3

- Tell the children that Michael has been shipwrecked on an island and when night falls there is complete darkness. This extract describes what Michael can hear in the darkness of the jungle.
- Read aloud together (either with the teacher reading aloud and children following, children reading together as a class or children reading together in pairs) and then ask children to summarise what the extract is about.
- What can Michael hear in the jungle? Ask the children to talk in pairs for one minute. Challenge the children to find as many specific things as they can.
- Ask the children how Michael Morpurgo creates an image of the jungle in this extract. Children can discuss in pairs or small groups before feeding back to the class. They might mention:
  - well-chosen, precise verbs (*whirred, whined, droned*)
  - small details to bring the scene to life (the woodpecker, the mosquitos whining in his ears)
  - the metaphor (the orchestra of the jungle)
  - alliteration (*whirred and whined; scraping, scratching, grunting, grating*)
  - beautiful language (*mellifluous evensong*)

- Finally, ask the children why they think Michael Morpurgo might have concentrated on the sounds of the jungle, rather than what Michael can see. What is the effect of this on the reader?

### Slide 4

- Ask the children for their suggestions to what 'mellifluous evensong' might be.
- Ask the children whether this is a good phrase to describe the jungle at night. Challenge them to justify their answers.
- Display the words 'mellifluous' and 'evensong' in the classroom - either on a working wall or near the whiteboard. Set the class the challenge of using the words in their conversation or writing this week.

### Slide 5

- Return to the front cover and blurb.
- Ask the children if they would like to read *Kensuke's Kingdom* having looked at this extract in detail and thought about Michael Morpurgo's skillful writing.
- Point children to where they can find a copy (either any copies you have in the classroom, the school library, or suggest the local library or a bookshop).

**Exploring Vocabulary**

The howling had started up again far away in the forest, a last **mellifluous evensong**, a chanting that went on and on until darkness covered the island.

Q: What might a **mellifluous evensong** be?

**Kensuke's Kingdom**

*I heard the wind above me in the sails. I remember thinking, this is silly, you haven't got your safety harness on, you haven't got your lifejacket on. You shouldn't be doing this... I was in the cold of the sea before I could even open my mouth to scream.*

Washed up on an island in the Pacific, Michael struggles to survive on his own. With no food and no water, he curls up to die. When he wakes, there is a plate beside him of fish, of fruit, and a bowl of fresh water. He is not alone...

From the author of **WALK TWO MOONS**  
**MICHAEL MORPURGO**  
**KENSUKE'S KINGDOM**  
KENSUKE'S KINGDOM  
HARPERCOLLINS PUBLISHERS