

WAR HORSE by Michael Morpurgo

Lesson 1: Introduction to War Horse

Our first lesson will begin with an **introduction to the course** and to each other; as well as learning about how the lessons will work over the coming weeks and getting to know one another, we will also discuss what we hope to gain from these lessons and set ourselves some **targets**. We will start our work on *War Horse* by **sharing our thoughts** on the book and discussing what we found interesting about the story and how it is written. The students will then be supplied with some **information about the author and the context of the book**. Using this information, we will talk about how an author's history and the context of a book informs our reading of it.

Preparation required:

- Read *War Horse*.
 - Think about what thoughts you have on the book and would like to share with the group.
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Homework:

How does knowing the **context** of *War Horse* **influence the way** you **read and appreciate** the book?

Lesson 2: Discussion of themes

In lesson two, we will move on to focussing on some of the **major themes** in the novel. We will use a combination of **class discussion** and **looking at extracts from the book** to gain a rich understanding and appreciation of *how* and *why* these themes are explored in the book. When looking at the selected extracts we will also practice our **close analysis skills** (i.e. unpicking the structure, language, and literary techniques used by the author).

Preparation required:

- Complete the homework task from Lesson 1.
 - Think about the following themes and how they are explored in the novel:
 - Warfare
 - Duty
 - Language and Communication
 - Friendship
 - Family
 - Courage
 - Admiration
 - Abandonment and Death
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Homework:

What are the **strengths and weaknesses** of having the story written from the **perspective of a horse?**

(Think about how it would be different if it were written from Albert's or another human character's perspective).

Lesson 3: Homework discussion and consolidation

Our final lesson will involve a **discussion of the homework** completed by the students (it is therefore *crucial* that they have completed this homework in advance of our lesson). We will **share our thoughts** with one another and look at **what we did well and how we can improve**. To finish, we will have a **debate** in which we discuss as a group some **essay-style questions** and think about how we would go about **writing a response**.

Preparation required:

- Complete the homework task from Lesson 2.
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Homework:

What is the **main message** that **you take away** from reading *War Horse*?