

Kensuke's Kingdom - Michael Morpurgo

Lesson 2

Post Script

Read the **post script** below and think about the following questions:

- Why is it included?
- What do we learn from it?
- How does it make us feel?

Four years after this book was first published, I received this letter.

Dear Michael,

I write to tell you, in my bad English, that my name is Michiya Ogawa. I am the son of Dr Kensuke Ogawa. Until I read your book I thought my father had died in the war. My mother died only three years ago still believing this. As you say in your book, we lived in Nagasaki, but we were very lucky. Before the bomb fell we went into the countryside to see my grandmother for a few days. So we lived.

I have no memories of my father, only some photographs and your book. It would be a pleasure to talk to someone who knew my father as you did. Maybe one day we could meet. I hope so.

*With my best wishes,
Michiya Ogawa.*

A month after receiving this letter I went to Japan, and I met Michiya. He laughs just like his father did.

Comprehension

Chapter 4

1. What was it he glimpsed in the water? Who did he think it was?
2. What happened every time he tried to call for Stella?
3. Why did he keep telling himself he had a chance?
4. What did he find when he woke up, where was he?
5. What was his dilemma, what decision did he have to make at that point?
6. 'Filled with apprehension at the terrifying implication of my dreadful situation' – what does that mean? How does he feel about his future and where he's ended up?
7. What was the first thing he thought was needed to stay alive?
8. Why did it help to talk things over with Stella?
9. What happens if you drink seawater?
10. What did he remember as he lay going to sleep?
11. What did he remember about his last birthday?
12. Why was the piece of glass he found so important?
13. Why did he want to get a fire going?
14. What did he think he saw as he came out of the forest with the final load of wood? What was it actually?

Chapter 5: I, Kensuke

1. What was the man like? Describe him.
2. What made Michael not run away from the man?
3. What language did it sound like the man was speaking?
4. What did the man want Michael to do?
5. What was the writing like? What shapes did he make/use?
6. What did he wonder about the old man?
7. What was the problem with the coconuts he found?
8. Why did he often think about going into the old man's part of the island? What 3 things prevented him?
9. What was the biggest problem at night?
10. What did he find outside his cave one day?
11. What did he realise the old man knew?
12. How would it help in his fight against the mosquitoes?
13. What did he do on the boundary line?
14. What did he want to heart so much?
15. Stella as a companion was good for?
16. What did he finally see as he looked up while on the hilltop?

Chapter 6: Abunai!

1. How did Michael behave on seeing the ship?
2. Why was there no point in all of this?
3. What did he promise himself as the tanker disappeared?
4. How did he spend his time now on Watch Hill?
5. Why was sleep impossible during the storm? How long did it last?
6. What did the old man do as soon as he'd pulled Michael out of the sea and repeated his instructions?
7. Why did he feel the old man was being unfair?
8. What did Michael do to get rid of his anger and frustration?
9. How did he start to feel about the old man?
10. What was so good about him growing anger though?
11. What did he begin to do again, everyday?
12. How long did he sit up there waiting?
13. How did he react to seeing the boat? Why was that hopeless?
14. What happened when Michael ran out into the sea?
15. Why didn't he care that he was going to drown?

Chapter 7: All That Silence Said

1. What did he smell when he came to?
2. What did he think and why?
3. Where was he?
4. What did Kensuke do to help him?
5. What was his cave like?
6. What would Kensuke spend many hours everyday doing?
7. Who did Michael think of at night?
8. What did he begin to do with Kensuke as his strength returned?
9. How did the two of them communicate?
10. What was Michael trying to find out? What questions did he want answered about Kensuke?
11. What happened every time Michael tried to ask Kensuke any of those questions?
12. What did Michael learn from Kensuke when they began to draw/paint together?
13. How did Kensuke teach Michael?
14. What did Michael teach Kensuke to sing?
15. And what else did Michael find when they went fishing?

Vocabulary

1. Tantalizing
2. Anguish
3. Nonchalantly
4. Excruciating
5. Immaculate
6. Affliction
7. Surrender
8. Betray
9. Flounder
10. Glimpse
11. Lurk
12. Venture
13. Grasp
14. Bemused
15. Trepidation
16. Slink off
17. Continuously
18. Innumerable
19. Rummage
20. Hypnotize
21. Examine
22. Ashamed
23. Resent
24. Intent
25. Fashion

HOMEWORK

Who is your **favourite character** and **why**?

OR

Write a **short story** using **at least 5 new words** (above) that we learned from these chapters.