

## Long Way Home - Michael Morpurgo

### Lesson 1

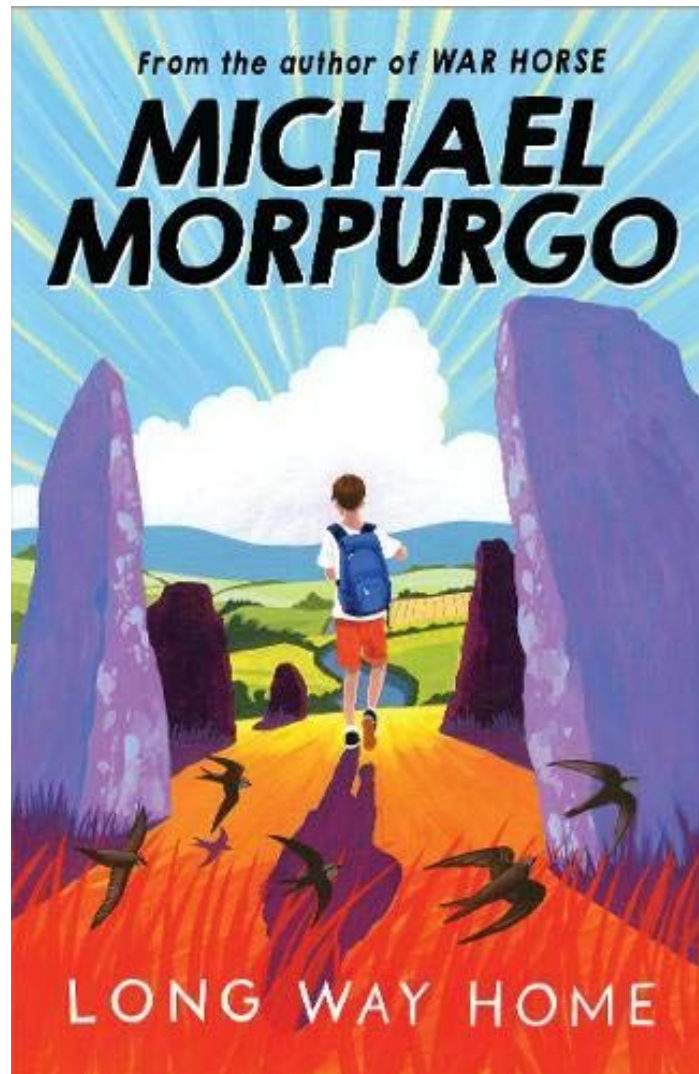
#### **Before reading...**

Look at the front cover.

- What do you think the book will be about?
- What things can you see on the front cover?
- What sort of story will it be?
- Who might enjoy it?

#### **Now read the blurb...**

- Were any of your predictions correct?



## The Opening Lines

Read the first lines of the book (below) and think about the following questions:

- What tone does this set for the book?
- What do we learn from these lines?
- How do we feel when we read these lines?
- Why does the book begin with these lines?

*The car purred comfortably and George was bored with looking out of the widow. He glanced down as Mrs Thomas changed gear, and he noticed that she had rather fat legs. She wore thick stockings that wrinkled at the ankles. He didn't like fat legs. Mrs Thomas had been his social worker for as long as he could remember, but he'd never noticed her legs before. She half turned her head, and George looked away quickly, hoping she hadn't seen him staring. He felt his face flush, but it went away quickly.*

*"They're really very nice people, George," she said. "I've known them for years now. I know you'll like Mr and Mrs Dyer. They work on the farm all by themselves, you know. Must be very hard work, I should think. Could do with some help, I expect. You've never lived on a farm before, have you, George?"*

*'No," said George.*

## **Comprehension**

### **Chapter 1**

1. Who was Mrs Thomas?
2. What would it have been like for George to stay in the home?
3. How long had Mrs Thomas known George?
4. How often had George run away?
5. How many foster parents?
6. Who is Tom?
7. Who is Storme?
8. What was the last foster child like?
9. How old is George?
10. What sort of boy is he?
11. What did Tom feel about another foster child coming to the farm?

## Chapter 2

1. Why was Storme sitting waiting for George?
2. What animals were in the farmyard as they drove into it?
3. What was it like being introduced to the family?
4. How do you think George felt after Mrs Dyer spoke to him?
5. Why did George spend so much time during this meeting staring at the duck and not at the people?
6. What did Tom hate doing?
7. Was Tom's Dad unhappy about the rain?
8. Why wouldn't the calves like the storm?
9. What did he plan to wait for that night?
10. How would he have to get back to the foster home?

### Chapter 3

1. Why did Tom wake George up?
2. What had happened?
3. What animals were at risk?
4. Where had Mr and Mrs Dyer gone?
5. How long were they supposed to be?
6. Which calf was it that he found?
7. How did Jemima react on seeing George?
8. What did George think when he heard that?
9. What did he do once he'd climbed out of the water?
10. What did Jemima do when George pushed her from behind?
11. What eventually made Jemima move?
12. Who was back by now?
13. Why did Mrs Dyer say she couldn't find George's suitcase or pyjamas?

## Vocabulary

1. Mutter
2. Ignore
3. Foster
4. Suggest
5. Sensible
6. Knuckle
7. Lean
8. Swipe
9. Cupped
10. Separate
11. Brooding
12. Trample
13. Munch
14. Reject
15. Force
16. Offer
17. Venture
18. Flickering
19. Clutch
20. Stumble
21. Immediately
22. Steady
23. Choke
24. Regain
25. Bewildered

## HOMEWORK

**How** does Morpurgo **make us feel sorry for his characters?**

**OR**

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