

Why the Whales Came - Michael Morpurgo

Lesson 2

Creative Exercise

Read the extract below (Chapter 3):

I looked towards where Samson lay brooding darkly under gathering storm clouds. About it the sea, blood-red with the evening sun, surged and heaved. 'Island of ghosts,' I said. 'Don't care what you say, Daniel, I tell you there's ghosts on Samson just like father said there was. You only got to look at it. It's cursed, Daniel, I can tell it is.'

'Don't believe in ghosts,' said Daniel dismissively, and he turned away. 'And I don't believe in curses either.'

'Well I do,' I snapped, suddenly angry at him, and we walked on down through the heather in silence.

Comprehension

Chapters 5-8

1. What made Gracie and Daniel forget the 'thoughts of war'?
2. Where did they hide Birdman's gull?
3. How many Preventatives were there?
4. What material was discovered on Popplestones?
5. What does the name 'Mr. Wellbeloved' suggest about what kind of person he is?
6. How does Birdman describe ghosts?
7. What does 'to take the King's Shilling' mean?
8. What happened to Gracie's father?
9. What is a 'guardian angel'?
10. What was the 'only comfort' throughout the 'long and dreary nights'?

Vocabulary

1. Reassurance
2. Anonymous
3. Smuggle
4. Curse
5. Prayed
6. Deserted
7. Summon
8. Welfare
9. Adamant
10. Raucous
11. Swift
12. Signal
13. Echo
14. Flare
15. Deceive
16. Deaden
17. Impenetrable
18. Accustomed
19. Wishful
20. Breeze
21. Listless
22. Plead
23. Guardian
24. Leisure
25. Settle

HOMEWORK

Using the work we did today as inspiration, imagine you are on **the island of ghosts** and **write a diary entry about your experience.**

OR

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