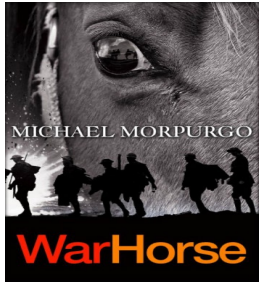


Year 5 Autumn 2 Knowledge Organiser



War Horse is written by Michael Morpurgo. It was first published in 1982

The novel is written from the point of view of Joey, a horse bought by the Army to serve in **World War 1**. It describes Joey's experiences, and details how Albert, Joey's former owner, tries to bring him home safely from France.

First World War 1914-1918. Also called 'The Great War' or 'The war to end all wars' A global conflict between Britain and Germany.

Horses in World War I

Before WWI, horses were used to attack in battles. With the introduction of **trenches**, barbed wire and machine guns, horses were used to haul **artillery** to the **front line** and to transport the injured. It is estimated that nearly one million British horses died during World War 1, and perhaps as many as 10 million horses lost their lives during the entire conflict.

Themes – ideas or messages that run through a story

Relationships

The story explores the deep and lasting relationship between a horse and his rider. Joey and Albert form an emotional bond from the very beginning, and each demonstrates his commitment, loyalty and love to the other.

Futility (pointlessness) of War

During his time in France Joey sees soldiers on both sides (Britain vs Germany), believes there is not much difference between them and that they do not understand why they are fighting. This is shown when both sides work together to free Joey from the barbed wire and then go back to fighting. They are not true enemies, but have to fight because of their situation.

Key Vocabulary

Cavalry	Soldiers mounted on horseback		
Trooper Corporal Sergeant Lieutenant Captain Major	Different ranks within the army (shown in order from junior to senior)		
Veterinary Surgeon	A vet - a 'doctor' for animals		
No-man's-land	An area between two trenches that belongs to neither side		
Trench	A narrow ditch dug in the ground in which the soldiers lived and fought		
Front line	The area closest to the enemy	quarter	A breed of strong horse
Artillery	Military weapons	hind	Back leg of a horse

Main characters

Joey : The narrator: a young farm horse. A quick learner who is courageous, resilient and loyal. Gives a neutral perspective of the war from all sides.	Albert : Son of a farmer who forms a deep and lasting bond with Joey. Devoted to Joey and determined to join the army when old enough to join him.
Mother (Mrs Narracott) A quiet character who has an inner strength to protect her family.	Father (Ted Narracott) A bully who has little empathy and respect for others. He drinks and is very competitive
Topthorn : A black horse who becomes best friends with Joey and rides alongside him in the army.	Captain Nicholls : A heroic leader of a regiment in the war and buys Joey from Mr Narracott.
Emilie : A young, sickly French girl who nurses Joey and offers him a home.	Soldier Friedrich : A kind and gentle German soldier.

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Key vocabulary

subject = person/animal/object doing the verb

verb = a doing or being word showing an action

main clause = a group of words including a subject and a verb

dependent/subordinate clause = a clause which has to be added to a main clause to make sense



Sentence structures

A **simple sentence** consists of a single independent clause.

A **compound sentence** consists of two independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction (FANBOYS)

A **complex sentence** consists of an independent clause and one or more subordinate clauses joined by a subordinating conjunction (I SAW A WABUB)



Comprehension :

Continuing to remember to give specific **EVIDENCE** and **EXPLAIN** to show understanding.

Restate question

Answer

Cite text evidence

Explain



P – a point you want to make

E – a quote or reference to the text

E – explain what the quote means and how it helps to demonstrate your point

EXAMPLE:

Joey is feeling terrified and distressed because he is only very young, has suddenly been separated from his mother and is in an unfamiliar place with unfamiliar people. As the text states, he 'had never been further than a few feet from his mother' and he backs away from the people, 'until I felt the bars of the pen behind me and could go no further.' Without his mother to guide and reassure him, this would be frightening and him backing away shows that he is uncomfortable and trying to escape.

Key Features
cast list
short description of setting
speakers names are on the left with colons
detailed dialogue without speech marks
structured using scenes
brackets for stage directions
a variety of punctuation used for effect
extended stage directions using adverbs, adjectives and prepositional phrases

Features of a PLAYSCRIPT



Paragraphs

A paragraph is a group of sentences related to one topic or idea. You start a new paragraph when you start a **new line**. In creative writing, start a new paragraph when you change TIME, PLACE or TOPIC. In non-fiction, use the hamburger technique :

Main Idea Sentence

Adding Detail Sentence 1

Adding Detail Sentence 2

Adding Detail Sentence 3

Conclusion Sentence

