

# BECOMING A BEST-SELLING AUTHOR

## MICHAEL MORPURGO

### How did he become a writer?

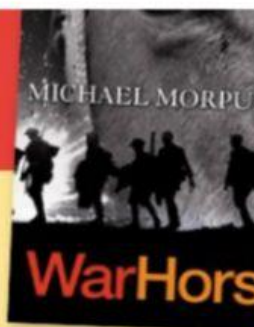
Michael Morpurgo wrote a very famous novel called *War Horse* in 1982. It was also a popular film. But Michael didn't begin his professional life as a writer. When he finished studying English and French at university, he became a teacher in a primary school. One day, he began reading out a book to his class, but he didn't like the story. The class didn't like it either. He told his wife, Clare, about this. She suggested he write his own story.

### Did he do that?

Yes, he did. And the children loved it! His first book appeared in 1974. It was a collection of the stories that he told to his students.

### What does he do now?

Michael and Clare started a charity in 1976. Thanks to this charity, children from big cities go to live on a farm for a week, to discover the outdoors. The charity now has three farms. But Michael continues to write stories, and win prizes for them!



## Listen to the texts

Read the text again. Is the information about Michael Morpurgo (MM), David Almond (DA) or both (B)?

- 1 He completed university studies. MM/DA B
- 2 His first job was as a primary teacher. MM/DA/
- 3 His hobbies include sport. MM/DA/B
- 4 He always wanted to be a professional writer. MM/DA/B
- 5 People loved the film version of one of his novels. MM/DA/B
- 6 He once did a physical, outdoor job. MM/DA/B
- 7 He won, or wins, official recognition for his work. MM/DA/B
- 8 The first book he wrote was for young readers. MM/DA/B

## DAVID ALMOND

### Did he always want to be a writer?

Interestingly, it was always David Almond's ambition to become a writer, but he didn't plan to write books for children. As a child, he loved reading. He studied literature at university. When he finished, first he worked in a hotel, then he worked as a builder, and finally he became a primary school teacher. During his time as a teacher, he wrote his first stories.

### When did he become famous?

David's first novel for young people was *Skellig*. It came out in 1998, after two books of stories for adults. The adult books didn't make him famous. But *Skellig* did. It was extremely popular. A film version appeared in 2009, but it wasn't a great success.

### What does he do now?

David still writes novels and wins prizes. In 2010, he won a very important award, the Hans Christian Andersen Award. This award is for writers who make an important contribution to children's literature. Apart from writing, Almond loves running and football.



## Write down the highlighted words

Match the underlined words in the text with these definitions.

- 1 a prize, something you receive for doing something well
- 2 something you really want to do in life
- 3 an organisation that helps people for free
- 4 reading in a loud voice, so that people can hear you
- 5 gave an idea or plan to somebody