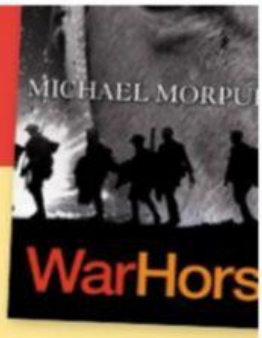
BECOMING A BEST-SELLING AUTHOR



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.

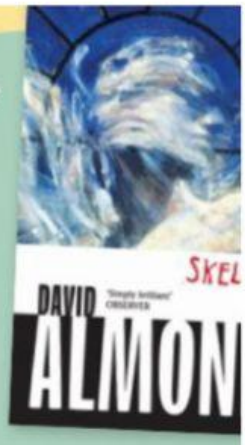
What does he do now?

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!

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.

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

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

LIVEWORKSHEETS