

BECOMING A BEST-SELLING AUTHOR

MICHAEL MORPURGO

How did he become a writer?

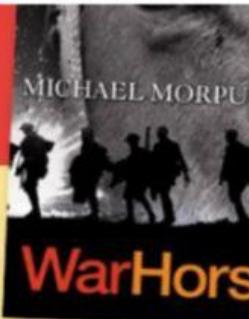
Michael Morpurgo wrote a very famous novel called *War Horse* in 1982. It was also a popular film. But Michael didn't begin his professional life as a writer. When he finished studying English and French at university, he became a teacher in a primary school. One day, he began **reading out** a book 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

1 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