Lovereading4kids Reader reviews of Born to Run by Michael Morpurgo

Below are the complete reviews, written by Lovereading4kids members.

Sam Harper, age 9

‘Born to Run’ tells the story of one dog and his three lives. He starts out as an abandoned puppy who has been left to drown in the canal. Luckily he is saved by young Patrick who names him Best Mate and keeps him as a pet. They were made for each other and are very happy together but disaster strikes and Best Mate is stolen by Craig, an evil greyhound racer.

Best Mate misses Patrick but he loves racing and makes friends with Alfie, an older racing greyhound, and Becky, Craig's step-daughter, who names him Brighteyes. Things turn bad when Becky realises that Craig killed Alfie when he was no longer able to race.

Determined to save Brighteyes, Becky runs away with him to the city but they become separated and that is when he meets his final owner, Mr Tattyvan. He names him Paddywack and the two become best friends, helping each other in the campaign to save a nursing home from closure, keeping each other company and growing old together. After many years Paddywack does finally meet Patrick again but Patrick doesn't recognise him and I found this very sad.

I liked the way the story was told from Best Mate's point of view as well as his owners. It grew very exciting as the separate threads started to come together for the ending and I found myself really feeling for the characters and thinking about the story long after I had finished reading it. It was exciting, heart-warming and sad. A great read.
Izzy Read, age 12

‘Born to Run’ is a heart-breaking story following a greyhound, known as Brighteyes, Paddywack but mostly as Best mate. As a racing greyhound he is found as a puppy in a river by Patrick, his first owner. His life starts off very happy with Patrick as an owner. But as he goes through life will he ever find a real home?

I remember, it was a couple of years ago now, when I first read this book. It made me cry and after I demanded my mum to read it! **It was so captivating** and different, a story woven about man’s best friend, the way he can be loved and mistreated, lost and found but most of all how loves his true owners. **I really recommend this, even if you don’t enjoy reading!**

Rosa Boran Age 13

**This has been one of the best books I have read all year. The story had me swept up and bought on a journey, where I cried, laughed and smiled. Michael brought it to life, just as he always does.**

‘Born to Run’ was a book I couldn’t wait to get my hands on. Once I did I couldn’t put it down. The story of Best Mate had me crying and smiling. It was a brilliant book and in the end I came to terms with the ending, although it wasn’t what I wanted. But as it was a Michael Morpurgo book, I came to love it like all his others.

Best Mate’s journey in the beginning was quite a sad one but I’m glad it picked up for him after that. I loved hearing the story from his point of view as I could see how he was feeling. I did cry at some points in the book but I also felt happy whilst reading it too. At first I didn’t like the ending but after re-reading it I found I was okay with it. I didn’t like the bits about the cruelty to the greyhounds that raced on the track.

I have found nothing else wrong with this book and I loved every single minute of reading it. It was told beautifully and I’d recommend it definitely. I can’t wait to get my hands on more from Michael.
Matilda Greenacre, age 7

This is a really interesting book. The story follows the dog from being rescued from the canal to kidnapped, to finding a permanent home.

The book is a bit sad, when the dog is taken away from his first owner, but don’t worry it all ends well!

I like to leave a book for the night at the end of a chapter, and the chapters here were very long!

I would recommend this book to my friends especially dog lovers.

Evie Aconley, age 7

A good book which is a little sad at times, with an unexpected ending.

My favourite character in this book was Patrick, he saved some dogs which was really brave. The story follows one of the dogs that he saved and his adventures. I didn't like it when Becky ran away from home but everything works out for everyone eventually. A good book for girls and boys aged 7+.