

LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of Dear Olly by Michael Morpurgo

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading4kids members.

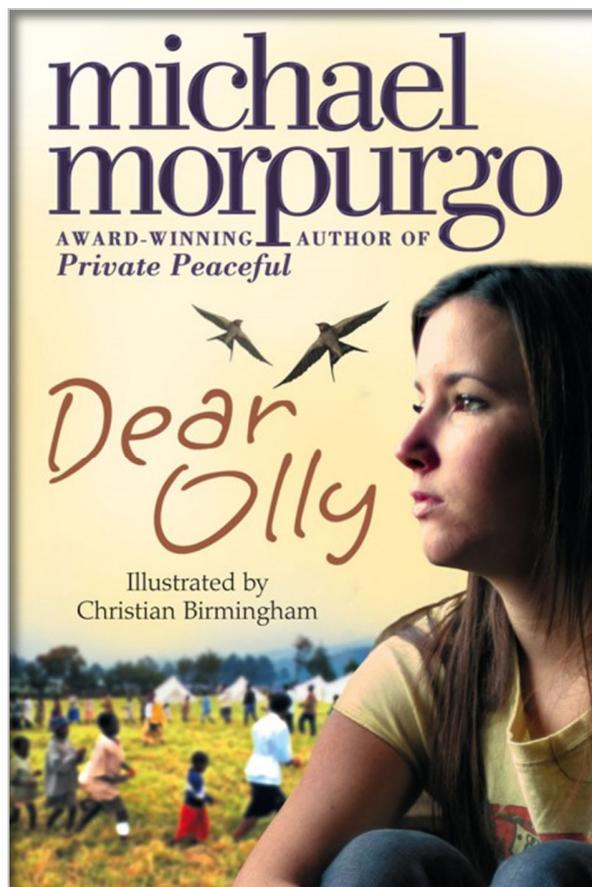
Anna Leaver, age 9

In this book there are three wonderfully exciting and sometimes sad stories. I particularly liked 'Hero's Story'; about a birds journey to Africa. I'd recommend this book for 8+ readers, boys and girls.

These stories are linked together .The first is called 'Olly's Story'. This is about Olly's brother who explains to Olly that he doesn't want to be a vet anymore, he wants to go to Africa instead to help the people out there and make them laugh. Olly wants to go with him but can't as she is too young.

'Hero's Story' is about a bird who has a dangerous journey going to Africa from England. He nearly gets eaten by a huge bird of prey!

The final story is 'Matt's Story' which is about Olly's brother Matt, who is in Africa when he steps on a landmine which explodes and damages his leg. He has to return to England to get treatment. This is a sad but heartwarming story. I liked the different stories, particularly the swallows' journey which was extremely exciting. The book has sad parts but ends happily.



Antonia Hopcraft-Guest, age 11

The story makes you ask lots of questions. It is an excellent read. I would recommend it to all age groups.

'Dear Olly' is a moving book, telling the story from three different points of view, one is a girl called Olly and her brother (called Matt) who has gone to Africa. Olly and her mum worry about Matt. Before Matt leaves, he tells Olly to watch the swallows in the bar, they send letters to each but Matt hardly ever writes back. The second point of view is the swallow's which Olly has named Hero. He is migrating to Africa. Hero has to face many challenges including getting separated from his flock and getting attacked by a hobby.

Does he make it? Finally, the last point of view is Matt's; he's gone to Africa to cheer up children instead of being a vet. He ends up in hospital but is it serious? Will he make it? Does he see his family again? The story makes you ask lots of questions. It is an excellent read. I would recommend it to all age groups.

Sam Harper, age 9

'Dear Olly' is told from the points of view of Olly, Matt and Hero. All of the characters have difficulties to overcome and their stories intertwine to form a really moving book. I loved it!

Olly's brother Matt is clever enough to be a vet like their mother but his ambition in life is to help the children in an orphanage in Africa. He wants to bring some laughter into their lives by being a clown and so he leaves for the orphanage. Olly stays behind but misses her brother terribly. She watches the swallows as they prepare to fly to Africa, from their hide in the garage, and saves Hero, the last swallow to leave the nest, when he is attacked by a cat.

We follow Hero as he undertakes his huge adventure, migrating thousands of miles to Africa. It is a dangerous journey and Hero comes perilously close to death on many occasions. He has close shaves with cobras and falcons, is trapped in a parrot trap and has his leg crushed but he somehow manages to survive. Matt is able to help the children at the orphanage in so many ways but his new life is also filled with danger. He is rescuing a young boy when a landmine explodes under him and Matt loses his leg. He is forced to return home and life is bleak. He finds it hard to adjust to his disability and misses the children at the orphanage. Olly tries hard to cheer him up but it is only when the swallows return for the summer that Matt's spirits really lift.

Hannah D, age 11 - Weatherhead High School

***I enjoyed this book.** I read it in primary school **and I looked forward to reading more every day.** Although I enjoyed it I thought it could be quite boring at times. Also it could get a bit complicated. It has a brother and sister and the brother goes to help out in a different country but gets injured in an accident. I liked the way he got better and didn't give up. I would recommend this book to somebody in year 7+ because if you enjoy reading you would enjoy this book.*