

## LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of An Eagle In The Snow by Michael Morpurgo

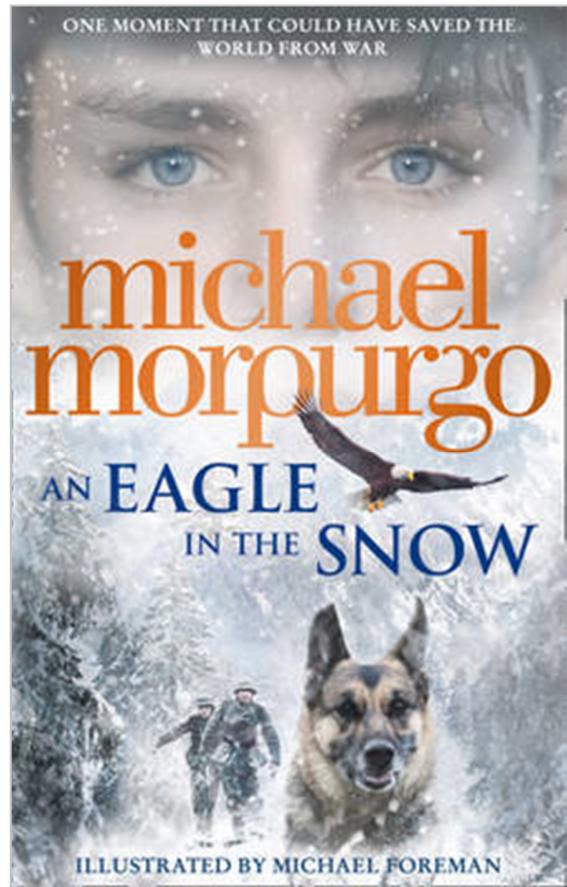
Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading4kids members.

**Sam Harper, age 11**

***A moving story with a sinister twist, in which the most decorated hero of WW1 is faced with a monumental decision which will shape the future of the world and which he could live to regret.***

*'An Eagle in The Snow' is based on the true story of Henry Tandey, the most decorated Private in the history of the First World War, and the chance he had to prevent World War II. His story is told by match-light, on board the 11.50 to London as it shelters from German bombers in a tunnel. It starts when Billy Byron joins the army to escape his horrible job. At first he has no regrets, it's all adventure in far off countries, but when war is declared in 1914 he starts to doubt his decision. The total devastation, mud, death and horrors of the trenches were terrible for anyone to live through and even Billy's love of drawing couldn't help him escape. Although he doesn't consider himself brave, he is awarded many medals for heroism including the highest military decoration for valour in the face of the enemy, the Victoria Cross, but all Billy is trying to do is end the destruction and horror of war. It is during this time that he is faced with a monumental decision, one which will shape the future of the world and which he could regret for the rest of his life.*

*Michael Morpurgo is a fantastic author. His stories, like this one, are often based on true events and have a moral to make you think. I loved the section about his inspiration for the story, it made it feel a lot more real and, although it*



*was very moving, it was happy too and the exciting parts made my heart pound. The illustrations are brilliant and I really liked the sinister twist at the end – it made me shiver!*

**Amelia Jones, age 9**

***I loved this book because it felt as if I was right there, in the train carriage, in 1940 listening to the characters speaking. This amazing book has gone straight to the top of my favourite book list.***

*This book is very emotional and you will not be able to put it down. The story itself was extraordinary (not like any of Michael's stories aren't) and is so well described I knew exactly how Billy felt.*

**Emily Lonsdale, age 10**

***A brilliant book of two stories, different and exciting, I loved it.***

*This is the story of Barney who travels from his bombed home to that of his Grandmas in the country by train. While he is on the train he meets a man who tells them of the story of a soldier who had the chance to stop the war before it began. The train then comes under attack from the Germans so it stops in a tunnel where both stories unfold.*

*I loved this story, it's exciting and different and I liked the way two stories were told.*

*I would recommend it to those who love war stories and history. The cover makes it look very mysterious.*

**Joseph Harris-Hart, age 13**

***A 'Warsome' adventure!***

***A story about a soldier during the First World War who had chance to shoot Adolf Hitler but didn't.***

*A tale of a young boy named Barney who had been evacuated, with his mother to Cornwall, where his aunty lived, following the bombing of their home.*

*As they were on the train a German bomber suddenly emerged out of the clouds forcing the train to shelter in a nearby tunnel.*

*Barney was afraid of the dark and a man in the carriage with them proceeded*

*to tell a story about a friend of his and his life during the First and Second World Wars.*

*I found the story even more intriguing knowing that it was based on the life of an actual soldier. Although it is a wartime story with the horror of wartime, it isn't gory. I was surprised at the ending.*

*I rate this book 8/10 and think boys and girls would appreciate it.*

**Jasmine Harris-Hart, age 13**

***'An Eagle in the Snow' is a beautifully written story, with a story within it. It is about how one man could have changed the course of history, not by what he had done, but by what he could have done.***

*Upon being evacuated from their bombed out home, Barney and his mother take the train to Cornwall to Barney's aunts-away from the bombings.*

*On the train to London a German bomber plane tries to bomb their train!*

*As they wait in a tunnel, a stranger begins to tell a story about his friend called Billy Byron, and like a ball of wool the story slowly unravels.*

*The story of Billy Byron, the man who could have saved the world from world war two?!?!*

*I enjoyed reading this story, full of twists and turns of a man's life. It is conveyed in a way that although terrible things happened during the war, it wasn't distressing to read. I wouldn't usually chose to read a wartime story but I am glad I read this one. The ending left me asking myself questions.*

*I found the Afterword about Henry Tandy interesting because it was his life that was woven into the story, it enabled me to appreciate how Michael Morpurgo had written it.*

*A great book for fans of Michael Morpurgo as it does not disappoint!*

*I rate it 9/10 for boys/girls 10+*

[www.jasminesblogonbooks.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.jasminesblogonbooks.blogspot.co.uk)

**Tomasz Hawryszczuk, age 10**

***A real pager turner set during World War One revolving around a boy and his Mum on a train being told a story by a stranger.***

*I really enjoyed this book as it had some true to life facts about the war. I read it*

*over two days as I couldn't wait to move on to the next chapter. My favourite part of the story was when Billy Byron visited Germany to try to kill Adolf Hitler. You will have to read the book to find out if he succeeded! I recommend this book to boys and girls around 8-14 years old.*

**Jack Saddler, age 10**

***One of Michael Murpurgo's best novels. He cleverly makes you feel that you are inside the book - giving you an amazing understanding of every character. Both exciting and emotional with a twist.***

*I think this was one of Michael Murpurgo's best novels. He cleverly makes you feel that you are inside the book and you get an amazing understanding of every character. The story takes place during WW2 and talks of WW1.*

*My favourite character was Billy, a heroic WW1 soldier who was a brilliant friend to his comrades in the awful conditions of the WW1 trenches. This book is both exiting and emotional with a surprising twist at the end. This is an overall outstanding book for readers aged 8 upwards. I would rate it 10/10.*

**Alex Bateman. age 10**

***'The Eagle in the Snow' was a book I read in one sitting. It got me from the word go and when I got to the end I felt so happy. I loved the characters and I felt like I'd made new friends in them. What I thought was most amazing was that it was a story in a story. It had good vocabulary and was such fun to read. The story about the soldier was especially inspiring and this was the part that hooked me most and had me reading on until a long time after my bedroom light should have been out. My absolute favourite part was when the Meschersmitt opened fire on the train. I think it is best for children about 9 years old and up. It was a very joyful read. I loved it.***

**Adi Mehta**

***What a thriller! Couldn't put it down for a moment! I loved every word and phrase, the book drew me in until the end. A fantastic book.***

*This book by Michael Morpurgo was a wonderful read. It was about a young man, who had the chance to stop WW2. At the time the man thought it was the right decision but it caused the next big war. Set in WW2, a family are in a train*

*when they have to stop in a tunnel. A man tells them a story.*

*I would recommend this book to children 8+ because some language is quite difficult. However children that age would really enjoy it.*

### **Alexander Bisland, age 10**

*Barney is on the 11.50 train to London with his mum. It is 1940 and his house has been bombed. He only has a suitcase and some clothes left. A smart man comes onto the train just before it leaves and they are the only ones in the carriage.*

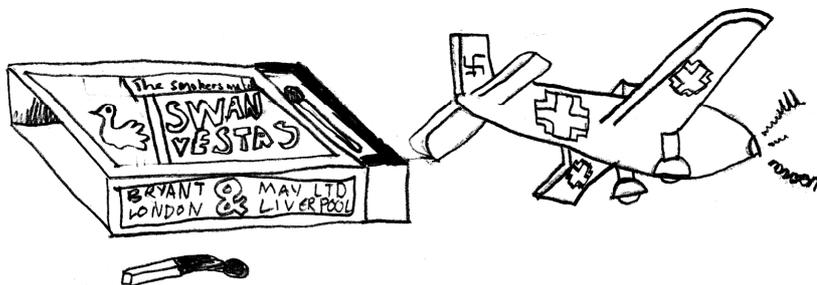
*After a while, a plane flies down towards the train. Barney thinks it's a Spitfire but it is a German Messerschmitt 109. They get away from the window as the rattle of the machine guns start. The train is going faster and heading for a tunnel. When they get in the tunnel, the man tells Barney a true story about a man called Billy Byron who "had done the wrong thing and now he must do the right thing. He had to right the wrong he had done".*

***I enjoyed this book and recommend it to ages 10+ as it is a sad book. I have also been learning about WWII at school so I enjoyed it even more.***

*Also, my brother and I were lucky to meet the author, Michael Morpurgo at the Cheltenham Literature Festival and we got some of our books signed!*

*I give this book 5/5!*

*Hand drawn pictures by Alexander!*



**Patrick John Griffith, age 10**

*This historical fiction book is set during World War 2 and is about a boy called Barney whose house was bombed so he and his mother go on the train to his aunt. Whilst on the train, some German bombers fly over and start shooting rapidly at it. The train pulls into a tunnel and waits... They are plunged into darkness... Barney is scared of the dark. To take his mind off the dark, a helpful stranger tells Barney a story about someone called Billy Byron (a World War 1 soldier). But what is the importance of this story and was Billy a hero or not?*

*I enjoyed reading this book and learning more about the World Wars. I am glad that I was not alive during them.*

***Are you a history lover, who would like to know more about WW1 and WW2? Then read this fact based fiction book - you will never want to put down. Also you may love the illustrations too!***

**William Sheehan, age 10**

***‘An Eagle in the Snow’ is a heart-warming story about World War One that will leave you with your blood pumping and you wanting more. After Barney’s home was destroyed he meets a stranger on a train that tells him about his friend who was a soldier in the war. But little does he know his friend has a secret...***

***A great read by a well-known author.***