

LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading4kids members.

James Goodall age 9.

Kensuke's Kingdom is my best Michael Morpurgo story and it is about a boy called Michael who gets shipwrecked on an island with nothing but his clothes and his dog, Stella, to keep him company.

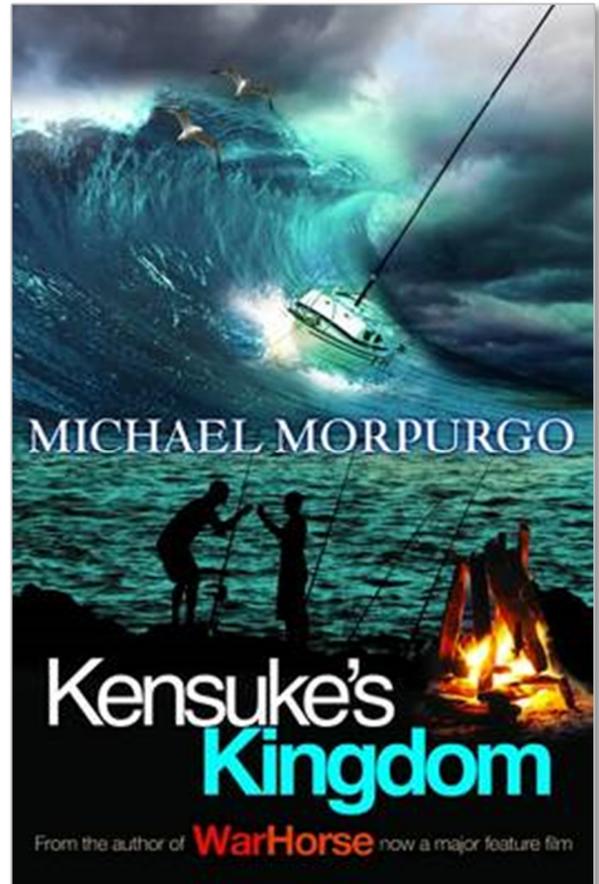
Michael tries to signal to passing ships but then an old man, Kensuke, appears and tells him not to light fires to attract attention. One day the boy goes for a swim and wakes up to find Kensuke nursing his wounds. This is the beginning of their friendship and they do amazing things together and the boy gets to see orangutans that the man has trained and learn all about how he has lived and survived on the island.

Michael Morpurgo's books are always interesting and engaging and you become totally lost in their story.

Kensuke's Kingdom is very atmospheric and you can imagine yourself on the island along with Michael, Stella and Kensuke. I would recommend this story to all readers either to read alone or together.'

Sam Harper, age 9

When Michael's father loses his job, he and his parents decide to sail around the world in a yacht, The Peggy Sue. This is a huge adventure as they have never sailed a large boat before. All goes well until a storm hits just north of Australia



and Michael, his dog and lucky football fall overboard. He wakes up to find himself on an island and realises he is not alone when he finds food and water has been left for him. An old Japanese soldier, Kensuke, was also stranded on the island when his battleship was bombed during the Second World War. It is difficult for them to communicate but Kensuke helps Michael to survive and Michael tries to teach him English.

Kensuke is quite unfriendly and aloof in manner, he won't allow Michael to light a fire as he doesn't want anyone to know about his existence on the island. In spite of this he is also a kind man, he saves Michael from near-death when he is stung by a jellyfish and also protects the islands orangutans from poachers. The pair develop a solid friendship and almost a year passes before Michael's parents finally find him. He must leave Kensuke and the island behind and he promises to keep their secret for ten years. It is only much later that the true story becomes known and this is it, Kensuke's Kingdom.

I loved Michael's adventure and the friendship which developed between Kensuke and Michael, two very different people from very different worlds.

An exceptional story.

Olivia Campbell, age 11

Michael's father had just lost his job. They are relying on Michael's newspaper rounds to help them make it through life but then his father goes out and buys a yacht... Michael is sailing round the world with his parents and their own yacht, The Peggy Sue. He falls out of the boat and finds himself stranded on a desert island.

Michael and his dog (Stella) think they are alone until he finds a palm leaf with food on it. Michael discovers Kensuke (another stranded person) who befriends Michael. They teach each other and learn from each other until they are rescued and tragically separated.

Michael Morpurgo creates a feeling of adventure and excitement in his book, as well as the truth of friendship. It captures the imagination and is truly a gripping story for adventure seekers.

*Four stars: *****