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Michael Morpurgo , Michael Foreman (Illustrator)

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The heart-lifting, heartbreaking new story by Michael Morpurgo, the nation's favourite storyteller. In the Imperial War Museum is a wooden Dachshund, carved by a German prisoner of war for the children of the British family with which he stayed after the fighting ended. This is the story of how it got there! When the Bismarck sinks, one of the only German survivors is taken on board a British ship as a prisoner of war. Sent to live with a host family, Walter must adapt to a new way of life, in the heart of an enemy country. Gradually, though, he finds a friend in ten-year-old Grace. So when the time finally comes to go back to Germany, it's an emotional parting, with Walter leaving Grace with only a carved wooden dog to remember him by. The question is, will Walter and Grace ever meet again? In 1966, with the World Cup coming to Britain, that opportunity may just have come along!

Little Manfred Details

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Author : Michael Morpurgo , Michael Foreman (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Little Manfred for online ebook

Charlotte Martin says

This is one of my favorite books, it has a special place in my heart. I have read this book three times now and I am addicted.

Lets make it 4 or 5 times now!!!!

Lukas says

Little Manfred is an interesting book that is written in the point of view of a girl, Charley. It is written by a great author, Michael Morpurgo. This author has also written many other interesting books such as the world famous War Horse. Some of the main characters are: Charley (Who tells this story), Walter (A war soldier), Manfred (A war soldier, friends with Walter), Alex (Charley's "annoying" brother), Little Manfred (The dog, also known as Mannie).

This book is mainly about a girl and her brother playing on the beach at their farm with a ball, and meets two men, they do not understand them and then their dog kicks the ball and it goes flying and hits one of the men. That angers them a bit but they calm down. After that the men turn out to be really nice and then find Charley finds out that they know their mother. So the man (Walter) tells them a story about a war that happened a long time ago. That they become war prisoners and have to work on a far, and the people living on the farm have to give them a house to live in. In the beginning they are polite to each other but were not friends, but later they become friends. After the story ends they take the man home and they meet again (Walter and Grace, the mum).

I think that Little Manfred is a really good book and it really expresses different point of view very well. This book is in 1st person is interesting and the author really understands how little girls such as Charley think because he did well at writing as he was a young girl. This book also writes in a way that you feel empathy for the characters, such as when you find out what happens in the war you get scared or feel sad for them. Also this book helps you understand the characters feelings; he expresses the feelings easily so the reader could understand. Also sometimes you actually feel like you are in the story and you feel what the character feels, it takes you feel you are "in the characters shoes".

I recommend this book very much. It's a very interesting book, it is also not too hard to read but it is not too easy to read ether, the writing may look large but this book is not as easy as you think, I think that I would recommend this book from about grade 4 or 5 and above. This book is available in the secondary school library in the Overseas School of Colombo (O.S.C).

Lisa says

I read this to my son, Manfred. He found it quite frightening with all those sailors drowning. And I found the fact that the entire story is a flashback quite boring to read. I think it was also quite difficult, for my Manfred to understand. He kept asking who was talking and where are they and what happened. But we got through it and the ending with the little wooden dog ending up in the imperial war museum was nice.

Lars says

Charley lives on a farm in Suffolk, England. She always escapes to the beach with her dog called Manfred. Charley's family has a wooden dog that belonged to her mother and was passed down, but when her dad accidentally stepped on the toy and broke one of the wheels, which her mom got really upset about and no one knew why until one day Charley and her brother meet 2 older people on the beach. This encounter leads to the long history of the little toy called Manfred. One of the men was named Walter and was a prisoner of war in WWII, the other was named Marty who was a British sailor. Walter and his friend Manfred served on the Bismarck, the greatest German navy ship in history. Until one day the boat is hit and sunk, but Walter was treated very nicely by a doctor, who was Marty. So Manfred and Walter were prisoners of war and were sent to live with a family on a farm in Suffolk. When the 2 men and other prisoners were clearing the barbed wire and mines off the beach, Manfred is blown up by a mine. Before that, the 2 prisoners were making a wooden dog for the little girl, who was named Grace, Charley's mum's name. The 2 men came back to Suffolk and by coincidence found out that Charley's mum was the little girl. One theme is luck.

Karen says

The only fly in the ointment for me was that it wasn't quite accurate in a historical sense but it was in all a very good story, however unbelievable.

The Styling Librarian says

Little Manfred by Michael Morpurgo, illustrated by Michael Foreman – Historical Fiction, 3rd grade and up– not for the sensitive ones though, many war scenes throughout. I can thank my beautiful friend Tanja for bringing this book to me as a gift recently...many friends are a little wary of purchasing a book for me because they never know if I've read it before... so I was excited, as was she, at a book I hadn't read by Michael Morpurgo. Did you know there is a Michael Morpurgo month celebration in November? What a prolific author. I adore his work. I hope to get back to school after some bedrest and celebrate with my students! Little Manfred is about some siblings and a dog playing at the beach and their serendipitous meeting with two elderly gentlemen which leads the children to understand and learn more about their mother's childhood along with understanding more about WWII. Heartbreaking story in addition to being quite touching. A little bit of an easier read which might be perfect for that 5th grade boy who is a reluctant reader and additionally wants to read a 'war' book.

Sarah (Booksandquirks) says

Meh.

Read2review says

** For the full review please check out www.read2review.com **

I adore Morpurgo's work; I have a number of his titles at home waiting to be read. When I received Little Manfred through the post I just had to read it.

The story is set in 1966 just after England won the World Cup. Charley and Alex are playing with their collie "Mannie" on the beach and playing football. Alex kicks the ball too far and two older gentlemen kick it back. They start talking and they find out that the two gentlemen are German and were prisoners' of war in the UK. Marty and Walter tell the children about the war and what they went through and then about a farm where Walter stayed. The same farm that Charley and Alex now live on.

The story is told beautifully and the back-story of the little brown wooden dog with red wheels called Little Manfred is beautiful. I wondered if there is really a dog in the Imperial War Museum, where the wooden dog in the book is donated. In the Afterword it touched me that there really is a wooden dog and now I would really like to visit it.

This is again another wonderful example of how amazing Michael Morpurgo's work is. Young children could learn from this book about the Second World War, and if it touches them like it touched me I think that there will be a lot of visitors to the museum to see a little brown wooden dog named Little Manfred.

I would give Little Manfred a 4.5/5

** READ MORE AT: [http://read2review.com/our-reviews/m/...](http://read2review.com/our-reviews/m/)

Jules says

I really enjoyed this. Little Manfred is a touching tale of friendship, war and a wooden toy dog.

Mark says

Another book by Morpurgo covering yet another view of the second world war. This time its german prisoners of war working for and then befriending a farmer and his family. The prisoners built a little wooden toy dog for the young girl who named it after one of them. Then in 1966 one of these germans return with british sailor who had saved his life when he was originally captured and then had conveniently run into each other 6 years later on a train station as the german was being repatriated amidst loads of others and they recognized each other. Yeah right, now that could happen. Their friendship became such that they go to the world cup final in 1966. For any non english readers, this is Morpurgo's opportunity to remind anyone who cares that England once won this thing. English soccer victory...as rare as hens' teeth. They then appear on the beach below the farm so as to enable the normal Morpurgo style of child encounters old person, coincidental and frankly hard to believe relationship discovered between aforesaid oldie and 'encounteree's' parent. This leads to tearful reunion then flash back and then poignant revisiting twenty years later when the little wooden dog named Manfred is placed in the Imperial War Museum. In between there are lots of rather unsubtle messages shoe horned in about love, comradeship and friendship across the divides. The story, as is

so often the case, is beautifully illustrated by Morpurgo's long time collaborator, (no wartime pun intended) Michael Foreman. Though Morpurgo's work is often the same theme reworked over and over again to death it probably doesn't matter too much as firstly most young readers would only read a few of his works before they move on to other writers and secondly....mark, they are not written for you

Anne Hamilton says

Morpurgo inverts his trademark framing device in this children's story. It actually makes the transitioning better, in my view. Instead of an adult reflecting on the events of childhood, the plot unfolds through the eyes of Charley, a twelve-year old girl, who lives on a farm near the seaside.

As in *The Elephant in the Garden*, it is a coincidence of name that draws two entirely different pairs of people together. Charley is followed to the beach by her young brother Alex and their dog, Little Manfred. Manfred is named after a wooden dachshund of their mother's, a toy she protects strangely and fiercely.

SPOILER ALERT

It's the summer of '66, just after England has won the World Cup at Wembley, defeating Germany. Alex is playing with a football when two men come walking up the beach.

One of the men has a strange accent. He skims a stone into the waves and Manfred is after it in a flash. Charley can't get him back and is very apologetic when he finally returns and sprays water all over the men. But they are not upset... just curious about the name *Manfred*.

The men return home with Charley and Alex and they come to hear a story of their mother's childhood during the war, of German prisoners-of-war, of the hunting of the German battlecruiser *Bismarck* but mostly of a gentle, kind man named Manfred who died the day before he was due to return home to his wife and family.

Hwee Goh says

"For them it was a war they just wanted to forget. For us it was still a war we needed to understand." Thus two men on opposite sides of World War Two go back to "lay the ghost" on their past in this beautiful, heartwarming story. Morpurgo uses real events such as the World Cup final between England and Germany of 1966, and a wooden wheeled horse on display at the Imperial War Museum to spin this story. Also in the mid-1940s, large numbers of German prisoners of war lived in England before they were gradually repatriated by the end of that decade. Morpurgo Magic happens again with the story of how a British family is touched by a POW called Manfred and his friend Walter. There is friendship, and there is humanity, and there is tragedy. And the beauty of it is it reads so effortlessly. Perfect for 8-12 year olds.

Cruth says

Author: Michael Morpurgo
Illustrator: Michael Foreman

First Published: 2011

Includes: Afterword covering the Bismarck particularly the last battle, German POWs in the UK, and The World Cup, 1966.

Michael Morpurgo weaves a story through of friendship amidst trial, taking us on a journey through England (and Germany's) near history. Told in five parts he shows us the people who make us who we are.

Part 1: *Today* - 1966. The World Cup Final is played with the final between England and Germany.

Part 2: *The Past* - 1941. The Bismarck destroys HMS Hood (only three men survived), and in turn is destroyed resulting in the deaths of more than 2000 men. Walter and Manfred are taken to the UK as POWs.

p.64-65, the fall of Bismarck

Part 3: *The War Ends* - 1945. Repatriation takes a while. Walter and Manfred are moved and end up working as farm labour and to reclaim the beaches from mines and barbed wire.

Part 4: *Today*. Marty and Walter revisit the farm.

Part 5: *The Future* - 1991. Little Manfred is donated to the Imperial War Museum where he lives on as a symbol of friendship.

from <http://media.iwm.org.uk>, the real Little Manfred

A lovely snapshot of history, personalising events that are misting with time.

We forget, sometimes, that that *the enemy* were not all evil.

They had families. They were hurt. They cared, too.

And friendships blossomed in unlikely places.

We shouldn't forget the past but we also shouldn't let it colour our futures.

References:

Author's website: <http://www.michaelmorpugo.com/>

Author on W'pedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Morpurgo

Illustrator on W'pedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Morpurgo

Imperial War Museum: www.iwm.org.uk

Little Manfred: <http://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item>

Age:

Read aloud - 6+

Read yourself - 8+

(ISBN 9780007339679)

-CR-

Michael says

Review from Badelynge.

In the Imperial War Museum there is a wooden Dachshund. It was carved by a German prisoner of war in the 1940s. This is its story. Well almost. It's a story that captures the spirit of the true story though.

In the summer of 1966, just after England's famous footballing victory against the Germans in the World Cup Final, a young girl, her brother and their dog encounter two men on the beach. One has a story to tell about the girl's mother from when she also was a little girl during the second World War. It's a story about friendship and kindness, both heart warming and tragic that begins with two German friends going to war on the fated German battleship Bismarck. Michael Morpurgo tells a moving and nostalgic story, deeply shadowed by the conflict of nations but brightened by the hope and peaceful humanity of ordinary people. He's aided by Michael Foreman's beautiful sketches, brought to bright summer life by water colour. I'd say this would be ideal for the 8-10 reading age group but really I don't see why this can't be enjoyed by ages of any number. It certainly would be a great starting point for summer projects, perhaps investigating the untold stories of parents from when they were children. As the cover states, "The past is all around us."

There is also an afterword about the history touched on in the story and a short chapter about Michael Foreman's memories of that World Cup... and another dog, this time named Pickles, who saved the day.

Bryony Wells says

Heart warming book that offers children the opportunity the common held concept of ally vs enemy in war time, with the relatable figure of the toy and the real little dogs. Beautiful illustrations too. This book at times brought a tear to my eye.
