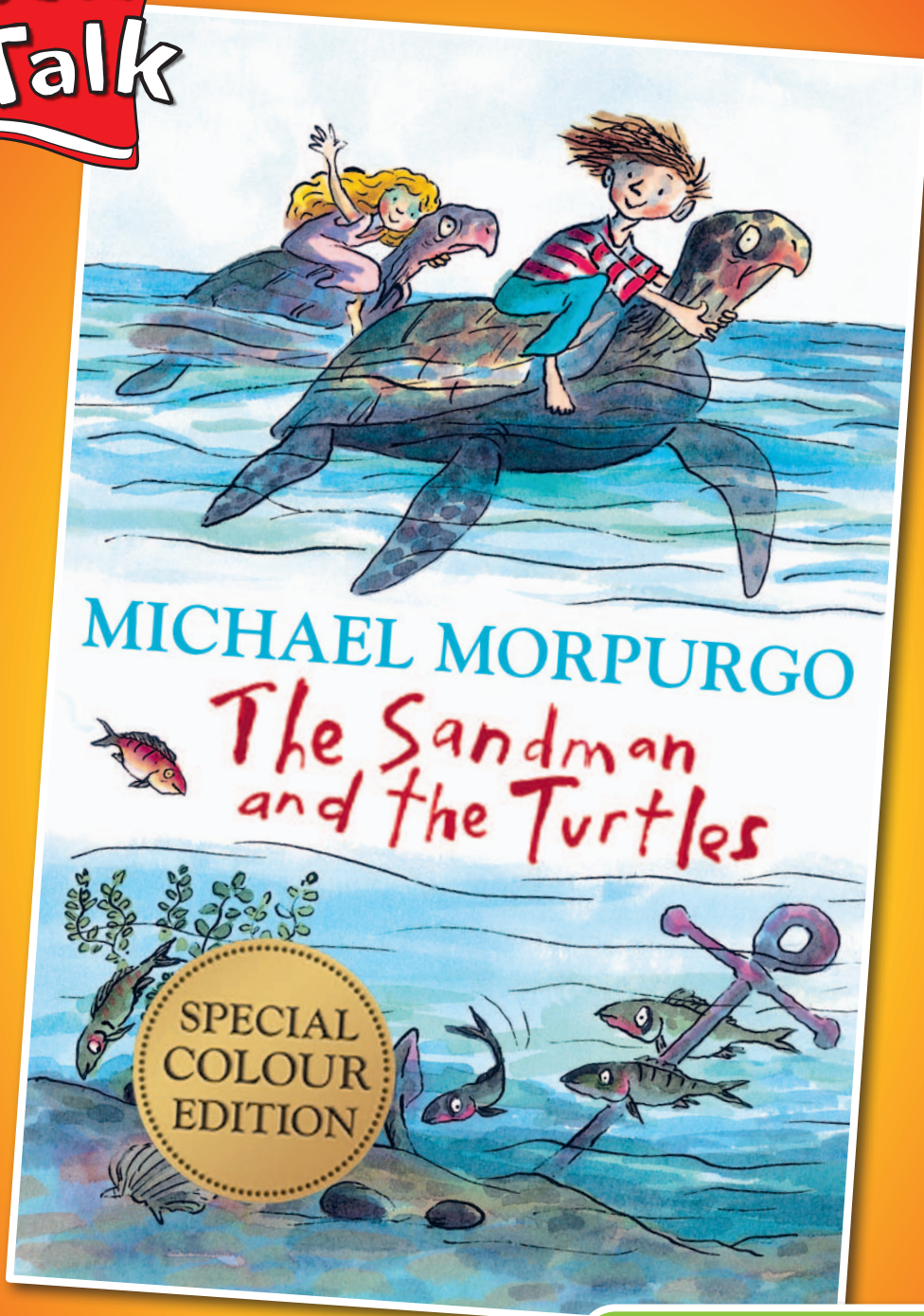


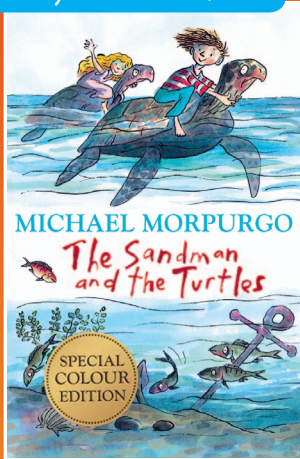
Book Talk



AGES 6+

Engage and inspire your
pupils with a Book Talk!

Look out for this book
at your Book Fair!



AGES 6+

Price	£5.99 / €7.40
Case	Read Alone
Author	Michael Morpurgo
Illustrator	Tony Ross
Publisher	Egmont

Using this book in your classroom

Themes

A funny and lively story about **magic**, **mystery** and **the power of storytelling**.

Summary

There are lots of things Michael looks forward to when he goes to stay with his Aunt Eleri, Uncle Rob and Dadci (grandfather) at their farm by the sea in Wales. His favourite thing is the stories Dadci tells about the rocks on Whitesands beach, which look like an enormous giant asleep in the sand. Michael and his little cousin Polly make a sand sculpture of a sleeping giant on the beach, and Polly insists she can make him come alive. Michael is astonished when the sand giant shifts, stirs and comes to life and the turtle rocks transform into real giant turtles! The giant and the turtles give the children a ride out to sea, where they visit a deserted lighthouse that they remember from one of Dadci's stories. More and more of Dadci's stories begin to come true in front of their eyes. Aunt Eleri and Dadci don't believe what Polly tells them at first, but after they experience the magic themselves, they have to believe it!

Did you know?

- Michael Morpurgo used to be a primary school teacher, and one day realised that the children in his class were bored with the book they were reading, so he made up another, much more exciting story to tell them.
- Although Michael is no longer a teacher, he still works with children. With his wife Clare he runs a charity which enables children from urban areas to experience life on a farm. The charity's farm in Wales is called Treginnis, just like the farm in this story.

The Story Session

1. Introducing the book

- Before reading the story, ask the children if they know any stories about giants or dragons. Do they think a story about a giant could ever come true? Why, or why not?
- Read the first part of the story, up to the end of the second paragraph on page 20. Pause to share the children's predictions. Do they think the Sandman will really come alive? What might happen next?

2. Reading the story

- Read on to the end of Chapter 2 (page 46). Do the children think Dadci's story about Sergei Ivanovitch Prokoviev might come true too? Do they think the rest of the family would believe it, if Michael and Polly told them?
- Encourage the children to read the rest of the story independently or as a class. Pause occasionally to talk about the story, and encourage the children to revisit the predictions they made about the story earlier.
- At the end of the book, do the children think that Barry and Uncle Rob are going to believe what has happened? Talk about what might happen if a fantasy character from another story the children know came alive in the real world. Would it be fun, or dangerous, or exciting ... or a mixture of all three?

3. Follow-up

- Ask the children to work in small groups to plan a new story of their own, based on the idea of a well-known story character arriving in the real world. Encourage them to plan how the story would start, as well as thinking about how people would react to the character, and what might happen next. How would the children end their story? Will their character return to the story world, or stay in the real world? The children could write their stories, or act them out for the rest of the class to enjoy.
- Before he goes, the Sandman says to Michael, "I'll be seeing you". Do the children think Michael and Polly will ever see the Sandman again? What kinds of adventures might they have together? Encourage the children to paint a picture of another adventure for Michael, Polly and the Sandman. They could write a story to go with the picture if they wish.
- Michael Morpurgo's website, www.michaelmorpurgo.com, contains lots of useful information about Michael and his books, and there are also some helpful teaching resources linked to many of the books.

YOU TELL US

- Did you use these notes to have a Book Talk in class? • Were the notes helpful?
- Are there any changes you'd like to see to make them more useful?

We'd like to hear your comments! Please email us at:
bookfairs@scholastic.co.uk or bookfairs@scholastic.ie