

## Prior Knowledge (of the genre)

In Y5, you wrote longer, complete stories. You explored ways of showing events that are happening simultaneously. You extended ways to link paragraphs in a cohesive narrative. You varied the pace of your writing by using direct and reported speech. Dialogue develops characterisation and moves the plot on. You built vivid settings using a range of devices and by exploring small details.



# Annunciation Catholic Junior School WRITING KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER YEAR 6 – Kensuke's Kingdom (Narrative – Fiction Genres)



## Themes – A theme is an idea or message that runs throughout a text.

**Friendship and Isolation** – The story is a warming tale of how Michael and Kensuke become close companions, showing that friendship has the ability to cross boundaries of age, nationality and culture. The story also explores the effect that separation and isolation can have on the human mind – when Michael is separated from his family, he faces a constant battle to maintain hope.

**Belief and Patience** – Morpurgo demonstrates the virtues of belief and patience throughout *Kensuke's Kingdom* e.g. Kensuke speaks to Michael about how he should be less anxious – a boat will eventually come – and is right. Also, Michael's mother's belief that he is alive leads to them being reunited.



## The Writer's Influences

*"The names of my characters come from the things I see and hear about me. For example when I was writing *Kensuke's Kingdom*, I was stuck for a name for a Japanese man. I couldn't think of one that was original or worked for my story. Then I got lucky, I was doing an event at a school in London when a tall Japanese boy came up to get his book signed. I asked him his name and he replied, 'Kensuke.' And I had the name of my character."* – The Guardian, 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2011.



## Context

*Kensuke's Kingdom* was written by Michael Morpurgo and was first published in 1999.

**Michael Morpurgo** – Michael Morpurgo is an author, poet and playwright who is known for his children's novels such as *War Horse* (1982) and *Private Peaceful* (2003). He is the author of over one hundred books in total. His skill in 'magical story-telling' and vivid description has often been widely celebrated. Morpurgo served as the Children's Laureate, from 2003-2005, and was made an MBE in 1999 for services to young people.



**Japan in World War II** – Japan entered World War II with a surprise attack on Pearl Harbour (a US military base) on December 7th, 1941. The Japanese fought on the side of the Axis powers with Nazi Germany and Italy, leading the fighting across Asia. The Japanese military culture of never accepting defeat meant that they were the last of the Axis to surrender – only after the losses suffered from two atomic bombs dropped on them by the USA.



**Japan** – Japan is an island country in east Asia, that is located in the Pacific Ocean. It is an archipelago of around 6,852 islands. There are four main islands: Honshu, Hokkaido, Kyushu and Shikoku, which make up around 97% of the land area. Because of its island habitat, historically Japanese culture has been greatly influenced by the sea – many Japanese people were fishermen. Modern-day Japan has many high-tech industries and huge cities.



**The Hiroshima and Nagasaki Bombs** – During the final stages of World War II, Japan was the final member of the Axis forces that had refused to surrender. To prevent a costly invasion (where many would die), the USA dropped two atomic bombs on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki within 3 days of each other, killing between 130,000 and 220,000 people. Japan surrendered to the Allies six days later, to end WWII.



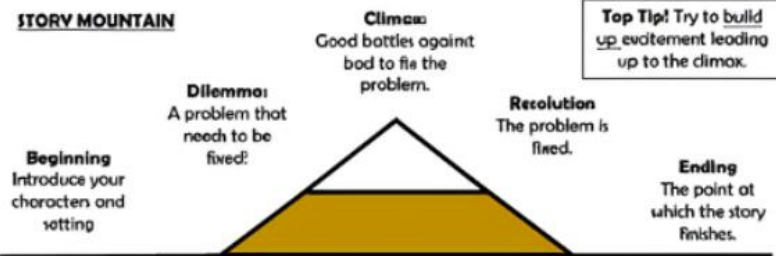
## Key Vocabulary

Kensuke*	pronounced 'Ken-ski'
<u>Spelling</u>	<u>Definition</u>
anguish	severe mental or physical pain or suffering
delineate	to describe or portray (something) precisely
disquietude	a state of uneasiness or anxiety
divulge	to make known (private or sensitive information)
improbable	not likely to be true or to happen
incident	an instance of something happening; an event or occurrence
unspecified	not stated clearly or exactly

### Structure – How do I set my writing out?

Your story needs a **title**. Titles should have key words that give the reader more information about the most important thing, character or idea in the story.

#### STORY MOUNTAIN



-Fantasy stories often involve imaginary characters and events, so spend lots of time in the beginning and dilemma describing them!

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### Morpurgo's Language Devices

Simile	'And he brought his hand down sharply like a chopper, separating the island in two.'
Personification	"The forest became impenetrable at this point, dark and menacing."
List of Three	"I was frightened...angry...completely bewildered."
Adverbs	"I heard her drinking before I got there, lapping rhythmically, noisily, as she always did."

### Main Characters – Consider what Morpurgo intended through his characterisation of each of the below...

**Michael** – Michael is the lead protagonist of the novel. He is eleven years old when his parents lose their jobs, and the family embarks on a sailing trip around the world. When Michael is thrown from the boat north of Australia, he finds himself on an island with only Stella the dog to remind him of home. He shows great mental strength in order to remain positive. He also strikes up a strong friendship towards Kensuke, who he stays loyal to even after leaving the island.

Quote: "I floated away into sleep. Into my dreams."

**Mother** – Michael's mother is an intelligent and strong-willed lady, who clearly loves Michael a great deal. She accepts Michael's father's dreams, and trains to be the skipper of the boat. She never gives up hope of finding Michael.

Quote: "My mother never showed the faintest tremor of fear."

**Stella** – Stella is Michael's family's dog, who is dearly loved, but is also viewed as somewhat of an annoyance at times! Stella is goes overboard relatively early into the sailing trip, foreshadowing Michael being thrown from the ship. Stella also seems to have strong instincts that are beyond Michael's comprehension – for example, she seems to immediately recognise that Kensuke is a kind person, by following him.

Quote: "Stella had stayed with him. She came, but not at once."

**Kensuke** – Kensuke is an old Japanese former doctor and war veteran. He became marooned on the island towards the end of World War II, when he was the sole survivor of a Japanese ship that was bombed by the Americans. He is an intelligent man, who shows incredible craftsmanship and resourcefulness in order to survive on the island for so many years. He is also kind and generous, saving and looking after Michael (and the orang-utans) on the island.

Quote: "Kensuke, I, Kensuke, My island."

**Father** – Michael's father is made redundant at the beginning of the story, and so lives his dream by sailing around the world with his family. He is a practical man, who is able to fix things around the boat skilfully.

Quote: "This is Peggy Sue. Our new home."

**The Orang-Utans** – The orang-utans live on the island, which has been uninhabited by man until the arrival of Kensuke, and then Michael. The orang-utans are seen to be a valued prize for the poachers, who are courageously protected by Kensuke. The orang-utans appears to have accepted Kensuke as their leader, following him as he sings – particularly his favourite orang-utan – Tomodachi.

Quote: "Kensuke had to bribe him – a red banana for a pair of binoculars."

### Writing objectives

- Write for a range of purposes e.g. to build tension, to create emotion, to show mood/atmosphere.
- Use paragraphs (TIPTOP) to vary pace and emphasis.
- Use all the senses when describing a setting.
- Use figurative language (MAPOS) to evoke settings and emotions.
- Experiment with sentence constructions to achieve an effect/pace their writing.
- Introduce characters creatively and develop characterisation through dialogue, appearance and actions (showing not telling).
- Seamlessly incorporate dialogue (reported or direct) to move the story on/reveal new information.
- Use grammar and vocabulary assuredly and consciously to change/enhance meaning.
- Secure understanding of complex sentences, including multi-clause, using commas correctly.
- Secure knowledge of semi-colons, colons and dashes to mark independent clauses.
- Vary sentence structures, punctuation and vocabulary for effect.
- Manage shifts in tense and formality, making their own decisions about the tone and chronology.
- Use parenthesis to add useful details.
- Develop tone through literary devices e.g. asides, characters' inner thoughts.
- Choose vocabulary and structures that match the formality of the piece.
- 'Magpie' ideas from author's style.
- Build cohesion within and across paragraphs using a wide range of devices.
- Edit and evaluate own and other's writing.