

Key Vocabulary

- Brackish** - (of water) slightly salty, as in river estuaries.
- Cacophony** - a harsh discordant mixture of sounds.
- Flotsam** - the wreckage of a ship found floating on or washed up by the sea.
- Gesticulate** - use gestures, especially dramatic ones, instead of speaking.
- Mellifluous** - (of a sound) pleasingly smooth and musical to hear.
- Obstinate** - stubbornly refusing to change one's opinion.
- Outrigger** - beam, spar, or framework projecting from or over a boat's side.

Writing Focus

- Explore the story setting.
- Explore characters in the text.
- Explore the role of animals in the text.
- Writing poems based on being at sea.
- Writing a new chapter.

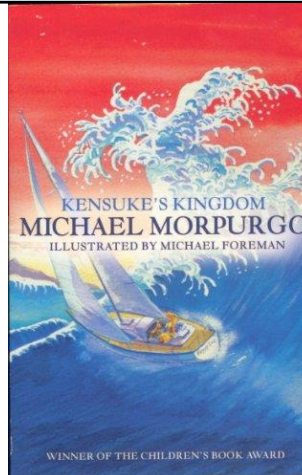
Key Skills:

- Describe settings, characters & atmosphere using expanded noun phrases and adverbials.
- Use modal verbs and adverbs.
- Use commas to clarify meaning.
- Build cohesion across paragraphs.
- Use pronouns and determiners.

Kensuke's Kingdom

Written by: Michael Morpurgo

Themes: Nature and environmental issues, community and interdependence, and relationships between the old and the young, mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs



Plot

When Michael's parents lose their jobs, they buy a boat and decide to sail around the world. Michael is swept overboard. He's washed up on an island, where he struggles to survive. Then he discovers that he's not alone. His fellow-castaway, Kensuke, keeps his distance at first. But when Michael's life is threatened, he slowly lets the boy into his world. The two teach and learn from each other until, inevitably, they must part ways.

Main Characters

- Michael** - The protagonist of the story.
- Stella Artois** - Michael's dog.
- Kensuke** - Elderly Japanese man living on the island.
- Barnacle Bill** - The old mariner who tutored the family to sail.
- Eddie** - Michael's best friend.
- Michael's parents** - His shipmates.

Author Voice

"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. Animal names are trickier. It was a boy who came to our farm in Devon with his school who told me the name of his own dog – Stella Artois – an Alsatian."

By Michael Morpurgo