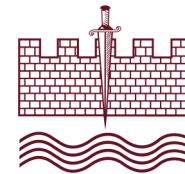


# Half term 5 & 6

## Private Peaceful

# Key Stage 3: Year 7

## Knowledge Organiser



### ABOUT PRIVATE PEACEFUL

Private Peaceful is about a soldier called 'Tommo' Peaceful who is looking back on his life from the trenches of WW1 in France. It is set in the fields of Devon and the WW1 Flanders battlefields.

The story especially underlines the senselessness of war and explores the pressures of rural family life and the price of courage and cowardice.

In Private Peaceful, each chapter begins with Tommo Peaceful narrating from the present tense— it is night time and he is in the trenches. He is counting down to dawn, but the reader is unaware of why he is doing this. For the rest of each chapter, Tommo narrates his life through a series of flashbacks that lead up to the present moment, eventually revealing what he is counting down to.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Michael Morpurgo is an author, poet and playwright who is predominantly known for his children's novels such as War Horse (1982) and Private Peaceful (2003). His skill in 'magical storytelling' and vivid description has often been commended, most notably his depictions of World War I conditions and the Cornish coastline. Morpurgo served as the Children's Laureate from 2003 until 2005. Morpurgo has revealed that his fireside conversations with World War I veterans in Devon informed his writing of Private Peaceful

### EXAM SKILLS:

- AO1: Read, understand and respond to texts using textual references. Identify and interpret explicit and implicit information and ideas.
- AO2: Use PEEL to analyse how the writers use language and structure techniques to achieve effects and influence readers
- AO3: Show understanding of the relationships between texts and the contexts in which they were written
- AO5: Respond creatively, effectively and imaginatively. Adapt tone, style and register for different forms, purposes and audiences.

*"It's no good wishing for the impossible. Don't wish. Remember. Remembrances are real" - Private Peaceful*

### SUCCESS CRITERIA:

1. Identify techniques and analyse language, form and structure.
2. Understand and comment on the writer's intentions.
3. Understand and evaluate the reader's response.
4. Understand and evaluate the effects and significance of context (audience, social, historical, cultural).
6. Be able to explore a text independently and interpret and evaluate the ideas.
7. Use precise evidence to support ideas.
8. Analyse multiple meanings/interpretations where possible.
9. Use material to create own creative responses

### KEY CHARACTERS

Tommo—narrates the story. He is the youngest Peaceful

Charlie—Tommo's older brother, he protects Tommo at school and is his hero

Big Joe— the eldest of the three boys and was affected by meningitis as a child

Molly—Charlie and Tommo's best friend

Mother—Following the death of her husband, raises her sons on her own

Grandma Wolf—A cruel relative

The Colonel—Owns the manor house and the surrounding land. Many villagers work for him

Hanley—A cruel Sergeant who bullies the soldiers

Wilkes—A kind Captain who improves the morale

### KEY TERMS

Propaganda—Information that is biased or misleading

Conscription—Compulsory enrolment for a state service

Cowardice—Excessive fear that prevents an individual from taking risks or facing danger

Patriotism—your country and being proud of it

Desertion—leaving the armed forces without permission

Enlistment—Voluntary action of joining the armed forces

Mustard gas—A poisonous gas used by the Germans in trench warfare against the British. Caused blindness, choking and breathing problems or death