

Name _____ Date _____

Kaspar
Michael Morpurgo
Worksheet 1a

Opening Lines

Can you tell who Kaspar is written by?

'Prince Kaspar Kandinsky first came to the Savoy Hotel in a basket. I know because I was the one who carried him in. I carried all the Countess' luggage that morning, and I can tell you, she had an awful lot of it.

But I was a bell-boy so that was my job: to carry luggage, to open doors, to say good morning to every guest I met, to see to their every need, from polishing their boots to bringing them their telegrams. In whatever I did I had to smile at them very politely, but the smile had to be more respectful than friendly. And I had to remember all their names and titles too, which was not at all easy, because there were always new guests arriving. Most importantly though, as a bell-boy – which, by the way, was just about the lowest of the low at the hotel – I had to do whatever the guests asked me to, and right away. In fact I was at almost everyone's beck and call.'



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Name _____ Date _____

Story Extracts

Death of the Countess p45

'Mr Freddie came over to me then, and took me gently to one side, to offer me some advice, I thought, something he often did when I'd done something wrong.

"Best get this over with Johnny," he began. "It's the Countess. She was knocked down an hour or so ago, just outside in the street. An omnibus it was. They say she walked straight out in front of it. Couldn't have seen it coming. We was all very fond of her, you most of all. Almost like a mother she was to you, wasn't she? I'm sorry Johnny. She was a good lady, a fine lady, and a kind one too."

Rooftop Danger p93

That was the moment she looked down. Only then did she realise just how high she was. All her fearlessness left her in an instant. She slipped at once and clung there, frozen with terror. The ridge was only a short distance above her, but I could see that she wasn't going to be able to get up there on her own, not now, and that there was no possible way she could come down either.



Discovered! p131 – p132

Once up there I hid in the first place I found – of course it was the most obvious, and therefore the most stupid place I could ever have chosen – a lifeboat. Inside I saw the Japanese man sitting at the far end, knees drawn up under his chin, rocking back and forth and gnawing at his knuckles. And that was where, only minutes later the two of us were discovered, caught like rats in a trap.

Iceberg! p140

I was half sleeping, half dreaming in my bunk, dreaming that Kaspar was yowling at me, trying to wake me. We were in some kind of danger and he was trying to warn me. Then it happened. The ship suddenly shuddered and shook. I sat up. Right away it felt to me like some kind of a collision, and I could tell that it had happened on the starboard side. A long silence followed. Then I heard a great rushing and roaring of escaping steam, like a death rattle. I knew that something had gone terribly wrong, that the ship had been wounded. The engines had stopped.



In the Water p171

I remember trying to swim frantically away from the ship, and then looking back and seeing one of the huge funnels breaking away and falling down on top of me, toppling like a giant tree. As it hit the water I felt myself sucked under and swirled away downwards into a whirlpool of such power I was sure it would take me to the bottom with the ship. All I could do was to keep my mouth pursed, tight shut, and my eyes open. Suddenly I saw Mr Stanton above me, his feet caught in a rope. He was kicking and struggling to break free.

The Reunion p183

We looked everywhere we could think of, asked again and again the same question. The last lingering hope left to us was that they might still be out there at sea in their lifeboat. The two of us went to the ship's rail. But all the lifeboats we saw floating around the ship were already empty. We scanned the sea all around, searched the horizon. There was nothing. At that moment of utter despair we heard a yowling from behind us. We turned. They were there, all three of them, shrouded in blankets, only their faces showing. It was a strange and wonderful reunion for all of us. We stood there on the deck for many long minutes, our arms around one another. It was during those moments I really felt for the first time that I had in some way become one of them, one of the family.



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Skullface Extract

Extract from p85

The footsteps came closer and closer, the bunch of keys rattling louder with every step. Skullface was ranting now. "Do you know what that he's gone and done? Well I'll tell you, shall I? He's only used a black brush on Lord Macauley's best brown boots. There's black all over them. And who gets the blame? Me. Well. I'll have his guts for garters, I will. Where is he?"

"I don't know, Mrs Blaise, honest to God I don't." Mary was doing her best for me.

The footsteps were right outside my door now, and there I was with Lizziebeth in my room, and Kaspar cleaning himself on her lap. All she had to do was to open the door and I'd get the sack for sure. I could hear my heart pounding in my ears. I was praying that somehow, anyhow, Mary would prevent her from opening that door.



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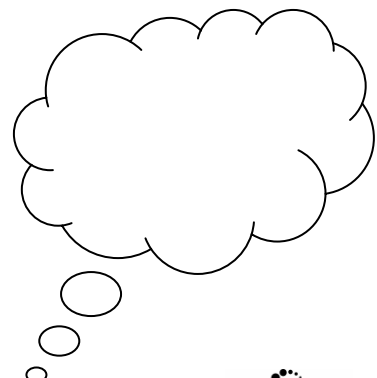
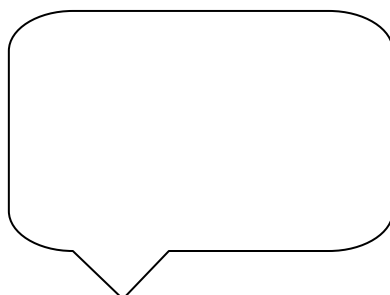
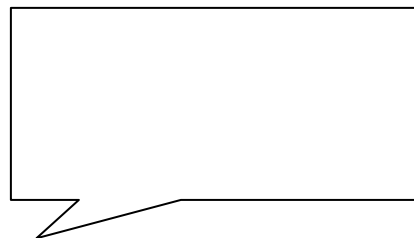
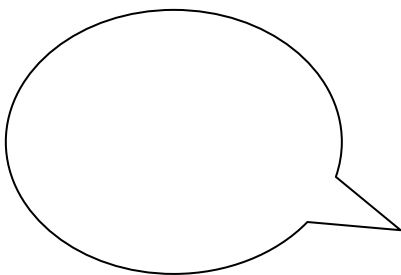
Name _____ Date _____

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Worksheet 1c

Scenario 1

Draw your scenario and add speech bubbles

Title.....



Name _____ Date _____

Kaspar
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Worksheet 1e

Scenario 2

Draw your scenario and describe what is happening

Title _____



Description:

Name _____ Date _____

Kaspar
Michael Morpurgo
Worksheet 2a

Johnny Trott

These are the significant events in his life:

1. Johnny's birth.
2. Lives in an orphanage in Islington run by cruel Mr Wellington.
3. Runs away from the orphanage and lives on the streets.
4. Starts his job as a bellboy at the Savoy Hotel.
5. Meets the Countess and Kaspar and becomes Kaspar's carer.
6. The Countess is killed by an omnibus.
7. Kaspar pines for the Countess and doesn't eat.
8. Lizziebeth gets Kaspar to eat.
9. Skullface nearly catches Johnny and Lizziebeth with Kaspar.
10. He saves Lizziebeth on the hotel roof.
11. Mr Stanton gives him £50 for saving Lizziebeth.
12. Skullface blackmails him for the £50.
13. The Stantons leave the hotel to return to America.
14. He stows away on the Titanic.
15. He gets caught as a stowaway.
16. The Titanic sinks.
17. He is rescued by the Carpathia.
18. The family is reunited.
19. He is adopted by the Stantons.
20. He goes to fight in World War I in Europe.



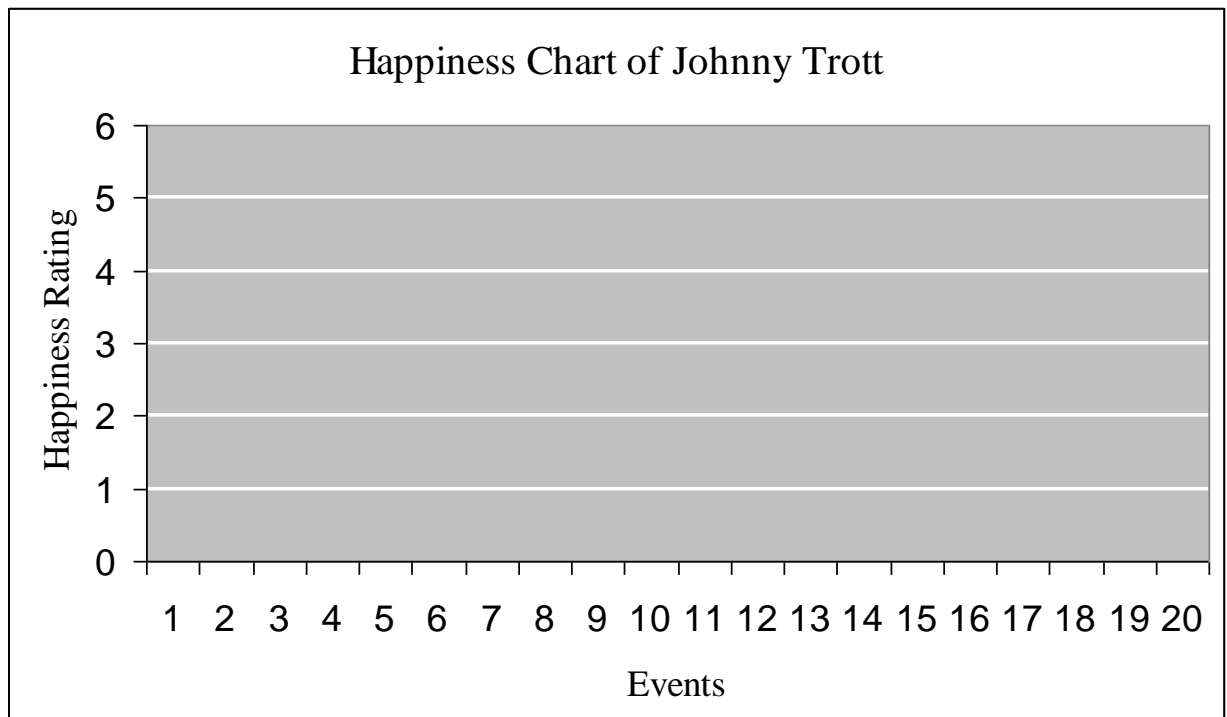
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Name _____ Date _____

Kaspar
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Worksheet 2b

Happiness chart

Mark Johnny's happiness level for each event

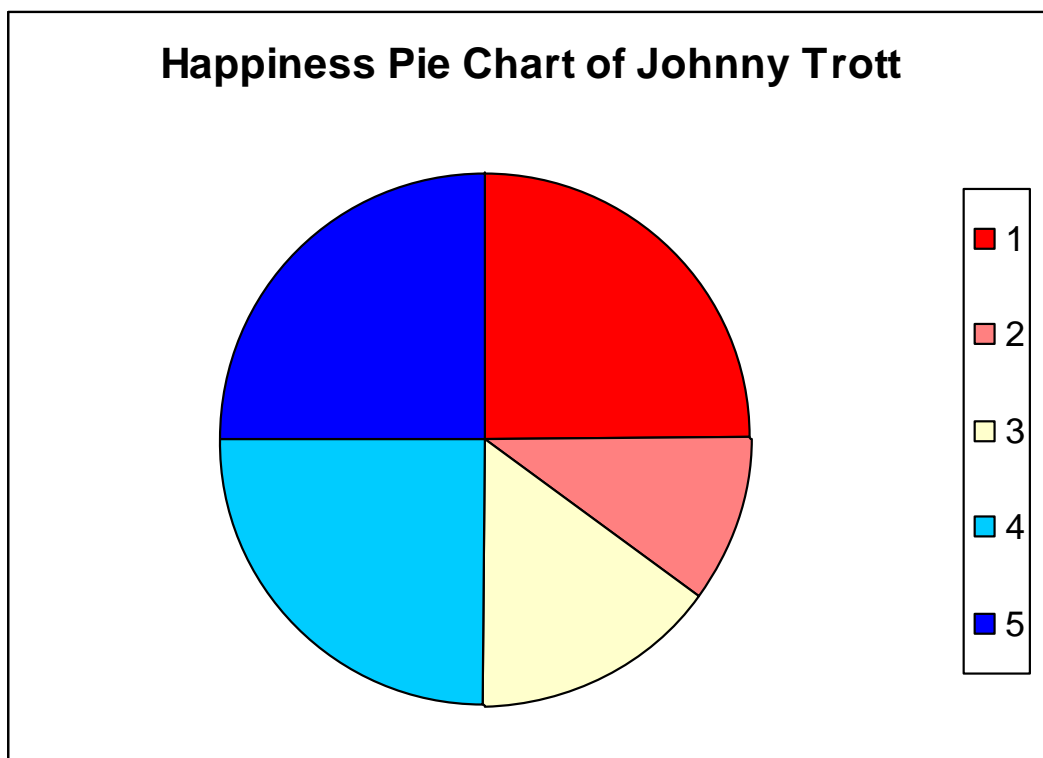
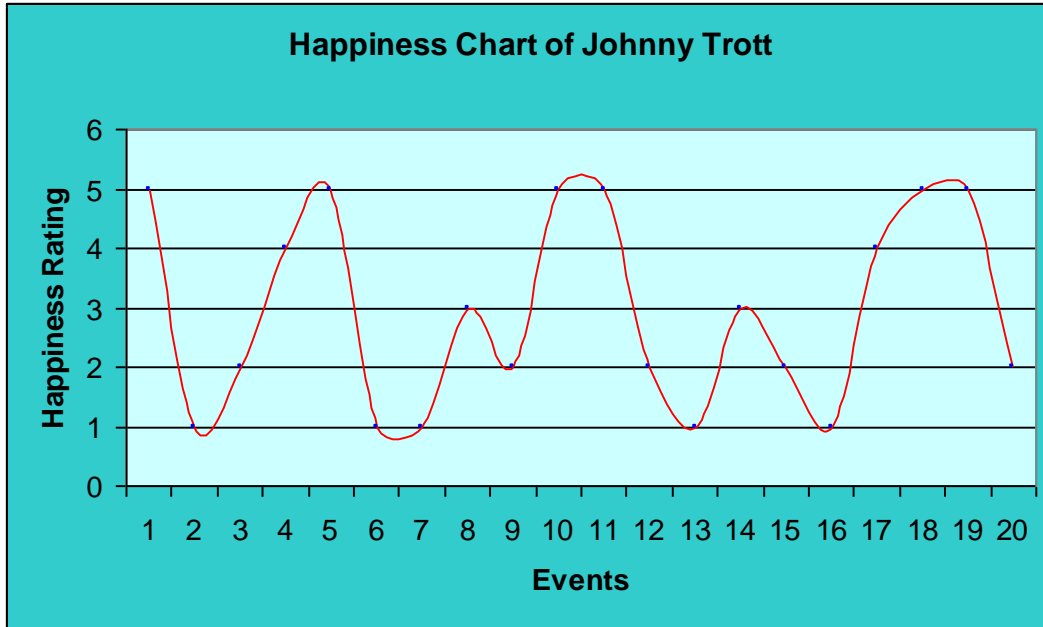


Name _____ Date _____

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Worksheet 2c

Example chart

Mark Johnny's happiness level for each event



Name _____ Date _____

Biography

Think about what makes an author significant.

Read this biography of Michael Morpurgo.

Michael Morpurgo is the author of many books for children, five of which have been made into films. He also writes his own screenplays and libretti for opera. Born in St Albans, Hertfordshire, in 1943, he was evacuated to Cumberland during the last years of the war. He returned to London, later moving to Essex. After a brief and unsuccessful spell in the army, he took up teaching and started to write. He left teaching after ten years in order to set up Farms for City Children with his wife. They have three farms, in Devon, Wales and Gloucestershire, open to inner-city school children who come to stay and work with the animals. In 1999 this work was publicly recognised when he and his wife were awarded an MBE for services to youth. He is also a father and grandfather, so children have always played a large part in his life. Every year, he and his family spend time in the Scilly Isles, the setting for three of his books.



Morpurgo has a gift for magical storytelling, and his books also often tackle social issues. *Out of the Ashes* (2001), for example, is about the foot and mouth crisis. His most popular books include *Why the Whales Came* (1985), which was made into a film starring Helen Mirren; *King of the Cloud Forests* (1988), which won the Cercle D'Or Prix Sorcière (France); and *My Friend Walter* (1988) and *Out of the Ashes* (2001), which were both adapted for television. *The Wreck of the Zanzibar* (1995) won the 1995 Whitbread Children's Book Award.

The Butterfly Lion (1996) draws on the author's own unhappy experiences at boarding school, and is the story of a young boy who rescues an orphaned lion cub from the African bush.

It won the 1996 Nestlé Smarties Book Prize (Gold Award).

Kensuke's Kingdom (1999) tells the tale of a boy who, after falling

from his parents' yacht, lands on an island and learns how to survive with the help of the mysterious

Kensuke. This book won the Children's Book Award in 2000. *Private Peaceful* (2003)

is set during the First World War and tells the story of two brothers, Charlie and

Tommo. It won the 2005 Red House Children's Book Award and the

Blue Peter Book of the Year Award, and was short-listed for the 2004 Whitbread

Children's Book Award.

In 2003, Michael Morpurgo became the third Children's Laureate, a scheme he had originally helped to set up with poet Ted Hughes. The Laureateship rewards a lifetime contribution to children's literature and highlights the importance of the role of children's books. Morpurgo firmly believes that "literature comes before literacy" and wants all children "to discover and rediscover the secret pleasure that is reading, and to begin to find their voice in their own writing ...".

He was awarded an OBE in 2006 for services to literature.

adapted from an article at
<http://www.contemporarywriters.com/authors>

- 1 Read through the biography of Michael Morpurgo.
- 2 Write a list of the five things that make him a *significant* author.

This PCM is extracted from Collins Primary Literacy Teacher Guide 5



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Worksheet 3b

Biography of Johnny 1

Write a biography of Johnny Trott.

Johnny Trott was born in _____

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Name _____ Date _____

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Worksheet 3c

Biography of Johnny 2

Complete the biography of Johnny Trott.

*Johnny Trott was born in in the borough of
..... in London.*

*For the early part of his life he lived in
before running away and living*

*At the age of he started work at
as a*

*In he left the hotel and became a
on*

*When the ship sank he was rescued and went to live
in*

*He was adopted by and in 1914
he*

*At the end of the war he returned to
..... and worked in a*



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Worksheet 4a

Read all about it!

Write a newspaper article about the Titanic.

The Daily Herald 15th April 1912

Eye Witness Accounts:



Name _____ Date _____

The Titanic Disaster!

Create a poster about the disaster

1 Title		5 Diagram of the event	
2 Text about the disaster	3 Facts about the ship and its passengers		
4 Picture of the ship		6 Map of the disaster area	7 Timeline of events