



# The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips

*Michael Morpurgo , Michael Foreman (Illustrator)*

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A heart-warming tale of courage and warmth, set against the backdrop of the second world war, about an abandoned village, a lifelong friendship and one very adventurous cat!

‘Classic Morpurgo brilliance’ – Publishing News

"Something's up. Something big too, very big. At school, in the village, whoever you meet, it's all anyone talks about. It's like a sudden curse has come down on us all. It makes me wonder if we'll ever see the sun again."

It's 1943, and Lily Tregenze lives on a farm, in the idyllic seaside village of Slapton. Apart from her father being away, and the 'townie' evacuees at school, her life is scarcely touched by the war. Until one day, Lily and her family, along with 3000 other villagers, are told to move out of their homes – lock, stock and barrel.

Soon, the whole area is out of bounds, as the Allied forces practise their landings for D-day, preparing to invade France. But Tips, Lily's adored cat, has other ideas – barbed wire and keep-out signs mean nothing to her, nor does the danger of guns and bombs. Frantic to find her, Lily makes friends with two young American soldiers, who promise to help her. But will she ever see her cat again? Lily decides to cross the wire into the danger zone to look for Tips herself...

Now, many years later, as Michael is reading his Grandma Lily's diary, he learns about The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips – and wonders how one adventurous cat could still affect their lives sixty years later.

## The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips Details

Date : Published 2005 by HarperCollins

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Author : Michael Morpurgo , Michael Foreman (Illustrator)

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# **From Reader Review The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips for online ebook**

## **Susan says**

This book is set in the Second World War in an English coastal village. It tells the tale of Lily whose father goes to fight in the war. Lily's family takes in an evacuee from London and they become close friends. During the story the American soldiers take over Lily's home town and she has to move in with her Uncle George. During their move Lily's cat goes missing and every day she returns to their farm to look for her, only to be caught by the American soldiers.

The book is written as Lily's diary and details the events of each day allowing us to get an insight into her life and how she found the events through the war all the time reminding us that she has done something amazing. At the end of the story years later the American soldier who she befriends during her childhood returns and they talk over good times. Lily then goes to America to visit him and they marry and return to England.

The story touches on issues of race as the American soldiers are both black and say that they have never been accepted so well by a white family and topics of the Second World War. This book could be used in a year four class upwards to introduce topics such as the Second World War and issues of cultural divide at this time.

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## **Ebony says**

This is the first of Michael Morpurgo's books I have read, it's actually my daughter's book, but it has definitely made me want to read more.

The story of Lily living her life during World War II intrigued me. Lily's father is a soldier gone to war and she keeps a diary about what she gets up to, she then shares her childhood story with her grandson Boowie who she is very close to.

I love the way the author has used Lily's childhood diary, Boowie's views and letters from Lily to her grandson, telling her story to another generation. It was a nice easy read. I think this story is great for teaching children how to write a diary and writing in first person. I also think that because the diary was written from a child's perspective, children may find it easier to understand what life was like during World War II and the story line keeps the children interested with a twist at the end. I feel that this book can make learning about the war more personal in contrast to reading facts etc from text books.

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## **Alex Acer says**

Best book I have read so far.

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## Carli Vallance says

This heart-warming adventure begins with an introduction from Michael. Suspense and intrigue is formed immediately as he informs us that Grandma has just done something shocking! Mystery swathes the actual event and after a cliffhanger of a letter from Grandma, the real adventures start with a selection of her diary entries from 1943.

Eleven-year-old Lily Tregenza lives on a farm in the idyllic seaside village of Slapton with her mother, Grandpa and beloved cat Tips. Her father is away- it is the Second World War, and her village becomes home to 'townie' evacuees. Crisis hits when 3,000 locals instructed to leave their homes for the Allied forces to practice their D-day landings. Lily tells tales of the arduous move and the new friendships she forms: an evacuee who picks his nose, a teacher who she once suspected to be a German spy, and two 'Yank' soldiers who help her search for her cat when it goes missing.

A final letter from Grandma in the current day gives the climatic surprise ending I was waiting for. I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book, and found the examples of both broken and newfound friendships very moving. Especially given the frightening wartime setting, Mordugo's choice of young narrator paints the picture with a charming naivety. Having read reviews on his other classics, it seems that farm, soldier and grandparent are recurrent themes in Mordugo's writing.

As a teaching resource, I think this book could be a guided reading for Y4+, to discuss how Mordugo creates vivid imagery, how his characters use persuasive language and can turn suspicion of others into positive thoughts and respect. Lily's joy of using new vocabulary is infectious "*Tickety-boo*" (*I love that word*), but creative touches such as footprints illustrating text about the cat's muddy paws and skew-whiff text when Lily is trying to write in the dark are inspiring for creative writing too. Due to the use of maps by illustrator Michael Foreman, the farm setting and the war time, Geography and History could be incorporated too.

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## Serisop (Cioccolatoelibri) says

La guerra può essere conosciuta nei vari punti di vista che sono stati messi per iscritto negli anni, può essere vissuta tramite alcuni personaggi, può essere considerata in tanti modi. Comunque tutti i modi sono modi negativi, non penso che troveremo mai qualcosa di giusto in tutto ciò che è successo.

"Lo sbarco di Tips" ci aiuta a comprendere la vita di una bambina costretta a lasciare la sua casa insieme alla sua famiglia e possiamo solo immaginare quanto sia orribile. La fortuna della protagonista è avere qualcuno che le sta al fianco e che la ama incondizionatamente. Anche se sono lontani dalle loro cose materiali, non lo sono dai loro affetti. Penso che non ci sia cosa più importante.

Eppure c'è qualcuno che manca, oltre a un papà: la gatta Tips. Faremo il tifo per lei, perché venga ritrovata e torni dalla sua padroncina.

Mi è piaciuta molto questa storia dolcissima e piena di amore. Lo stile di scrittura scorrevole è il punto forte, perché rende il libro adatto ai piccoli e a tutte le età. Da un libro della collana "Il battello a vapore" non mi aspettavo nulla di meno di questo!

Consigliatissimo.

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## **Derek says**

An enchanting, easy-to-read story that's an ideal to help young readers to develop their knowledge of WWII.

This is the story of Lily Tregenza who, in 1943, lives on the family farm on the coast of Devon with her mum and grandfather, as her dad's away in the army.

Lily has a cat called Tips, and when the family are forced to move from their home for several months while the army take over the area as a training ground Lily's beloved Tips runs away and gets left behind. Lily is heartbroken but will not give up her search for Tips. She enters the cordoned-off danger zone to look for Tips herself!

It's a lovely story. Written in a simple, easy-to-read style, yet granting the reader a true insight into the Second World War from a child's perspective in the countryside. We also learn at the outset of the story that there's going to be a twist to Lily's tale right at the end, so as long as you don't cheat and peek at the end, it makes for a really compulsive read.

Michael Morpurgo reminds us that 3000 people were actually evacuated from their homes around Slapton Sands in Devon, enabling the troops to practice landing exercises along the beaches. Devon's beaches being very similar to the landing beaches in Normandy, used for the D-Day landings of June 1944.

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## **Ji-ann O'Driscoll Silva says**

This book is not for children really. It is for Adults and teenagers. Most of Michael Morpurgo's books are based on the World War! II. I really love this book. I read this book when I was 10. I was in my old school, and we had to read this book for Guided Reading. At first I thought it looked extremely boring by the cover. But never judge a book by its cover. It is a wonderful book. It nearly as wonderful as the book," Alone on a Wide Wide Sea".

It is about a teenage boy who has a lot of problems. It is during the war, his grandmother and him are very close. His grandmother moves and gives him a letter. The letter is her diary when she was his age. She talks a lot about the cat, Tips.

Diane x

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## **Krista the Krazy Kataloguer says**

Can't resist a book by Michael Morpurgo or a book about a cat. Interesting story of a little-known facet of D-Day during World War II.

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## Lucia Rial says

Young boy, Michael (also known as Boowie), receives a letter from his Grandma outlining her childhood. He was very fond of his grandparents, and sadly he had soon lost his Grandfather, leaving Grandma living on her own in Slapton Village.

Set in World War II, the story focuses delves deep into Grandma's (Lily) life, from first hand, especially homing in on her home life, her friendships and her love for her cat, Tips.

The war had hardly touched Slapton Village, until one day in 1943, all the villagers were called in for a church meeting, to be told that their village would be used as a practice site for D - Day and all villagers would have to be temporarily evacuated.

However on pack up day, Tips decides to go back to the forbidden area. Distraught, Lily decides to go on a search to find her beloved cat, only to find that later on she falls in love too.

PSHE - relationships/feelings.

Michael Morpurgo talks about Grandma's relationship with her cat, parents, grandfather, grandson and her friend Adolphus.

-Children can also discuss the different types of relationships and how they can form new relationships. i.e. how can they be a better friend?

change

Natural change is all part of our lives. The war was a natural change. Grandma's relationships were a natural change. The villagers were reluctant to change.

- children to discuss change. What will change personally in the next day, month, year? i.e. new classroom, new friends, new home, become older and wiser.

Art - use the theme 'war'

Children to use descriptive and imaginative language to re -create the scene of Slapton Village.

What materials can be found in 1943 but not now? What did it look like? What did it feel/smell like?

Use sculpture/paint/collage.

Literacy - As above but set the scene in more detail.

-Character profile

-role play. What did the characters look like? What did they sound like? How would they move? Mind map and discuss ideas in pairs or in a group.

- children must use descriptive language.

- biography of a chosen character.

- radio article/interview (set in 1943)

- contrast. Describe day/night peace/wartime summer/winter sun/rain

ICT - children could produce a telegraph or newspaper article explaining what has happened.

History - Children can visit museums to learn more about wartime.

-children to research where they live. What may happen if the war happened in their local area?

- learn about the comparison of life in 1943 and life now.

- children could also interview their grandparents/elderly. What life like first hand? What did they eat? What did they do for entertainment? What were their houses like? How did they buy things? What were jobs/schooling like?

## Characters

Michael (Boowie)

Lily (Grandma)

Grandpa

Mum

Dad

Tips

Adolphus (Adie)

Harry

I thought that this book was a great read. Michael Morpurgo writes in a very innocent way depicting the voice of a child. He uses a good balance of contrast between fact and fiction, peace/wartime, humour/sadness, loss/love, which sets a clear scene in the audience's mind. The images are illustrated in a simple, naïve black and white style.

I think that this book is aimed at children in KS2. By looking at the language used, it is clear that the story includes use of complex grammar such as, complex sentences, verbs, adverbs and a variety of interesting openers.

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## Cheryl says

A charming little story, told mostly through diary excerpts, of some of the aspects of World War II and D-Day that we never hear about. Michael (aka Boowie) receives a package from his grandmother not long after his grandfather's death from MS, the contents of which will explain the reason for the scandalous thing she has just done. The contents are her diary excerpts from the lead up to D-Day which involve the cat she loved and their little town in Devon on the coast being co-opted for a training ground for the Normandy landings.

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## Hanna Persson says

“The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips” by Michael Morpurgo is a story of a young girl named Lily Tregenza living in England during World War II. She also has a cat names Tips who she loves and would never leave. Her dad has gone to fight in the war, but the American soldiers that come to help England have plans for all the villagers, they all have to move out so they can practice their landings, etc for the war. Her family lives on a farm and her grandfather was brought up, lived and works on this magnificent farm too. They have to move but her grandfather almost refuses since it's so important to him. Eventually they move to Uncle Georges house which isn't too far away but still a distance. Everything has calmed down, but something is missing, where is Tips? The army says that they have three more days to get everything out of the house before they close the wiring, so no one shall get in the area. Lily is very frustrated but luckily she



gets the whole village to help her find Tips. After three days pass Tips hasn't been found yet! Lily knows that she's still alive, but where is she? Is anything going to stop her from finding Tips?

This book has an important theme to it. Through out the book it shows that home is not a place but home is something where you have all your family. Lily has lost her cat and still doesn't feel home in Uncle Georges house. Not to spoil any thing else, she finally feels home some how and it's not material worth.

Finally I would recommend this book to people who like mysteries and adventure! This book is about World War II but not a very sad story. It's still historical fiction but still has a great adventure to it! I think that anyone will enjoy this book some what and will find the story interesting! On a scale from 1 – 10 I rate this book a seven.

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### **Yulia says**

At first glance, this book seems to be yet another typical story about a girl and her cat who keeps on running away, but once you start reading it, you realise there's more to it than meets the eye. Set against the backdrop of World War 2, and more particularly, the D-Day landing practices, it gives the reader an entirely unique and different perspective on the war, as it is told through the eyes of the twelve-year old Lily Tregenze, whose family was forced to leave their village to make way for the army exercises. Through Lily's diary entries the reader gets to know what it was like to live in wartime Britain, which, I believe, makes this book perfect for introducing young readers to the concept of war, death and loss, but also true friendship and love. The only thing I didn't particularly liked though was that unexpected and quite surprising twist at the end -- well, I kind of suspected something like that would happen, but still I had mixed feelings about it. On the one hand, I was insanely happy for Lily (even sobbed a little), but on the other hand, I felt really sorry for Boowie's grandfather -- he surely did not deserve that... But on the whole, it was a very enjoyable and entertaining little book and I would recommend it to anyone, children and adults alike. I wish I had read it when I was around Lily's age.

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### **Valery Tikappa says**

Anche se la storia potrebbe sembrarvi per bambini, rimanete con me, perchè Lo sbarco di Tips non è solo per bambini ma facilmente adattabile anche agli adulti.

All'inizio credevo fosse la storia di una bambina, Lily, che continua a perdere il suo gatto, ma poi si è dimostrato un racconto totalmente diverso, per certi versi duro e crudo, ambientato durante la seconda guerra mondiale in un paesino dell'Inghilterra.

Inizialmente è tutto ambientato ai giorni nostri per poi, qualche pagina dopo, prendere forma diaristica. È Lily la protagonista, una ragazzina di 12 anni costretta a vivere in uno fra i periodi più bui della seconda guerra mondiale.

Ed è proprio di questo che parla Morpurgo, della sofferenza e dei problemi che i cittadini del mondo erano costretti ad affrontare per una guerra globale che ha provocato danni irreversibili all'animo umano.

Il tutto è narrato tramite la candida voce di Lily e forse è proprio questo che mi ha sconvolta di più, la purezza con cui Morpurgo è riuscito a rappresentare l'animo di una bambina e i suoi pensieri innocenti tipici dell'infanzia.

Lily razionalizza come può ciò che vive, tenta di guardare il lato positivo, di capire cosa sta succedendo. Sa che c'è la guerra, ma è anche consapevole di essere relativamente al sicuro in casa sua.

È una storia di vita quotidiana di una bimba e delle sue avventure nel ritrovare un gatto particolarmente votato a scappare, della prima volta che si scontra con la morte -animale e umana-, degli incontri che fa con gente straniera ma che poi si rivela avere molto in comune con la gente del posto.

Mi è piaciuto molto, l'ho trovato accurato, per nulla pesante o faticoso da leggere ma con quel tipico rigore storico che lo rende perturbante.

Non lo consiglierei proprio a un bimbo di 10 anni, ma dai 12 in sù e credo sia adatto anche agli adulti, perchè il candore di Lily non impedisce comunque di comprendere gli orrori della guerra.

Bellissimo il finale, con una chiusura di cerchio perfetto e una dolcezza che mi ha riempita dopo i piccoli vuoti che la storia mi ha lasciata a causa del tema.

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### **Clair Cannon says**

This is the first book I have read by Michael Morpurgo and it will not be the last. He is an amazing author as he really made me believe I was living the story. The book is an easy read and consists of a collection of diary entries from a young girl whose life is turned upside down when world war 2 is upon her, her family and her community. The book also describes through a child's experience what it is like for her when her father goes away to war and how upsetting and confusing it is for a 10 year old when the father leaves the family home for many years and with little contact. The little girl has grown up and is a grandmother and she passes the diary to her grandson to read whilst she goes away on a journey. The end of the book reveals she has married the soldier who looked out for her when the war was going on. This book would be suitable for KS2 children who can access the diary entries to discover for themselves what it must have been like for a 10 year old to experience war, whilst covering world war 2 lessons. This also could be read before a pre school visit to the war museum or the museum of childhood.

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### **Heidi Burkhart says**

I absolutely loved this story. Morpurgo is such a wonderful writer and this book is not an exception. This historical fiction story focuses on the lives of people in an English farming community, with D Day and the time leading up to that as the backdrop. This would be an excellent read for students from 4-7th grade, but anyone would enjoy this story. Spoiler of sorts...I shed lots of tears - both happy and sad throughout the story.

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### **Charlotte May says**

This is a wonderful little story.

A young girl is forced out of her home in order for the army to practice for the impending war with Germany. During the move she loses her pet cat Tips.

The story involves her search for Tips - the friends she makes along the way and the impact the war had on local farming communities.

Its a sweet British story - I finished in a few hours, if you enjoy something that portrays a light story out of a historical event then this is one for you.

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## Hayley says

So, I'm working my way through a box-set of Michael Morpurgo and I'm starting to get slightly bored of his 'child is friends with an animal' theme so I wasn't much looking forward to this. However, I really enjoyed this book. Whether that's because I identified with the main character who was a girl who loves her cat I can't say for sure, but it was an enjoyable read in the context of the preparations for the D-Day landings.

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## Faye says

Yup, this is another one of my Michael Morpurgo reviews! THIS book is about a little girl called Lily, who loves her cat, Adolphus. But when the army came to fight their area, Adolphus went back and ran away, and Lily came to get him back.....

A heart racing, sensational story with amazing descriptions, feelings and hilarious parts. The book is amazing, and if any child doesn't like this book, then they must be on planet Zombie. This is one of my favourite books, and it's very fun and likeable and unforgettable! Please rate it 5 stars, but I would sure rate it more if I had a choice!

Although the book is amazing, and I love the author, I have a big complaint: Generally, ANY of Michael's books, on the blurb, he always gives the game away. He always tells us what happens at the end and all you need is a little brief idea on what it's about! I read the blurb of the new book (al right for a bad boy) it told you EVERYTHING. What happened at the end, who the boy was, I think all the characters, EVERYTHING. To be honest, it was like the short version of the story. This makes me very sad, because I want to be able to read the blurb of any old book and have an idea what it's about without knowing everything! This is a big complaint, so I hope that the author stops doing this, and if he does, then his books would be perfect.

Faye. xx <3

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## Suzi says

This was another disappointing Michael Morpurgo book. It had a great beginning and end, but the middle dragged on. It is written from the perspective of a young girl as diary entries, and whilst it deals with the issues surrounding WW2 and the D-Day Landings, it does so in a remote way - you are an onlooker and not really involved. The cover of the book suggests that this is all about a cat, yet as the story unfolds she is the least of the characters. Moving at the end, and enjoyed by some but not all children in my guided reading group.

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## Sarah Sammis says

The Amazing Story Of Adolphus Tips by Michael Morpurgo is about a girl, her cat, D day training and a friendship with an American soldier. It's framed with a letter received by a boy named Michael from his beloved grandmother as she heads out on her first adventure in a long time. She includes her diary of the time her village was forced to relocate for D-Day training as an explanation for her current actions.

Most of the story then is Lily's flashback. Her father is a pilot in the war and now she and her family are being forced to pack up their belongings. The entire town is to be evacuated so it can be used for D-Day training by American troops using live ammunition.

Tips, the family cat, doesn't keep with the plan and runs off after they've evacuated. It's Lily's attempts to rescue her cat that give her the chance to meet the Americans. One of them, a young soldier named Adie becomes her good friend.

How all these different events in Lily's childhood play out and how they relate to her present day actions is explained by the end of the book. It was a fascinating and sometimes heart stopping read. The ending took me by surprise (as well it should).

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