

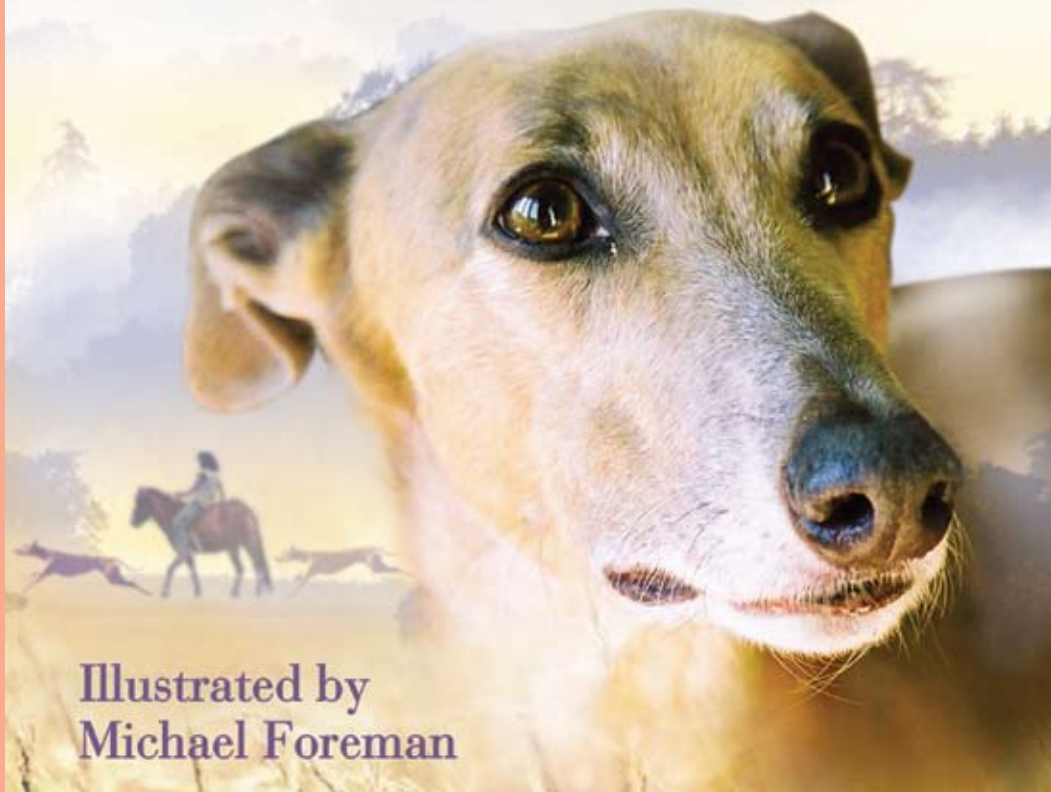
 SCHOLASTIC

michael
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AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR OF
The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips

Born to Run

The many lives of one incredible dog



Illustrated by
Michael Foreman

**The moving story of
a very special dog!**

michael morpurgo

Born to Run

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Using this book in your classroom

Quick summary

This is the moving story of a very special greyhound and his life with three different owners. The story begins when Patrick pulls a sack full of greyhound puppies out of the canal, saving them from drowning. He gets to keep one of them, a beautiful golden fawn puppy whom he calls Best Mate. Patrick and Best Mate are inseparable until one day Best Mate is stolen and sold to a greyhound trainer. The trainer's stepdaughter, Becky, calls the dog Brighteyes and the pair form a strong bond – strengthened further when Becky decides to run away from her abusive stepfather, taking Brighteyes with her. Through twists and turns of fate the dog finally ends up living with a kind old bargee, Joe, who gives him the name of Paddywhack.

The story comes full circle in a poignant and satisfying way when the dog finally meets up again with his first owner, Patrick.

Story themes

This book is a wonderful portrayal of friendship, loyalty and the power of relationships between humans and animals.

The story session

1. Introducing the story

Ask the children what responsibility they think pet owners have towards their pets. Why do they think pet owners have these responsibilities? How should people treat animals? Share the children's ideas and talk about some examples of kind and cruel treatment of animals.

2. Reading the story

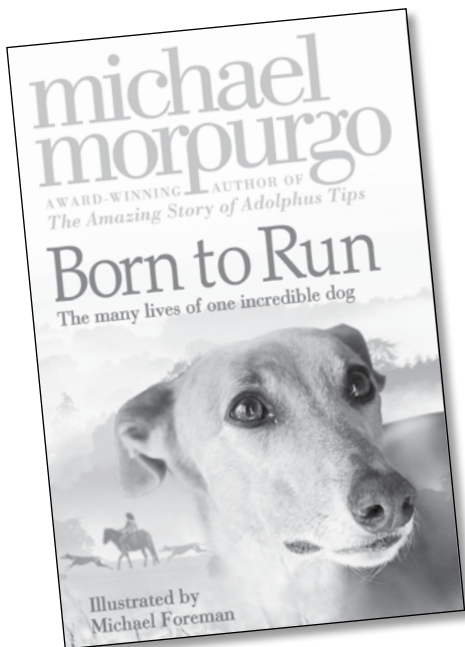
- Read the first part of the story, to the point where Mr Boots takes Patrick into the school hall and calls him 'a bleeding hero'.
- Do the children agree that Patrick acted like a hero? What do the children think might happen next?
- Share predictions, and then read a little further, to the point where the RSPCA man takes the puppies away.

3. Follow-up

- What do the children think of this as a story opening? Did it make them want to read on? Do they think Patrick will get to keep the dog?
- Working in pairs or small groups, the children could act out or write the next chapter in the story.

Did You Know?

- Michael Morpurgo likes to write sitting up in bed, propped up on pillows, with an exercise book on his knee.
- He has written over one hundred books.
- Together with his wife Clare, Michael Morpurgo runs a charity called Farms for City Children.



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Author	Michael Morpurgo
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www.michaelmorpurgo.org