

Reading

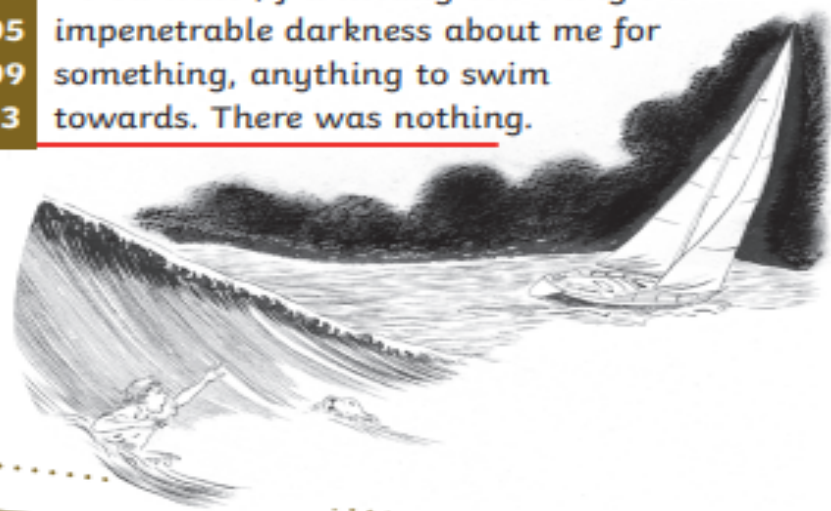
Kensuke's Kingdom

Use your diary to record the answers.

Nothing Could Save Me

8 The terrors came fast, one upon another. The
18 lights of the *Peggy Sue* went away into the dark
28 of the night, leaving me alone in the ocean, alone
37 with the certainty that they were already too far
47 away, that my cries for help could not possibly be
56 heard. I thought then of the sharks cruising the
63 black water beneath me – scenting me, already
73 searching me out, homing in on me – and I knew
83 there could be no hope. I would be eaten alive.
91 Either that or I would drown slowly. Nothing
94 could save me.

100 I trod water, frantically searching the
105 impenetrable darkness about me for
109 something, anything to swim
113 towards. There was nothing.



Quick Questions

1. Which word from the text describes something that 'cannot be passed or seen through'? Tick one.

certainty

impenetrable

homing

beneath

2. **I trod water, frantically searching the impenetrable darkness about me for something, anything to swim towards.**

What does the word 'frantically' tell us about how the character feels in the following sentence?

3. What two things does the narrator believe will happen to him?

- _____
- _____

4. Explain what you think the narrator will do next.

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Kensuke's Kingdom

Extract from Chapter 3 of 'Kensuke's Kingdom' by Michael Morpurgo, told from the viewpoint of Michael, the main character in the story.

January 1, 1989

Africa again! Cape Town. Table Mountain. And this time we're not just sailing by – we're going to put in there. They told me this evening. They didn't want to tell me before in case we couldn't afford it, but we can. We're going to stay for a couple of weeks, maybe more. We're going to see elephants and lions in the wild. I can't believe it. I don't think they can either. When they told me, they were like a couple of kids, all laughing and happy. They were never like this at home. These days they really smile at each other.

Mum's getting stomach cramps. Dad wants her to see a doctor in Cape Town, but she won't. I reckon it's the baked beans. The good news is the baked beans have at last run out. The bad news is we had sardines for supper. Eeeyuk!

February 7

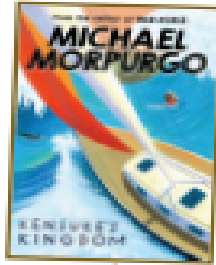
We're hundreds of miles out in the Indian Ocean, and then this happens. Stella hardly ever comes up on deck unless it's flat calm. I don't know why she came up. I don't know why she was there. We were all busy, I suppose. Dad was brewing up down in the galley, and Mum was at the wheel. I was doing one of my navigation lessons, taking bearings with the sextant. The Peggy Sue was pitching and rolling a bit. I had to steady myself. I looked up and I saw Stella up at the bow of the boat. One moment she was just standing there, the next she was gone.

We had practised the 'man overboard' drill dozens of times back in the Solent with Barnacle Bill. Shout and point. Keep shouting. Keep pointing. Turn into the wind. Get the sails down quick. Engine on. By the time Dad had the mainsail and the jib down, we were already heading back towards her. I was doing the pointing, and the shouting too. She was paddling for her life in the green of a looming wave. Dad was leaning over the side and reaching for her, but he didn't have his safety harness on and Mum was going mad. She was trying to bring the boat in as close and as slow as she could, but a wave took Stella away from us at the last moment. We had to turn and come back again. All the time I was pointing and shouting.

Three times we came in but each time we passed her by. Either we were going too fast or she was out of reach. She was weak by now. She was hardly paddling. She was going under. We had one last chance.



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Questions

1. When did Michael find out that his family were stopping in Cape Town? Tick one.
 - a couple of weeks ago
 - before they left home
 - this evening
 - three days ago
2. What are Michael's family eating for supper on January 1? Tick one.
 - sardines
 - baked beans
 - shellfish
 - pizza

3. Draw **four** lines and match each word from the text with its correct meaning.

deck

evening

paddling

chance

The time of day between afternoon and night time.

Swimming using a small, thrashing action with arms and legs.

An opportunity to do or achieve something that you need or want.

The outside, upper part of a boat or ship.

4. Which type of text is this? Tick one.

- poem
- play
- recipe
- diary

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Kensuke's Kingdom

Extract from Chapter 4 of 'Kensuke's Kingdom' by Michael Morpurgo and told from the viewpoint of Michael, the main character in the story.

The island looked perhaps two or three miles in length, no more. It was shaped a bit like an elongated peanut, but longer at one end than the other. There was a long swathe of brilliant white beach on both sides of the island, and at the far end another hill, the slopes steeper and more thickly wooded, but not so high as mine. With the exception of these twin peaks the entire island seemed to be covered with forest. So far as I could see there was no sign of any human life. Even then, as I stood there, that first morning, filled with apprehension at the terrifying implications of my dreadful situation, I remember thinking how wonderful it was, a green jewel of an island framed in white, the sea all about it a silken shimmering blue. Strangely, perhaps comforted somehow by the extraordinary beauty of the place, I was not at all down-hearted. On the contrary I felt strangely elated. I was alive. Stella Artois was alive. We had survived.

I sat down in the shadow of a great rock. The gibbons set up a renewed chorus of howling and hooting in the forest, and a flock of raucous birds clattered up out of the canopy of the trees below us and flew off across the island to settle in the trees on the hillside opposite.

'We'll be all right,' I told Stella. 'Mum and Dad, they'll come back for us. They're bound to. They will. They will. Mum'll get better and they'll come back. She won't leave us here. She'll find us, you'll see. All we've got to do is keep a look out for them – and stay alive. Water, we'll need water. But so do those monkeys, right? We've just got to find it, that's all. And there must be food too – fruit or nuts, something. Whatever it is that they eat, we'll eat.'

It helped to speak my thoughts out loud to Stella, helped to calm the panic that came over me now in waves. More than anything, it was Stella's companionship that helped me through those first hours on the island.



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Illustration by Deborah Bennett. Text reprinted by permission of 1996 National Geographic Society.

Kensuke's Kingdom

Extract from Chapter 4 of 'Kensuke's Kingdom' by Michael Morpurgo and told from the viewpoint of Michael, the main character in the story.

It seemed to make sense not to plunge at once into the forest looking for water – to be honest I was too frightened anyway – but rather to explore the shoreline first. I might come across a stream or river flowing out into the sea and, with a bit of luck, on the way I might well find something I could eat as well.

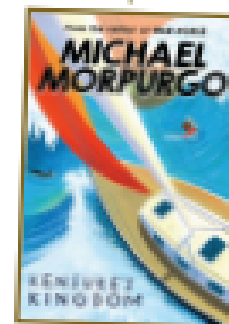
I set off in good spirits, leaping down the scree like a mountain goat. Where monkeys lived, I reasoned, we could live. I kept telling myself that. I soon discovered that the track down through the trees was bereft of all edible vegetation. I did see fruit of sorts, what looked to me like fruit, anyway. There were coconuts up there too, but the trees were all impossible to climb. Some rose a hundred feet, some two hundred feet from the forest floor – I had never seen such giant trees.

At least the intertwining canopy did provide welcome relief from the heat of the day. All the same, I was becoming desperately parched now, and so was Stella. She padded alongside me all the way, her tongue hanging. She kept giving me baleful looks whenever our eyes met. There was no comfort I could give her.

We found our beach once again and set off round the island, keeping wherever possible to the edge of the forest, to the shade. Still we found no stream. Again, I saw plenty of fruit, but always too high, and the trees were always too smooth, too sheer to climb. I found plenty of coconuts on the ground, but always cracked open and empty inside.



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Questions

1. Underline **one** word from the quotation below that suggests that Michael feels happy about having stayed alive.

I was not at all down-hearted. On the contrary I felt strangely elated. I was alive. Stella Artois was alive. We had survived.

2. Look at the paragraph beginning 'We'll be all right,' I told Stella. What does Michael tell Stella that they need to do? Tick two.

- look out for Mum and Dad
- speak to each other
- sit in a shadow
- stay alive

3. Fill in the missing words.

I might come across a _____ or river flowing out into the sea and, with a bit of luck, on the way I might well find _____ I could eat as well.

4. Give an example of an item growing on the island.

5. What provided Michael and Stella with relief from the heat of the day?

6. **All the same, I was becoming desperately parched now, and so was Stella.** Explain what you think the word 'parched' means using the text to help you.

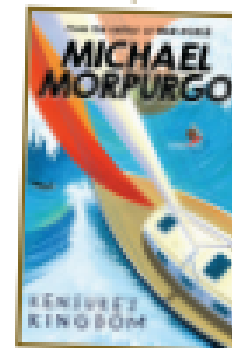


Questions

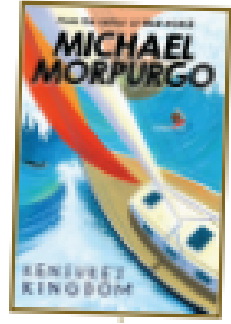
7. Look at the paragraph beginning **We found our beach once again...**

What does this paragraph tell you about the island?

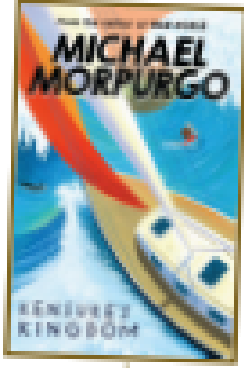
8. Explain how you think Michael might be feeling at the end of this text.



Questions



Questions



1. Draw **four** lines and match each word from the text with its correct meaning.

elongated

howling

canopy

shoreline

the edge of a body of water

unusually long and thin

the top layer of leaves and branches on trees in a forest

shrieking or calling out loudly

2. Which word describes how Michael feels about being on the island? Tick one.

- strange
- down-hearted
- brilliant
- elated

3. Give **two** things that Michael sets out to find as he explores the island.

- _____
- _____

4. What part of the island did Michael explore first?

5. Find and copy a phrase that shows that Michael felt positive as he set off to find supplies.

6. How would you describe the change in Michael's feelings as time goes on? Explain your answer.

7. How can you tell that Stella was both loyal to and reliant on Michael?

8. Look at the paragraph beginning **We found our beach once again...** How does this paragraph suggest that surviving on this island would be difficult but not impossible?

9. Explain why Michael might consider himself lucky to be on this island.

Questions

1. Underline **two** adjectives in the quotation below that suggest that Michael is concerned about his circumstances.

Even then, as I stood there, that first morning, filled with apprehension at the terrifying implications of my dreadful situation, I remember thinking how wonderful it was, a green jewel of an island framed in white, the sea all about it a silken shimmering blue.

2. Number the events from 1-5 to show the order in which they occur in the text. The first one has been done for you.

- Michael found no food growing along the track that he took.
- Michael told Stella that Mum and Dad would return.
- Both Michael and Stella were desperately thirsty.
- 1 Michael noticed how magnificent the island is.
- A number of gibbons could be heard shrieking from the forest.

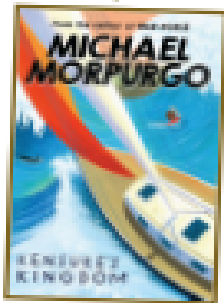
3. Find and copy one word from the text that describes what Stella offered to comfort Michael during those first hours on the island.

4. Why does Michael not venture deep into the forest?

5. What made the trees on the island unique to Michael compared to others he had previously seen?

6. Look at the first paragraph. Give **three** reasons why Michael feels positive about his circumstances.

- _____
- _____
- _____



Questions

7. It helped to speak my thoughts out loud to Stella, helped to calm the panic that came over me now in waves.

Why do you think Michael was experiencing 'panic' that came over him in 'waves'?

8. There was no comfort I could give her.

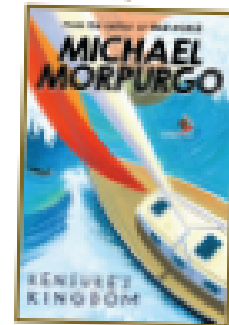
How might Michael be feeling at this point in the story?

Explain your answer.

9. Give a summary of what happens in this extract of text in 20 words or fewer.

10. Read the last paragraph carefully from **We found our beach once again...**

What does the last paragraph suggest that Michael might do next? Give two examples of what you predict, using evidence from the text to support your answer.



Choose two tasks:

1. Write a 3-point paragraph about Kensuke's Kingdom.
2. Create a biography about Michael Morpurgo.
3. Create a helpful guide for surviving on a deserted island.