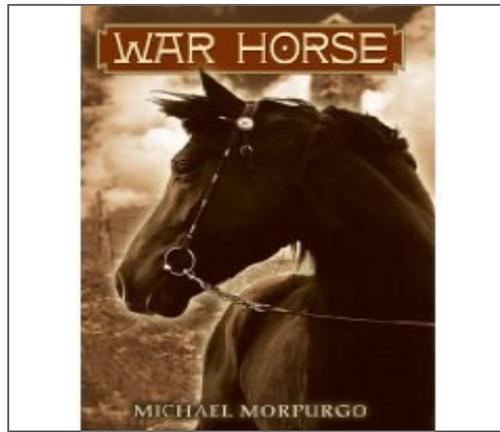


# WAR HORSE



By Michael Morpurgo

Companion Guide  
From





## Introduction

***War Horse*** is a powerful story of the truest friendships in the worst of wars.

In this companion guide you will find “Vocab Words & Farm Words”. These are words from each chapter that may be unfamiliar to students. Students could define each, use them within sentences, or work to use them within their writing. There are “Questions” to use as discussion starters or as reading checks. There are writing prompts called “Write Away” to encourage students to write more about a specific topic. “Art Wise” encourages students to use the art portion of Language Arts to research and integrate art into reading time. “Lesson Extenders” have also been added with links to other Agriculture in the Classroom activities. Having a special notebook or folder for each student to store all the materials in may be helpful for an easy reference.

## Author's note

### Farm Words

Red Bay

White Cross

White Socks

### Vocab Words

Emblazoned

Parish

### Questions

1. What are your predictions about the book?
2. What war do you think this is about?
3. Discuss the painting mentioned in the author's note. Why would there be such a painting and what could be its significance?

### Art-Wise

Using the details given in the author's note, draw a picture of "Joey" the way you think he looks in the painting .

### Extension Activity

Check out the Horse Ag Mag at [www.agintheclassroom.org](http://www.agintheclassroom.org)

# Chapter 1

## Farm Words

Stables  
Colt  
Draft Horse  
Hindquarter  
Thoroughbred  
Halter  
Nickered  
Calf  
Lunge  
Bolted

## Vocab Words

|            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| Gangling   | Glimpse     |
| Stamina    | Soothed     |
| Whisked    | Stumbled    |
| Haggling   | Suckle      |
| Clambering | Conviction  |
| Venture    | Intrigued   |
| Dabbed     | Immediate   |
| Obstinate  | Instinctive |
| Bellowed   | Nuisance    |

## Questions

1. In what perspective is the story told?
2. After reading Chapter 1, name and describe the main characters.
3. Why did Albert's father buy a horse when the family needed a calf?
4. How does Joey feel about Albert?
5. Why did Joey say that he would not call her owner, "Master"?

## Write Away

Why did Albert name the horse, "Joey"? What would you have named him?

Why is it important to "rub down a horse"?

# Chapter 2

## Farm Words

Whinnied

Limp

## Vocab Words

Gawkishness

Obedience

Shuttering

Loneliness

Protected

Encounter

Pretext

Precaution

Intricacies

Vengeance

Noblest

Infinite

Vicious

Dismissive

Continuously

Hesitated

Abundance

Terrified

## Questions

1. Joey stated that Albert's whistle imitated the stuttering call of a what? Did he come when Albert whistled?
2. What did Joey do to Albert's father that could have gotten him shot or sold?
3. What does Albert have to teach Joey to do in a week? If he doesn't learn in a week, what will happen to Joey?

## Art-Wise

They declared war yesterday at 11:00! Draw a picture of what you think Albert and his family looked like at this very moment? Use the details from the book to illustrate your picture.

## Write-Away

Albert is too young to go to war, but he says that he wants to go. How would you feel if you were Albert? Would you want to go to war? Explain why or why not.

# **Chapter 3**

## **Farm Words**

piggery

## **Vocab Words**

|              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Gradually    | Scarcely        |
| Normality    | Negotiator      |
| Tension      | Arbitrating     |
| Foreboding   | Brewing         |
| Mortgage     | Inevitable      |
| Criticize    | Intervened      |
| Vehemently   | Tinder          |
| Acknowledged | Suspicious      |
| Complaining  | Inquisitiveness |
| Regretted    |                 |

## **Questions**

1. Describe Albert's relationship with his mother and father.
2. Albert helps out on the farm. What are some of his responsibilities?
3. Where do you think Albert's father is taking Joey and Zoey?

## **Art-Wise**

Draw a picture of Albert riding Joey (while they went to check the sheep) with Zoey following close behind.

## **Write Away**

How do you think Albert is going to react when he comes home to find his horse/best friend missing? How would you react?

# **Chapter 4**

## **Farm Words**

Jodhpurs

Fetlocks

## **Vocab Words**

Steady

Khaki

Union Jack

Elegant

Exaggerating

Recruiting

Reassure

Shrunken

Abandoned

Obedient

Placid

Inconsolable

Exertion

Cavalry

## **Questions**

1. Why did Albert's father sell Joey to the Army?
2. What did Albert offer Captain Nicholls once he realized his father had sold Joey?
3. What did Captain Nicholls promise Albert?

## **Write-Away**

What did the Vet check to decide if Joey was "a perfect specimen"? Was he perfect? Why or why not?

## **Lesson Extender**

Corn is an ingredient in a horses feed. Check out our Corn Ag Mag to learn more about corn!

[www.agintheclassroom.org](http://www.agintheclassroom.org)

# **Chapter 5**

## **Farm Words**

Snaffle bit  
Weymouth bit  
Grooming  
Barbed  
Furrow

## **Vocab Words**

|                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| Transformation | Cumbersome    |
| Resented       | Majestic      |
| Discipline     | Infuriated    |
| Maneuvers      | Trepidation   |
| Reveled        | Consolation   |
| Devotion       | Artillery     |
| Tedious        | Squadron      |
| Cobbles        | Dignity       |
| Disciplines    | Instinctively |
| Persuasion     | Resigned      |
| Determination  |               |

## **Questions**

1. Captain Nicholls explained to Joey how he and Jamie feel about the war, explain their feelings.
2. Tell about Captain Jamie Stewart and Corporal Samuel Perkins. Who are they? Why are they important to Joey and Captain Nicholls?

## **Art-Wise**

Captain Nicholls is sketching a picture of Joey for Albert, sketch a picture of Joey with Captain Nicholls.

# **Chapter 6**

## **Farm Words**

Snaffle bit

## **Vocab Words**

Cumbersome

Squadron

## **Questions**

1. While on the ship, who was it that gave Joey comfort? How did he comfort Joey?
2. When the ship docked, what did they all see that made them all very silent and somber?

## **Art-Wise**

When the enemy was sighted, the command “Draw Swords!” was shouted! Draw a picture of what you think this looked like.

## **Write-Away**

Write a short paragraph about this Chapter from Captain Stewarts view.

# **Chapter 7**

## **Farm Words**

Saddle sores

Fetlocks

Veterinarian

## **Vocab Words**

Reveille

Unsympathetic

Finesse

Meticulous

Chaffing

Deadlock

Effectively

Stamina

Incessant

Bandolier

Frustration

Irritations

Idleness

Monotony

Ominous

## **Questions**

1. Describe Trooper Warren. Is he a good horseman? Why or why not?
2. How is Trooper Warren while “out of the saddle”?
3. Who is Sally that is mentioned in Trooper Warrens letters from his mother?

## **Write-Away**

Write a short paragraph and predict what you think is going to happen in Chapter 8.



# **Chapter 8**

## **Farm Words**

Gallop

## **Vocab Words**

Remnants

Carnage

Foe

Feverishly

Sabers

Extract

Galvanized

Ghastly

Bedlam

Reassure

Inexorably

Farewell

## **Questions**

1. Was your prediction for chapter 8 correct? Explain.
2. Joey and Tophorn have been separated from their soldiers, who do they belong to now?

## **Write-Away**

There were only two soldiers left and they are now prisoners of war. Who are these soldiers and what do you predict will happen to them?

# **Chapter 9**

## **Vocab Words**

|             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| Impatience  | Herr        |
| Immensely   | Desperately |
| Wielding    | Sustained   |
| Undisguised | Indignation |
| Admiration  | Formidable  |
| Noble       |             |

## **Questions**

1. Who is Hauptmann? How did he want the horses treated?
2. What were they going to use the horses for?

## **Write-Away**

The officer insured Joey and Tophorn were well taken care of after their very long day of pushing carts and saving lives. Describe where they were put for the night.

## **Art-Wise**

A young girl and an old man came into where Joey and Tophorn were resting. Draw a detailed picture of the two individuals and the horses.

# **Chapter 10**

## **Vocab Words**

Hazardous

Pitted

Plodded

Adulation

Prattle

Extricate

## **Questions**

1. Why were Joey and Tophorn happy about how their summer was going?
2. Joey said, "But it is the evenings of that summer that stay so strong in my memory." What is Joey describing?

## **Write-Away**

Emilie is very sick so her Grandfather is taking care of the horses. Summarize what he tells the horses about Emilie and her life.

## **Art-Wise**

A soldier reached up and hung a muddied ribbon with an iron cross dangling from it on Joey's neck. This ribbon was given to both Joey and Tophorn. Draw a picture of this ribbon once it is hanging on a nail outside of their stable door.



# **Chapter 11**

## **Farm Words**

Harnessed

Yoked

## **Vocab Words**

Emerged

Besieged

Exuberant

Yoked

Consultation

## **Questions**

1. Why did Emilie ride Joey more than she rode Tophorn?
2. The orderlies, nurses, and doctors no longer needed Joey and Tophorn so they gave them to Emilie and her Grandfather. What were the horses responsibilities on the Emilie and her grandfathers farm?

## **Write-Away**

Different soldiers came to the farm and demanded the horses to pull their guns. What do you think the difference is between these soldiers and the previous soldiers that cared for Joey and Tophorn?

Emilie is devastated! Do you think Emilie will get her horses back like she demanded to those soldiers? Why or Why not?

# **Chapter 12**

## **Farm Words**

Nuzzling

## **Vocab Words**

Urged

Unperturbed

Fording

Compulsion

Incongruous

Relentlessly

Sporadically

Diminutive

Intermittently

Motely

Arduous

Reservoir

Efficiency

Spectacled

Steely

Exhaustion

Excruciatingly

Dismissively

Recuperation

Deteriorated

Exceptions

Vicious

Piteous

Aggression

Courageous

## **Questions**

1. Joey didn't think the work was any harder than pulling an ambulance cart, but what is different now that WAS making it much more difficult?
2. What was happening to the horses as they kept on in the mud?

## **Write-Away**

What was Herr Doctor and Herr Major arguing about? What did they decide to do?



# Chapter 13

## Vocab Words

Enthusiasm      Obliging      Comparative  
Optimism      Tedious      Admiration  
Exhilaration      Regiment      Implicitly  
Sporadic      Rational      Idleness  
Empathy

## Questions

1. Tophorn and Joey survived and actually got fat! How did they lose their excess weight?

## Write-Away

Who is “Crazy Old Friedrich”? Write a short paragraph and tell his story.

# Chapter 14

## Farm Words

Surefooted

## Vocab Words

Frantically  
Wearily  
Instinctively  
Spontaneous  
Intensified

## Questions

1. Describe Rudi and his love for horses.
2. What happened to Tophorn and how did Joey react?

**Write-Away** When the shelling began, Joey stayed with Tophorn as his troop fled. Predict what will happen next to Joey.



# **Chapter 15**

## **Vocab Words**

Craters

Lumbering

Belched

Inexorably

Abandoned

Pulsated

Contemplate

Bombardment

Anticipation

## **Questions**

1. What was it that finally tore Joey away from Tophorns side?
2. What happened to Joey's leg while he was running?
3. When the sun came up and the mist cleared, Joey found himself in "no-man's-land". What do you think it means to be in "no-man's-land"?

## **Write-Away**

Joey was terrified, lost, and physically and mentally hurt. Have you ever been lost? How did you feel? What thoughts do you think are running through Joey's head?

# **Chapter 16**

## **Vocab Words**

Occasional

Savor

Consternation

Warily

Disbelief

Auf Wiedersehen

## **Questions**

1. What did the two soldiers hold up as they both entered “no-man’s-land”? Why?
2. Did the German or the Welshman win Joey?

## **Art-Wise**

Draw a picture of the German and Welshman with Joey in “no-man’s-land”. Use details from the chapter.

## **Write-Away**

Write a short summary about the conversation the two soldiers had about war.



# **Chapter 17**

## **Vocab Words**

Ungainly

Immaculate

Magnificent

Turrets

Anxious

Kinship

Irritation

## **Questions**

1. Describe the Sergeant and his first impression of Joey.
2. Albert joined the Veterinary Corps just on the off chance that he may come across his Joey again. How did Albert and Joey react when they stood face to face once again?

## **Art-Wise**

Sketch a picture of Joey and Albert when they stood face to face once again. Use details from the chapter while sketching.

## **Write-Away**

Describe David and how Albert knows him so well.

# **Chapter 18**

## **Farm Words**

Nickered

## **Vocab Words**

Euphoric

Consequence

Irrational

Incredulous

Hullabaloo

## **Questions**

1. Albert talked to Joey about his father. What did he tell Joey?
2. Joey wasn't getting better from his wound. He was getting worse and worse. Major Martin and Sergeant Thunder told Albert and David what was wrong. What was it that Joey had?
3. Albert and David bravely spoke up to the Major and Sergeant. What did they offer to do to help Joey get better?

## **Write-Away**

Albert thinks the war will be over soon! What do you think will happen once the war is over?



# **Chapter 19**

## **Vocab Words**

Ominous

Convalescence

Irrational

Incredulous

Hullabaloo

## **Questions**

1. In time, Joey was better and back at the front line. What made things easier for Joey this time around?
2. Maisie Brown is the girl that Albert is very fond of. Describe Maisie and why she is so important to Albert.
3. What happened to David? How does Albert react?

## **Write-Away**

Major Martin announced that the soldiers would be home by Christmas! He also stated that the horses would not be going back and would be staying in France. There will be an auction and they will all be sold. Explain the thoughts and feelings that the soldiers had when this was announced. What do you predict will happen? Will Joey get to go home with Albert? Will Albert have to go home without Joey?



# **Chapter 20**

## **Farm Words**

Mucking

## **Vocab Words**

Conspiracy

Mucking

Dispersed

Reveille

Audible

## **Questions**

1. Sergeant Thunder decided that he was going to bid on Joey at the auction. How did he come up with enough money for the auction?

## **Write-Away**

Joey was the last horse to be sold at the auction. What happened? Who bought him? How do you think Albert is going to react to this?

# **Chapter 21**

## **Vocab Words**

Commiserating

Levity

Proposition

Acceptance

Rapturous

Peeling

Vagaries

## **Questions**

1. Emilie's grandfather bought Joey! After he spoke with Major Martin and Sergeant Thunder, he came to Albert. What did the man say to Albert? What was the promise that he made Albert keep?
2. How much money did Albert have to give the man to buy Joey?
3. What happened to Emilie?
4. Once Joey got back home to his family and Maisie, what happened?

## After finishing the book: Discussion Questions

- Were the predictions made before reading the book correct?
- Why do you think that the book was written from the horse's point of view?
- What war is taking place? Where does Albert live?
- Why do you think that Albert's father treats Joey so badly?
- Joey seems to have a good feel of the character of people. Why do you think this is the case?
- Describe Captain Nicholls' attitude about the war and the use of the cavalry. Describe Herr Hauptmann's attitude about the war. How are they similar? How do they differ from other peoples' thinking?
- If you were reading the story from Captain Nicholls' point of view, what would be the differences in the description of the first battle?
- Why were Joey and Tophorn such a comfort to the wounded men? What can give you comfort in tough situations?
- Discuss the new technology that comes about in this war. Compare and contrast this war with previous war technology. Is Joey useful in this war situation? Why or why not?
- How did Joey feel when he was trapped in No Man's Land?
- When both the Welshman and the German were trying to help Joey, whom did you want to take the horse? Why? What did the event say about how the soldiers on both sides really felt about the war?
- Joey had relationships with several people in the book – Albert, Captain Nicholls, Warren, and Emile. Joey was a confidante to these people. Why do you think that it was so easy for these people to talk to Joey so openly? In what way was this comforting to them? How did you feel when Joey finally found Albert? Discuss the path that Albert might have taken to put himself in a position to find Joey again. Compare and contrast Joey's journey with the one that Albert might have made.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# The Changing War

**Directions:** The Great War had a great impact on Joey. He weathered through it and gave encouragement to the people and animals around him. Describe each of the relationships that Joey had with the following people or animals.

Joey's Mother

---

Albert

---

Albert's father

---

Zoey

---

Captain Nicholls

---

Corporal Perkins

---



Tophorn

---

Trooper Warren

---

Emilie

---

Emilie's grandfather

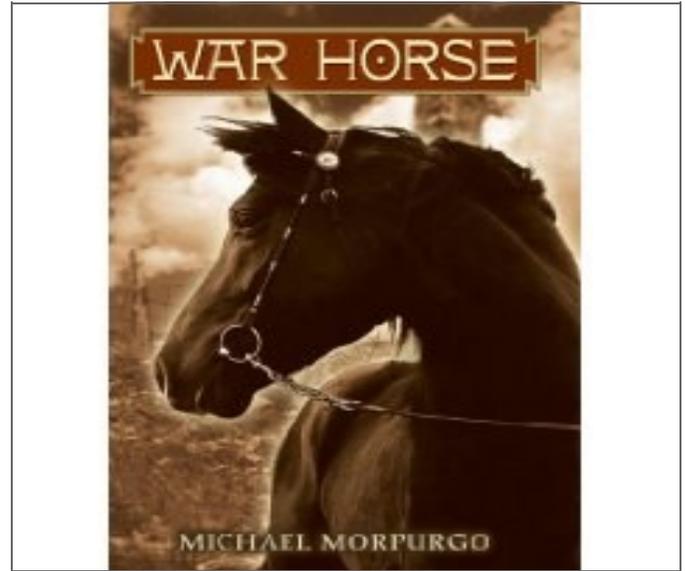
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Friedrich

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After describing each relationship complete the following:

- 1) Circle the relationship that had the most impact on other people or animals.
- 2) Place a star by the relationship that meant the most to Joey.
- 3) Place a check by the relationships whereby the person or animal learned something from Joey.
- 4) Write a brief story as to how Joey would have impacted you if you were a soldier in the war.



## Compare/Contrast

Now that you have read the book *War Horse*, you can watch the film directed by: Steven Spielberg. Create a Venn Diagram sharing the similarities and differences between the film and the book.

## Point of view

The book is told from Joey's point of view. What point of view is the movie told from? How could the movie have been told from Joey's view? How would this make a difference?

## Favorite!

Which one was your favorite? Why? Write a short one page persuasive paper explaining why it is your favorite.

## Watch the Video Book and Movie Trailer to get you started!

<http://bcove.me/j1l198bs>

Video Book Trailer

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tQMAtjB7frM>

Movie Trailer

( The movie is rated PG-13 )

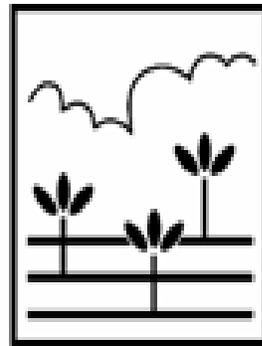




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1701 Towanda Avenue  
Bloomington, IL 61701-2050  
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