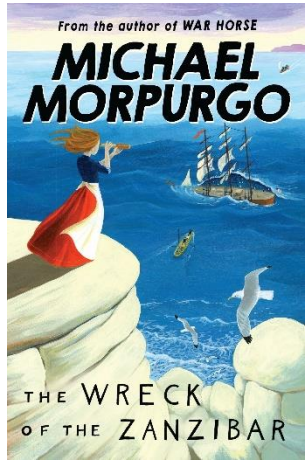


# Knowledge Organiser- Wreck of the Zanzibar by Michael Morpurgo.



Important information	
<p><b>Plot</b> The story unfolds in journal entries made by 14-year-old Laura Perryman in 1907 and 1908 where she lives on the Scilly Isles. One winter is particularly harsh, with the family's cows sickening and dying, the weather destroying houses and boats, the food stores dwindling and Laura's twin brother, Billy, running away to join a ship's crew. As bleak as Laura's days are, she is gentle enough to protect a sea turtle that might otherwise serve as food, and hopeful enough to dream of rowing in the island gig despite repeated declarations that a girl will never be allowed to handle one of the oars. Laura gets her chance in a dramatic storm and shipwreck, and helps save the island.</p>	
<p><b>Themes</b> Poverty Kindness Judging others. Compassion</p>	
<p><b>Setting</b> The book takes place on the Isle of Scilly where Laura and her family live. During the course of the story, Laura visits the rugged cliffs and sandy beaches as she comes to terms with life on this isolated island.</p>	
Characters	
Character 1	Laura Perryman: the protagonist who wants to ride on the gig.
Character 2	Billy Perryman: Laura's twin brother who wants to travel the world.
Character 3	Mother and Father: the owners of the only cows on Bryher.
Character 4	Granny May: Laura's grandma who comes to live with the family.
Character 5	An ancient sea turtle: a turtle washed up on the sandy beaches.

**Writing genres covered:**  
Diary entry, narrative retelling, autobiography.

**Sentence types:** Use of fronted adverbials to start sentences in different ways, use devices to build cohesion within and across paragraphs (adverbials of time and pronoun use), use of organisational devices such as headings and bullet points, use of modal verbs to indicate probability.

**Name of book:** The Wreck of the Zanzibar.  
**Date Published:** 1995.  
**Author:** Michael Morpurgo.  
**Genre:** Historical Fiction.

What can the book teach us?

**Show compassion to those who need help.**

**Never stop trying to improve your life, even when things are at their worse.**

Quotes

When I was young I kept a diary. I didn't write in it very often-just when I felt like it. Most of it isn't worth reading and I've already thrown it away- I've lived an ordinary sort of life. But for a few short months a long, long time ago, my life was not ordinary at all. This is the diary of those few months.

Gig	A general work boat, and the craft is used as a pilot boat, taking pilots out to incoming vessels off the Atlantic Coast.
Scilly Isles	The Isles of Scilly are a group of islands off the Cornish coast, in southwest England.
Schooner	A ship with two or more masts. The first mast is often shorter than the main mast.
Squall	A sudden violent gust of wind or localized storm, especially one bringing rain, snow, or sleet.
Coxswain	The person in charge of a boat, particularly its navigation and steering.
Leatherback Turtle	The largest living turtle, who migrate across both Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

**Context**

Michael Morpurgo, is an English book author, poet and playwright who is known best for children's novels such as *War Horse* (1982). His work is noted for its "magical storytelling", for recurring themes such as the triumph of an outsider or survival, for characters' relationships with nature, and for vivid settings such as the Cornish coast or World War I.