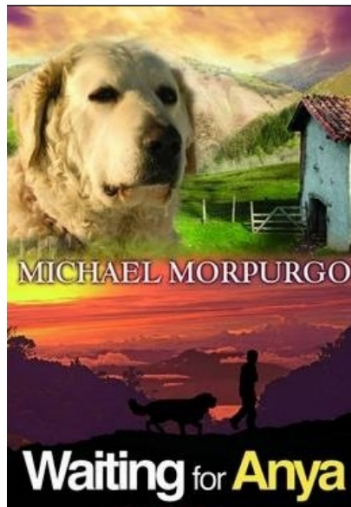


Wednesday



Do you know what an extract is ?

Today read through **an extract** from the book .

After you have read the text write any words or phrases you still don't know the meaning of. Then on a different page, write any words that you are unsure how to pronounce .

You can check the meanings and pronunciation using online dictionaries .

Waiting for Anya

By Michael Morpurgo

JO SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER. AFTER ALL PAPA had told him often enough: 'Whittle a stick Jo, pick berries, eat, look for your eagle if you must,' he'd said, 'but do something. You sit doing nothing on a hillside in the morning sun with the tinkle of sheep bells all about you and you're bound to drop off. You've got to keep your eyes busy, Jo. If your eyes are busy then they won't let your brain go to sleep. And whatever you do, Jo, never lie down. Sit down but don't lie down.' Jo knew all that, but he'd been up since half past five that morning and milked a hundred sheep. He was tired, and anyway the sheep seemed settled enough grazing the pasture below him. Rouf lay beside him, his head on his paws, watching the sheep. Only his eyes moved.

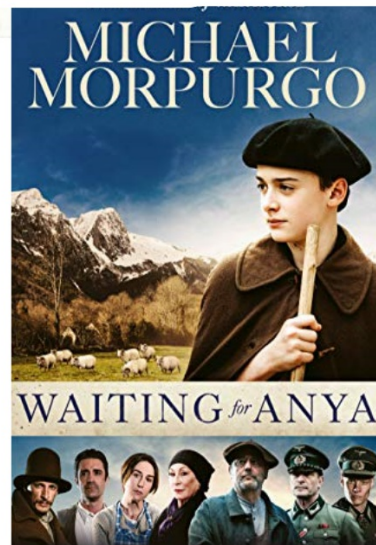


Jo lay back on the rock and considered the lark rising above him and wondered why larks seem to perform when the sun shines. He could hear the church bells of Lescun in the distance but only faintly. Lescun, his village, his valley, where the people lived for their sheep and their cows. And they lived with them too. Half of each house was given over to the animals, a dairy on the ground floor, a hay loft above; and in front of every house was a walled yard that served as a permanent sheep fold.

For Jo the village was his whole world. He'd only been out of it a few times in all his twelve years, and one of those was to the railway station just two years before to see his father off to the war. They'd all gone, all the men who weren't too young and who weren't too old. It wouldn't take long to hammer the Boche* and they'd be back home again. But when the news had come it had all been bad, so bad you couldn't believe it. There were rumours first of retreat and then of defeat, of French armies disintegrating, of English armies driven into the sea. Jo did not believe any of it at first, nor did anyone; but then one morning outside the Mairie he saw Grandpère crying openly in the street and he had to believe it. Then they heard that Jo's father was a prisoner-of-war in Germany and so were all the others who had gone from the village;

* Boche - is what people called the German soldiers

except Jean Marty, cousin Jean, who would never be coming back. Jo lay there and tried to picture Jean's face; he could not. He could remember his dry cough though and the way he would spring down a mountain like a deer.



JO SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER. AFTER ALL PAPA had told him often enough: 'Whittle a stick Jo, pick berries, eat, look for your eagle if you must,' he'd said,

What do you think the word **whittle** means ?

Do you think it is a noun , verb or adjective ?

Try and work out the meaning from the rest of the sentence .

'but do something. You sit doing nothing on a hillside in the morning sun with the tinkle of sheep bells all about you and you're bound to drop off. You've got to

What do you think the phrase to **drop off** means ?

Now check using a dictionary .

Making Comparisons

Think back to previous texts we have looked at in DGR, does this link up with any ? How ?

How does this text link in with VE Day , which we will be celebrating on Friday ?