

# The Butterfly Lion

**Michael is running away from his strict boarding school when he meets an old lady and her dog:**

*'I was still deciding which direction to take when I heard a voice from behind me.*

*"Who are you? What do you want?"*

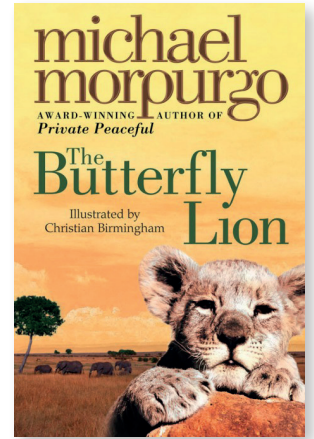
*I turned.*

*"Who are you?" she asked again. The old lady who stood before me was no bigger than I was. She scrutinised me from under the shadow of her dripping straw hat. She had piercing dark eyes that I did not want to look into.*

*"I didn't think it would rain," she said, her voice gentler. "Lost, are you?"*

*I said nothing. She had a dog on a leash at her side, a big dog. There was an ominous growl in his throat, and his hackles were up all along his back.*

*She smiled. "The dog says you're on private property," she went on, pointing her stick at me accusingly. She edged aside my raincoat with the end of her stick. "Run away from that school, did you? Well, if it's anything like it used to be, I can't say I blame you."*



## Writing challenge

Write the rest of the conversation between Michael and the old lady. Think about:

- What happens next?
- Does the lady turn out to be kind or not?
- Does she help Michael escape or take him back to school?

### Morpurgo masterclass

Just like Michael Morpurgo, you could;

- ask your reader to make inferences by showing what characters think and feel, rather than simply telling them.

Use the extract above or see the box (right) for some suggestions...

### Stuck for ideas?

A character's actions can tell you lots about what they think or feel. For example:

- Michael shrugged instead of Michael didn't know what to do
- The dog wagged its tail rather than The dog was happy to see Michael
- The lady's voice fell to a whisper rather than The lady wanted to tell Michael a secret

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Continue writing here...

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