**My Favourite Book**

**Isobel Kearns 1B**

My favourite book is ‘Listen to the Moon’ by Michael Morpurgo.

I really enjoyed reading this book. It made me feel fully involved in the story, just as if I was a character in the book. The story is told from two different perspectives, those of a girl called Merry and a boy called Alfie.

Merry lives with her family in America. Her dad is sent to Europe to fight in World War 1. When he is injured, Merry and her mother decide to go to see him in hospital. They take a boat called the ‘Lusitania’. A German U boat torpedoes the Lusitania. Merry’s mother drowns along with hundreds of other passengers. When Merry is in the sea, she sees the piano from the ship and climbs on top of it. Another German U boat full of kind sailors come across Merry on the piano and rescue her. Merry is struck dumb by the shock of what has happened her. The Germans leave her on a nearby island with a small supply of food and water thinking that it is the Island of Scilly - a large inhabited island. However, the island is, in fact, a different island close by which is uninhabited.

Alfie and his father are out fishing at sea when they hear the sound of crying from the island. They land at the island and find Merry whose is in a terrible state, as she has been alone on the island for several days and her supplies have run out. They take her on to their boat where she falls unconscious. They return to the Island of Scilly and seek medical attention. All Merry can say is ‘Lusy’. The islanders assume this is her name and so call her Lusy. Merry has developed a fear of water. She meets a grumpy stubborn horse, called Peg, who will allow no-one to ride her. ‘Lusy’ and Peg forge a special bond and Peg allows ‘Lusy’ to ride her.

The islanders become suspicious of ‘Lusy’ thinking she may be German. The school headmaster is particularly mean and claims that she is pretending she can’t speak, so that people don’t discover she is German. Everyone, apart from the doctor, isolates Alfie’s family, especially as a young islander who has been at the warfront returns home confined to a wheelchair. The doctor tries to help ‘Lusy’ to speak but makes only slow progress. It is many months before ‘Lusy’ will eat at the table with Alfies’s family. She starts to paint pictures that give clues about what has happened to her. It is only then that they realize that ‘Lusy’ stands for Lusitania.

I found this book a real page-turner as it had a very exciting plot. I learned a lot about World War I, and in particular, about the torpedoing of the Lusitania. I rate this book at 10 out of 10 and recommend it to any one aged 11 years and older. Michael Morpurgo is a brilliant and engaging author, who uses very descriptive language. I have read most of his books and have enjoyed every one of them. His stories often relate to animals and war. One of his most famous books is “War Horse” which has been made into a stage play and a film.