

ANIMAL PAINTING (ANIMALISTIC) GENRE IN MICHAEL
MORPURGO'S NOVEL

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Abstract (eng): The article deals with the novels of Michael Morpurgo which are the excellent examples of animalistic genre. Although several novelists, poets and playwrights create their works in this genre, Michael Morpurgo's novels play a great role in English literature with their influential plot. One of the author's works "War horse" is an uplifting and sentimental story about a horse and its owner which is a great example of animal painting genre. This story was translated into so many languages and read with a great pleasure by its readers. The story begins with the birth of the horse, and the main events take place during the World War I. In spite of facing so many difficulties the main character of the story, Joe, could manage to overcome all of them and find his friend(owner).

Abstract (uzb): Ushbu maqola animalistic janrning eng sara namunalari bo'lgan Maykl Morpurgoning romanlarini yoritib beradi. Birnechta nosirlar, shoirlar, sahna asarlar yaratuvchilar ushbu janrda asar yozgan bo'lishiga qaramasdan Maykl Morpurgoning asarlari ingliz adabiyotida o'zining betakror syujeti bilan muhim ro'l o'ynaydi. Muallifning asarlaridan bittasi "Urush oti" ko'tarinki ruhga va hissiy tasirga ega bo'lgan asar hisoblanadi va animalistik janrning yorqin namunalaridan bittasidir. Asar birnechta tillarga tarjima qilingan va o'quvchilar tomonidan sevib mutoalaa qilinadi. Hikoya otning tug'ilishi bilan boshlanadi va asardagi asosiy voqealar Birinchi Jahon urushi davrida sodir bo'ladi. Asarning asosiy qahramoni Joe juda ko'plab qiyinchiliklarga duch kelishiga qaramasdan barchasini yengib o'tadi va do'stini(egasini) topishga muvaffaq bo'ladi.

Key words: animalism, interpretation, war, friendship, transformational, ancient culture, loyalty, worldview.

Introduction

Animal painting is a type of genre in which the story, main characters, plot, the end, all involve animals. In this types of genre animals can be either passive or active characters. For example, an animal can be the main character, a narrator, a villain, a hero or best friend. Michael Morpurgo is the author of many books for children, five of which have been created into films. He also writes his own screenplays and libretti.¹ Moreover, Michael Morpurgo added his share to this genre with his books such as "Born to Run", "Farm boy", "Why the Whales came", "The Last wolf", "War Horse",

“Running Wild”. Among them “War Horse” has a great impact on the development of animal painting genre in literature. It was first published in Great Britain by Kaye and Ward in 1982. The novel illustrates the experiences of Joey, a horse bought by the Army for service in World War I in France and the attempts of 15-year-old Albert, his previous owner, to bring him safely home.

Michael Morpurgo’s life and works in animalistic genre

He was born in St Albans, Hertfordshire, in 1943 and moved to Cumberland during the last years of the war, then returned to London, moving later to Essex. After having served in the army several years, he began his teaching career and started to write some stories. He left teaching after a decade in order to set up 'Farms for City Children' with the corporation of his wife. They have three farms in Devon, Wales and Gloucestershire, which is open to inner city school children who want to stay and work with the animals. In 1999 this work was recognised by public when he and his wife were awarded an MBE for works to younger generation. He is also a father and grandfather, so children have always played a large part in his life. Every year he spend time in the Scilly Isles with his family, and it is taken as a setting for three of his books. Morpurgo has a great talent for magical storytelling, and his books also often tackle social problems. Out of the Ashes (2001), for example, is about the foot and mouth crisis. His most popular books include War Horse (1982), which was nominated for the Whitbread Children's Book Award in 1982 and achieved an enormous success both onstage and on screen. He rewards a continuous contribution to children's literature and shows the importance of the role of children's books. Morpurgo strongly believes that 'literature comes before literacy' and wants all children that they should find out and rediscover the secret pleasure that is reading, and start to find their voice and own style in their own writing...'¹

What is more, Michael Morpurgo is a strongly admired and successful British author of more than one hundred books written for mostly young people. His work, which includes historical fiction, animal stories, fantasy novels, picture books, easy

¹ <https://literature.britishcouncil.org/writer/michael-morpurgo>

² [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_Horse_\(novel\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_Horse_(novel))

readers, and retellings of legends and myths, has gathered major awards and world- wide popularity. Many of his books have been adapted to stage and screen because of their fame among readers. Morpurgo’s storytelling is not only magical in style but also often deals with problems that affect the lives of children. He always writes the stories according to his own experiences and interests to create his stories more natural that grapple with themes like the triumph of an outsider, survival against the odds, abandonment and rescue, loyalty and friendships with animals.²

War Horse

War horse is a british novel which was written by Michael Morpurgo in

animalistic genre. It made the fundament of both an award-winning play (2007) and an acclaimed film adaptation (2011) by Steven Spielberg. The novel is often considered and claimed one of Morpurgo's best works, and its success spawned a sequel titled *Farm Boy*, which was published on October in 1997. Albert, who is the teenage son of a poor farmer, falls in love with a beautiful bay foal. He firstly see this horse while his mother is giving a birth to him. When the horse, now nearly grown, is brought to auction, his father is the top bidder and buy it. Albert is thrilled and names the colt Joey, but his mother gets angry as her husband's purchase leaves them without enough money to pay the rent. Albert trains Joey to be a plough horse so that he can earn his keep. But in 1914, when WWI begins, the army is searching for good horses and his father sells Joey without Albert's permission. Albert believes to find Joey one day and bring him home and live together. Joey is bought by a kind officer, but because of being a war horse, he experiences the terrible moments of battles in France. Though he endures many hardships, his courage touches the soldiers around him. The film "War Horse" is also based on Michael Morpurgo's novel of the same name, as well as it is adapted into stage. Spielberg is a producer who produce with Kathleen Kennedy, Frank Marshall and Revel Guest. Scribes Lee Hall and Richard Curtis are penning the adapted script.

Theme of the novel

A theme is an enormous idea or main topic of importance in a work. It is often timeless and universal (like a concept), such as 'love' and 'death'. Short stories often have just one theme, whereas novels usually have multiple themes. The theme of a story is woven all the way through the story, and the characters' actions, interactions, and motivations all reflect the story's theme.

Friendship: The main themes in *War Horse* are friendship, courage and family. Humans and animals have been bonding since the beginning of time. In *War Horse*, Joey the horse forges some unbreakable BFF bonds with a variety of humans and even a member or two of his own species. The fact that these relationships exist and thrive amidst the constant trauma of war emphasizes even more the power of the friendship.

Family: Sad as it may be, that adorable little pug puppy your adopted probably never knew its own family. And horses are no different, as we see at the very beginning of *War Horse* when Joey is taken away from his mother and sold to another farm. But just because these creatures are taken away from their birth family, it doesn't mean they're alone. Joey the horse and Albert the boy practically grow up together, side by side. Their bond is stronger than friendship; it's family. To Albert, Joey's just a brother from another mother—a four-legged one.

¹ <https://literature.britishcouncil.org/writer/michael-morpurgo>

² <https://libguides.loretotoorak.vic.edu>

³ [War_Horse_\(novel\)](#)

Courage: There was no room for cowardice on a World War I battlefield, so soldiers and their horses alike had to be prepared to act without hesitation in the face of certain death. In *War Horse*, we see courage coming from all sides of the battlefield—from soldiers on the front lines to the medics caring for the wounded. Above all, we see the courage of Joey and his pony pals, putting the lives of the soldiers first and supporting the troops no matter what. Looks like courage comes in all shapes, sizes, and species.

National Theatre Production: Since it is firstly performed at the National Theatre in 2007, *War Horse* has become an international smash hit. Based on Michael Morpurgo's novel and adapted for the stage by Nick Stafford, *War Horse* takes audiences on an extraordinary journey from the fields of rural Devon to the trenches of First World War France. Filled with stirring music and songs, this powerfully moving and imaginative drama is a display of phenomenal inventiveness. (Libguides Loretotoorak, 2003, London)

Structure of the novel: In the novel, the story is told using the first person narrative from the point of view of Joey, so the reader understands the horse's thoughts and emotions. Climax: Joey fights in war and Tophorn is killed. Falling action: Joey has Tetanus, and the soldiers try to buy him. Denouement: Emilie's grandfather buys Joey, giving him to Albert. The war ends and Joey is put up for auction again. But Emilie's Grandpapa shows up and wins the auction for Joey by paying a great amount of money. Sadly, Emilie has died due to her illness, so Grandpapa gives Joey to Albert. Albert takes Joey back to England, marries his sweetheart Maisie Brown, and they live happily ever after. (shmoop.com)²

Conclusion

In conclusion animal painting genre is used by many writers in their works. On top of that Michael Morpurgo's novels play a significant role in the development of this genre. His novel "War Horse" gives information about the friendship between animals and people, loyalty, difference between poor and wealthy people, strength and terrible sides of war and etc. Both story and the film have their millions of audiences and readers who really appreciate the friendship between animals and humanity. This novel also teaches its readers to be courageous to fight for their goals, to be hardworking and be friendly toward animals. At the end of the movie Joe and his owner could find each other because of their unimaginable for their goals, to be hardworking and be friendly toward animals. At the end of the movie Joe and his owner could find each other because of their unimaginable friendship, although the boy's eyes had been damaged during the war.

¹<https://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/12/books/review/Marler2-t-2.html>

² Shmoop.com

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