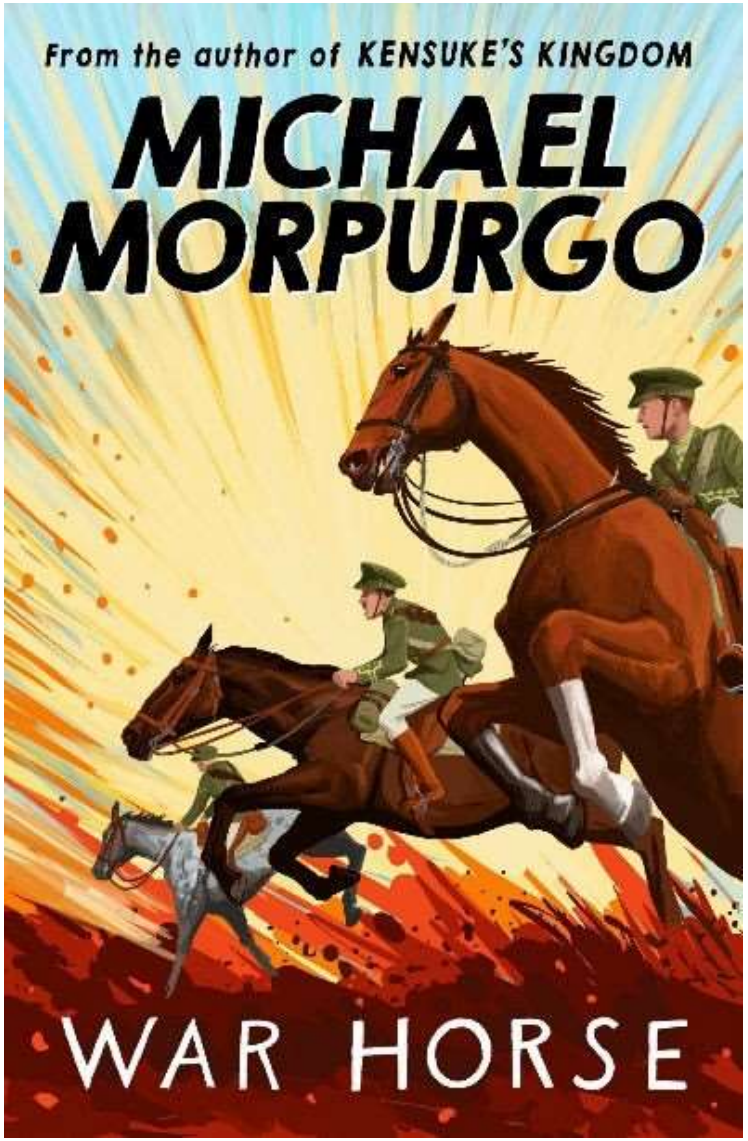
YEAR 5 AUTUMN TERM: WAR HORSE by MICHAEL MORPURGO



Concepts and Values: love, loyalty, the human- animal bond, treatment of animals, loss, anger, pain, bravery, the uselessness of war, separation and universal suffering, kindness

Pupils will initially discuss the treatment of animals and the bond that humans can have with them. Difficult family environments will feature early on, and the pupils will learn to appreciate that not all children grow up in a safe and loving home.

Love and separation will be an important theme throughout the text and pupils will explore how these emotions can drive our actions, sometimes resulting in drastic decisions being made.

The text offers an engaging opportunity to learn more about World War I and will allow much debate and discussion of war themes. Open questioning will be used to explore: whether some wars are useless and whether all men and women should be forced to fight for their country.

Towards the end of the book, children will learn about the strength of people's kinds during times of extreme adversity. In our lessons, the experiences of our characters will be compared and will focus on how some could still find the love and kindness to commit a generous act when others wouldn't have felt it necessary.