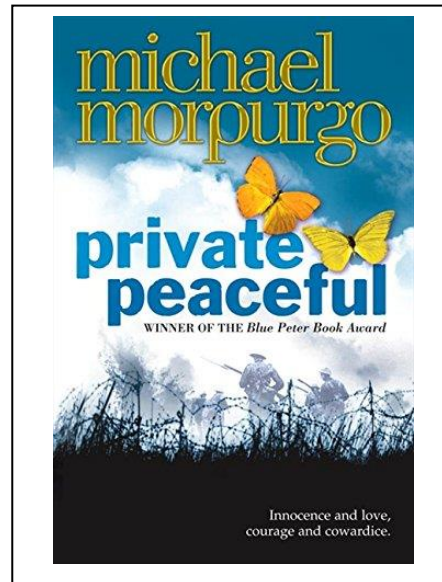


## Year 4 Autumn Term - Private Peaceful (Michael Morpurgo)

### Synopsis

Tommo, a private fighting in the First World War, is awaiting the execution of his 'heroic' and defiant older brother, Charlie. Tommo reflects upon their life together as a way of keeping his brother 'alive'.



Private Peaceful is a **fictional story based on real events** – the Great War of 1914-1918. The author, Michael Morpurgo, based the story on a gravestone he found in a WW1 war cemetery. It was first published in 2003.

### Key Points

**Plot:** A family's life in Devon is shattered by war. Two brothers

#### Settings:

Devon.  
WW1 France and Belgium.

**Themes:** War, love remembrance, family, humanity vs inhumanity, death, justice.



### Key Characters

**Tommo** – the story's narrator.      **Charlie** – Tommo's older brother.      **Molly** – Charlie's wife.

**Mother** – the boys' mother, who has a strong sense of right and wrong.








**Colonel** – the main villain of the story; he owns the land that the Peaceful family live on.

**Big Joe** -      **Sergeant "Horrible" Hanley** – Charlie's sergeant, a horrible bully.

# Year 4 Autumn Term ContextMap - World War One

## Who Went to War?

July 28<sup>th</sup> 1914 - November 11<sup>th</sup> 1918

The Triple Entente/The Allies		The Triple Alliance/The Central Powers	
	United Kingdom		Germany
	France		Italy
	Russia		Austria-Hungary
	The USA was a major trading partner with Britain. In April 1917, the USA <b>declared</b> war against Germany for attacking their trading ships around Britain.		

## Europe Before the War

In the early 1900s, many European countries such as Britain, France, Spain and Italy **colonised** countries in Africa and Asia and were considered very powerful.

Germany did not **colonise** other countries and they were not as powerful. Germany wanted greater power so they began building large warships and creating a strong army.

Countries also formed **alliances**. The Triple Alliance was formed in 1882. The Triple Entente was formed in 1907.

Because of the different power struggles and **alliances**, there was tension and distrust amongst some countries across Europe.

## Archduke Franz Ferdinand

The main event thought to have triggered the start of the First World War is the **assassination** of Archduke Franz Ferdinand.

- In 1914, Archduke Ferdinand was due to become the king of Austria-Hungary.
- Gavrilo Princip from Serbia **assassinated** Archduke Ferdinand and his wife, causing Austria-Hungary to **declare** war on Serbia.
- Russia began to move their army in case they were needed.
- Germany did not like Russia preparing their army and so **declared** war on them. Germany then also **declared** war on France.
- Britain **declared** war on Germany to support Russia and France.

## Key Vocabulary

<b>alliance</b>	An agreement between two or more people, groups or countries to support each other.
<b>armistice</b>	An agreement by countries at war to stop fighting.
<b>assassinated</b>	The act of murdering someone (usually an important person).
<b>colonised</b>	One country taking control of another country.
<b>declare</b>	To announce.
<b>invade</b>	To enter an area and forcibly take control.
<b>rationed</b>	Being given a food allowance when food is in short supply.

## The Trenches

- Trenches were dug out of the land to protect the soldiers.
- Soldiers would sleep and rest in the trenches as well as eat their meals.
- The trenches were very dirty and wet. They were often filled with rats!

## The End of the War

- Italy joined the Triple alliance in April 1915.
- After the USA also joined the Triple Entente in April 1917, Germany began to realise that they couldn't win the war.
- Austria-Hungary signed an **armistice** on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1918 leaving Germany on their own.
- An **armistice** was signed by Britain, France and Germany on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918 putting an end to all fighting.
- A two-minute silence is held every year on 11<sup>th</sup> November to celebrate the end of the war and to remember all the people who fought in the First World War and all other wars.
- Poppies are also worn around this time to remember the soldiers who died in the war; as after all the fighting had stopped, poppies began to grow on the battlefields.



## The Battle of the Somme

- 1<sup>st</sup> July – 18<sup>th</sup> Nov 1916.
- It took place in France.
- One of the most devastating events of the First World War.
- Over one million soldiers died.
- 19 000 British soldiers were killed on the first day of battle.

