

MY FRIEND WALTER KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Plot:

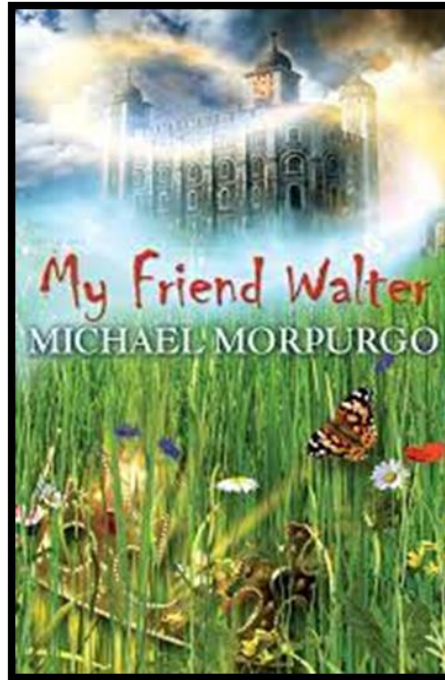
Bess Throckmorton meets an old man at a family reunion who tells her that Sir Walter Raleigh is one of her ancestors. Curious to see where he was imprisoned, she visits the Bloody Tower and finds that the old man was none other than Sir Walter himself! The mischievous old ghost sets about restoring the family's fortune, while all the time Bess has to try to keep the presence of a ghost in the house a secret. How will Bess explain Sir Walter to her family? Especially when he breaks her brother's fishing rod, steals a horse and smokes cigars in her room!

Themes:

History, ghosts, friendship, humour, trust, honesty, dishonesty, family struggles, revenge

Setting:

Tower of London and Country Estate in Devon



CHARACTERS

Elizabeth Throckmorton	Main character, known as 'Bess'. Small for her age so people call her fragile and feeble.
Nicholas Throckmorton	Elizabeth's father who treats her like a boy. He was the cousin of Henry's sixth wife, Queen Catherine Parr.
Anne Carew	Elizabeth's mother who is always busy. She was the daughter of Nicholas Carew and Elizabeth Carew née Bryan.
Aunt Ellie	Bess' aunt who takes her to visit the Tower of London.
Will Throckmorton	Bess' older brother.
Little Jim	Bess' little brother (8 months old).
Gran	Nearly 80 years old and lives with Bess' family.
Sir Walter Raleigh	English statesman, soldier, spy, writer, poet and explorer.
Queen Elizabeth I	Queen of England 1558-1603 (b.1533--d.1603).

Name of book:	My Friend Walter
Date Published:	1998
Author:	Michael Morpurgo
Genre:	Historical Adventure

DISCUSSION POINTS

- How is this fictional story linked to real life?
- Is it acceptable to want revenge on someone who has done you wrong?
- If you could communicate with the 'spirit' of a deceased famous person, who would you choose and why?
- How does Bess' friendship with Walter affect her life?
- On reflection, how can we redefine friendship?

VOCABULARY

ancestor	a person from whom you are descended
bewildered	deeply or utterly confused
blundered	made a silly, careless or stupid mistake
dispirited	having low spirits, depressed
endeavours	serious, determined efforts
expletive	an offensive word that people sometimes say when they are angry
instinct	a strong natural tendency or ability
meddle	to get involved in matters that concern someone else
monarch	a king or a queen
monarchy	form of government with a monarch at the head
regal	relating to or suitable for a king or queen
reminisced	talked about things in the past
rheumatism	a condition in which muscles or joints in the body are painful
swathed	wrapped in several layers of fabric
schemes	a secret plan or plot
venture	a task involving chance, risk or danger

QUOTES

- "I'm small for my age, so people at school think I'm feeble and fragile which I'm not. I don't talk much, so they think I'm unfriendly which I'm not. I just get on better with myself than anyone else, that's all."
- "It's not breaking any secrets if I tell you that I am easily frightened."
- "Living with a ghost has its difficulties, I discovered, even if he is your friend."
- "Since I am but a spirit, and a spirit has no body, I may go where I will unseen."
- "To be a ghost is to live with all the pain of the living but with little of the pleasure."