

# Our Learning Keys

Fiction

Why the Whales Came

Michael Morpurgo

Year 4  
Spring 2

## Reading Skills



### Questions

- Why are Gracie and Daniel scared of the birdman?
- Why aren't the community open to the birdman?
- How does their opinion of him change?
- What can we learn from this narrative?



### Blurb and Main Themes

Gracie and her friend Daniel have always been warned to stay away from the Birdman and his side of the island. But then they find a message in the sand and discover the Birdman is not who they thought. They build up a lovely friendship with him, but when the children get stranded on Samson Island they don't know whether to believe the birdman's story that the island is cursed.



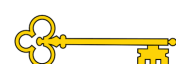
### Links

- Geography - Scilly Isles
- Science - Weather
- PSHE - Community
- History - WW2



### Vocabulary

Warned	incriminating
Keeled	rumours
Retrieve	nuisance
Sheltered	howled
Menacing	blight
Beached	strewn
Fleet	wincing
Bombarded	law-abiding
Snarl	bristling
Rigging	The King's Shilling
Frequented	vigilant
Curse	basked
Coast	cormorant

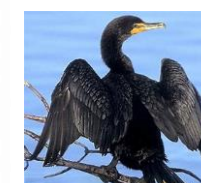


### Reading Skills

- V - Vocabulary
- I - Inference
- P - Prediction
- E - Explain
- R - Retrieval
- S - Summarise



### Images



#### Previously

The Day of Ahmed's Secret  
Florence Parry Heidi  
Fiction

#### Now

Why the Whales Came  
Michael Morpurgo  
Fiction

#### Next

World War II  
DKfindout!  
Non-Fiction

#### Doors this will open...

Historian  
Geographer  
Environmentalist ●  
Marine Biologist 🐙