

# michael morpurgo

## LISTEN to the MOON



### Exploring Themes

**Literacy Curriculum Links:** *Identify and discuss themes and conventions; make comparisons within and across books*

#### Task:

Suited to small group work (2 – 4)

The theme of a story is its central idea. There can be one or many themes within a book. The theme is often woven all the way through the story and it is reflected in the character's actions and interactions.

Listed in the table below are some themes that you might identify in *Listen to the Moon* by Michael Morpurgo. For each, note whether you agree that this is a theme you recognise within *Listen to the Moon*. Then for the themes you agree with, make notes of evidence from the text that supports the idea.

Theme	Agree? Why?	Evidence
There is unity amongst sailors even if they are involved in a war against one another		
Humanity still exists in times of desperation and war		
People do terrible things when their minds are twisted by war and fear		
Friendship is strong enough to exist through barriers		
People can be judgemental and mean		
'To be different in this ignorant world is often mistaken for madness. And all too often we put away those we believe to be different. Difference frightens people...' p170 Dr Crow		
When it seems all is lost, cling on to hope		
'Believing's not easy, y'know' p303 Mary		
'Even in war there must be rules' p322 Herr Kapitan		
Love, friendship, faith and hope prevail over hardships		