



## The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips

**Author:** Michael Morpurgo  
**Genre:** Literature (for children)  
**Publisher:** London: Harper Collins, 2005  
**ISBN:** 978-0-00-718246  
**RRP:** (USED) £3.50 (+£2.80 p&p)

*Contained within these pages we have the tale of a little cat with a cool name, a granny on a great big motorbike and the warm-up to D-Day. What's there not to like?*

I love cats. They're furry, cool, and very clever, and I loved them most of all when I was a child and this, is the tale of a little girl who loses her cat, finds him again, and has adventures on the way too. Ahh, memories... Now, I won't spoil the twist at the end of Michael Morpurgo's story, but really, it's a very happy one, and though the page count of 186 might seem a little intimidating at first, it really isn't (I read the whole thing cover to cover in just a few hours, and I'm a very slow reader). Moreover, the print is large and the illustrations by Michael Foreman really do lighten things up.

So, the plot... Tips the cat lives with her friend and owner Lily in a little village in Devon on the south coast of England. She also lives in interesting times... this is 1943, right in the middle of the World War Two, more specifically, the build up to D-Day, an event which is destined to change history. The war affects Lily directly in three ways. Firstly, it means that her father has to go off and fight in a distant country. Secondly, the war means the arrival of the 'Townies', the kids evacuated from London to avoid the 'Blitz', and thirdly it means the evacuation of Lily's home so the American soldiers can train for D-Day. It's bad enough that Lily's grandfather doesn't want to move, but worse still that he isn't alone. This, really then, is a story about a little girl's cat who doesn't like the idea of being evicted, and so refuses to be. And interestingly, we're never really sure if it all might actually be true; the author claims that the girl in question is his granny, and she sent him the story in the post and that he's he just re-printing it with an introduction! And that, is where the twist comes in...

Ultimately, this is the kind of book that children up to their early teens – or indeed any of us that are young at heart – should well enjoy. It comes from well-loved and highly respected children's author Michael Morpurgo (who really does live in Devon), and though it may not be obvious at the start, it actually addresses racism, prejudice and one of the greatest events in modern history, all in an easy-to-digest and fun way. *The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips* really does represent a few hours reading time very well spent. When I got to the end, I went 'Ahhh'... I dare you not to.

9 sausages out of 10

RW June 2014