

Read this extract from 'Kensuke's Kingdom' by Michael Morpurgo and then answer the questions.

While sailing with his parents on a boat called The Peggy Sue, Michael is washed overboard, ending up on a remote Pacific island with his dog, Stella. He makes friends with the only other inhabitant, an old man named Kensuke, who has lived on the island for over forty years. Kensuke does not want either of them to leave the island. However, Michael wants to send home a message in a bottle...

5

\*\*\*

For some days, I kept the Coke bottle buried under the sand whilst I struggled with my values or, rather, justified what I wanted to do. It wouldn't really be a betrayal, not as such, I told myself. Even if the bottle was found, no one would know where it would come from, they'd just know I was alive. I made up my mind to do it, and do it as soon as I could.

10

Kensuke had gone off octopus fishing. I had stayed behind to finish a shell painting - or so I had told him. I found an old bed sheet at the bottom of one of his chests and tore away a small corner of it. Then I knelt down at the table, stretched it out and painted my message on it in octopus ink.

15

To: The Peggy Sue. Fareham. England.

Dear Mum and Dad

I am alive. I am well. I live on an island. I do not know where. Come and find me.

Love

20

Michael

I ran the entire length of the island, keeping always to the forest, so that there was no chance Kensuke could see where I was going or what I was up to. The apes howled their accusations at me all the way, the entire forest cackling and screeching its disapproval. I just hoped Stella would not bark back at them, would not betray where I was. Fortunately, she didn't.

25

At last, I reached the rocks under Watch Hill. I leaped from rock to rock until I was standing right at the very end of the island, the waves washing over my feet. I looked around me. Stella was the only witness. I threw the bottle as far out to sea as I possibly could. Then I stood and watched it as it bobbed away and out to sea. It was on its way.

30

Read the passage and answer the questions below.

Q1) How long does Michael take to make up his mind about sending the message?

Some days

Q2) At first, Michael hides the Coke bottle. Why?

- so he has time to think (whether sending a message is the right thing to do)
- he doesn't want Kensuke to see it / know about it / find it
- because he wasn't sure if he really wanted to do it or not
- He was struggling with his values
- He was trying to justify what he wanted to do.
- He doesn't want to upset Kensuke / make him sad.

Q3) Tick two boxes that we know are TRUE from the passage.

a. Michael misses his family.



b. Someone finds the message in the bottle.



c. Michael does not want to upset Kensuke



d. Michael writes the message on a paper.



Q4) Read lines (11 - 14) and order the events from 1 to 4.

- a. I found an old bed sheet. **2**
- b. I painted my message on it. **4**
- c. Kensuke had gone off octopus fishing. **1**
- d. I knelt down at the table. **3**

Q5) What lie does Michael tell Kensuke?

**Michael told Kensuke he was (shell) painting.**

Q6) Read lines (6 - 10). Find a phrasal verb that means (decided).

**made up**

Q7) "No one would know where it would come from, they'd just know I was alive."

What part of speech is the word "alive"?

- a. verb
- b. noun
- c. adjective**
- d. adverb

Q8) Look at line 6. Read the first sentence and find an irregular past tense verb.

**kept**

Q9) Read lines (11-14) and find one word that means 'wrote'.

**painted**

Q10) Michael convinced himself that sending a message to his parents would not mean that he is unfaithful with Kensuke. Give evidence from the passage to support this statement.

"It wouldn't really be a betrayal, not as such, I told myself."

Q11) Read line (21). Write down one first person pronoun.

I

Q12) When Michael was on his way to send the message, did he meet Kensuke?

Yes

No



Evidence: 'I ran the entire length of the island keeping always to the forest.'

'There was no chance that Kensuke could see where I was going (or what I was up to).'

**Q13) Do you think Michael knows in which island he is?**

Yes

No



**Explanation: Because in his message to his parents, he said that he doesn't know in which island he is now.**

**Q14) Why did Michael throw the bottle out to sea?**

so it won't be swept in again by the waves

OR

so it goes a long way

OR

so the bottle wouldn't smash against the rocks below

Q15) Read lines (26 – 30). Do you think Michael was afraid that someone might see him throwing the bottle?

Yes



No



Explanation:

Because he was looking around to check if there is anyone else watching him.

Quotation:

"I looked around me. Stella was the only witness."

Q16) Circle the correct answer. What genre does the passage belong to?

- a. fantasy
- b. real-life story
- c. instructional text