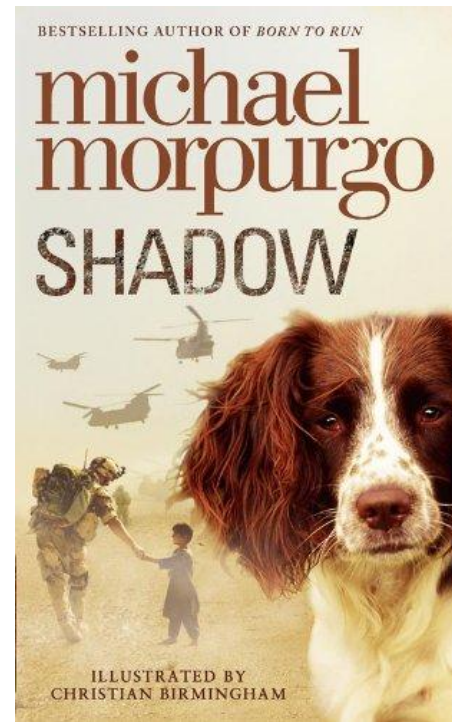


***Shadow* by Michael Morpurgo (MacMillan, 2013)**

Shadow, a British bomb-sniffing dog, is separated from Sergeant Brody, a British soldier serving in Afghanistan. Shadow is adopted by Aman, an Afghan boy who ultimately finds refuge in England. A moving tale of coincidence, courage, friendship, and loyalty.



Discussion Questions

1. When Aman is telling the story of his family he describes how the Taliban destroyed the great Buddha in his family's home of Bamiyan. (Show video of the destruction.) Describe what the Taliban did to Aman home and family.
2. Why didn't his grandmother want to sell her jewels so they could have food?
3. How do you think Shadow found Aman and his mother? After all they live far away from the military base in the northern part of the country. How did the dog help Aman and his mother? How did they in turn protect Shadow?
4. How does Aman save the soldiers? (Warns them that there is a bomb by the roadside)
5. Aman at first has trouble adjusting to life in England, but slowly he learns English and makes friends. He says "his mother misses Bamiyan more than I do." Why do you think Aman is able to acclimate to his new home better than his mother?
6. When Aman and his mother are detained in the immigration removal center of Yarl's Woods the English authorities tell them that Afghanistan is safe, but they know it is still not safe and they are determined not to go back to Afghanistan. After they are let off the plane for creating such a fuss Aman's mother tells him she is proud of him. Why do you think she is proud of him?
7. When Matt and his Grandfather stage a protest at Yarl's Woods the day the article comes out in the newspaper, Matt's father tells him that "there are times when it is good to be a troublemaker and this is one of them." Do you agree that Matt and his grandfather were right in being troublemakers?
8. What is the significance of the silver regimental star badge that Sergeant Brody gives Aman?
9. It seems ironic that Shadow was able to save so many soldiers, but when Sergeant Brody needed her the most she was not within range when he was injured. In

explaining his injuries, Sergeant Brody says “Got to look on the bright side, there’s always someone worse off than yourself...” What does this statement tell you about Sergeant Brody?

10. This book has three narrators Grandpa, Matt and Aman. How do they each contribute to the story?

11. Who is the hero on this story?

Caroline Ward, Coordinator Youth Services
The Ferguson Library