

Kensuke's Kingdom (PG)



Dir. Neil Boyle, Kirk Henry | UK/Luxembourg/France | 2023 | 85 mins | PG

Distributor: Modern Films

Bookings: anna@modernfilms.com, rossella@modernfilms.com

Available: 2 August 2024

Platform: Theatrical

Format: DCP + Blu-ray/DVD discs for non theatrical venues. SDH and AD included in the DCP - venues are encouraged to hold accessible screenings where possible.

Language: English

Cert: PG

Recommended age: 6+ **Sweet Spot:** 8+

BBFC Guidance: Mild threat, upsetting scenes, violence, injury detail, language.

While intense scenes might upset very young children, the film's heartwarming celebration of nature and humanity offsets the more frightening moments.

Synopsis

Kensuke's Kingdom tells the epic adventure of Michael, a young boy who sets off with his family on a sailing trip of a lifetime. But excitement soon turns to terror when a violent storm erupts and Michael and his dog Stella are swept overboard, washing up on a remote island where they struggle to survive. Michael eventually discovers he is not alone when he is confronted by a mysterious Japanese man called Kensuke who has lived there secretly since World War Two. The boy and the old man are initially suspicious of each other, but when dangerous invaders appear on the horizon, it's clear Michael and Kensuke must join forces to save their fragile island paradise.

Cutaway

Based on the much-loved, best-selling children's novel by Michael Morpurgo and adapted for screen by Frank Cottrell-Boyce, Kensuke's Kingdom tells of the epic adventure of Michael, a young boy, shipwrecked on a remote island, who must adapt to life alone. Over time, he feels another presence, learning that this world is home to both unimaginable danger and beauty, in this gripping animated adaptation of a beloved novel.

Assets

- [Modern Films Marketing Pack](#) inc. socials, cast and press quotes and director's statement
- [Stills](#)
- [Trailer](#)
- [Clips](#)
- [Introduction from Michael Morpurgo](#)
- [Learning Resources](#) Created by Into Film this is a brilliant series of free curriculum linked lesson plans drawing on different themes in the film. Elements of these could be used for pre/post screening activities or see end of document for further venue-focussed ideas.

Comparison/Complementary titles

- The Adventures of Tintin – Secret of the Unicorns
- Swallows and Amazons (2016 version)
- The Breadwinner
- The Red Turtle
- The Boy and the Heron
- Princess Mononoke

Themes

- Family bonds
- Father-Son relationships
- Friendship
- Travel and Exploration
- Survival
- War (WWII)
- Animals and Habitats
- Environment
- Oceans and Island life
- 2D Animation
- Foley Sound
- Arts & Crafts
- Literacy

Educational Value

- The Michael Morpurgo book Kensuke's Kingdom is a recommended read in Primary schools for students aged 10 – 11 years (Year 6 in England & Wales, Primary 7 in Scotland).
- The Into Film [Learning Resources](#) are free, downloadable curriculum focussed resources that will be a great support to any education screenings you may be running for local schools. These are aimed at students aged 7+ and also available in Welsh.
- The film's screenplay was also written by Children's Laureate and author of children's books Frank Cottrell Boyce.
- Also recommended for EAL (English as an additional language) students. The script is paired back and part of the narrative explores a friendship between an 11 year-old boy and an older Japanese man who don't speak the same language. They learn to communicate through drawing and actions.

Marketing Ideas

- **Ticketing:**
 - Family ticket deal
 - Pay what you can model
 - A discount for any young people who attend with a copy of the book
 - To encourage the social aspect of cinema going in younger audiences can you do a ticket deal aimed at bringing a friend, similar to a family ticket deal? eg. 1 adult + 2 children
- **Social:** Think about which platforms you're using to communicate with your audiences' - families are still reliant on Facebook for finding out about special events or targeted activities.
- **Organisation links** - there are many themes in the film that may link with organisations in your community:
 - **Animal welfare / ecology groups** – throughout the film Michael takes care of his dog Stella, on the desert island he learns to live off and alongside nature including taking care of a family of orangutans, it also shows the threat of humans on nature and putting animals in captivity
 - **Cubs / Brownies / Scouts / Girl Guides** – strong theme of exploring, survival, living off the land would tie-in with these youth groups
 - **Arts and Crafts groups** - the film is animated in the traditional hand-drawn 2D style - examples of the animations can be found in the film's [learning resources](#). Drawing also features heavily in the film as both Michael and Kensuke enjoy drawing as a hobby and use it to communicate. Kensuke has built his own treehouse and crafted many of the objects he uses day to day.
 - **Zoos or Wildlife centres** – the film touches on animal welfare and being captured, can you invite an organisation in to discuss their work and how they approach this subject?
 - **Local foley or animation studios?** Foley is used in the film to express the sound of the sea and the island created by [The Foley Barn](#) studio based in Hertfordshire. Can you invite a local foley or animation studio in for a short presentation on how to animate / or create foley?
 - **Libraries, local books shops, reading groups:** the film is based on the widely read Michael Morpurgo book of the same name aimed at readers 10+. The screenplay is also written by the Children's Laureate and author Frank Cottrell Boyce.
 - **Based near water or on the coast? Sailing clubs / Coast Guard agencies or charities / Maritime museums** – the film explores life at sea and elements of living on a boat with your family and the different jobs you would have on a boat and the dangers that can occur.

Calendar Day tie-ins

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|---|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ● World Book Day - Mar | ● Int Day of Friendship - July | ● World Habitat Day - Oct |
| ● Earth Day - Apr | ● World Maritime Day - Sept | ● Remembrance Day - Nov |
| ● World Ocean Day - Jun | ● World Animal Day - Oct | |
| ● School Summer Holidays - July - Sept | | |

Pre/Post Screening Activities

- **Filmed Introduction** - screen the [filmed introduction](#) by the book's author Michael Morpurgo before a screening
- **Read-along:** have someone read aloud a chapter of the Michael Morpurgo book to set the scene before the screening, have sea-sounds playing in the cinema as the audience arrive
- **Storyboarding** – print out examples of the film's storyboards and get children to draw their own versions
 - [Kensuke Kingdom Storyboards](#)
 - [Into Film Storyboard template](#) – page 17 of Kensuke Kingdom 2D Animation Resource
- **Animal and boat crafting** – [jellyfish](#), [orangutan](#), [turtles](#), [build a paper boat](#)
- **Logbook activity** – select a scene from the film, or get children to imagine they are lost at sea or on a desert island. Create a logbook entry drawing and writing about what they saw that day. [Ships logbook activity](#) template.
- **Draw and animate a character or animal from the film with a flip book**
- **Foley Sound Effect workshop or intro** - get the audience to take part in some simple foley sounds before the screening. Simple Foley sounds can be found [here](#).
- **Colouring in activity sheets** with pens and pencils available in the foyer for children to use:
 - The film [turnaround sheets](#) for different animals are great for colouring in
 - [Generic colouring sheets](#) themed around **rainforest animals**, draw a **desert island**, design your own **boat** to travel across the world in, draw your **family portrait**

If you would like further information or support about screening this film to families and young audiences please contact FAN Young Audience Champion Kirsten Geekie on kirsten.geekie@filmlondon.org.uk.