

Resource 6d

Transcript – Michael Morpurgo interview

His library, which was 2000 miles away from here, caught fire, and was burning now, and this man paid no attention to the fire. He just walked into the building, and started carrying out the books. And everyone thought, "He's mad! He's mad! He's mad!" And then everyone thought, "No, he's not mad; he's really brave, and we'll do it too."

And so the people of this town went in there, and started rescuing these books and putting them in piles and it went on and on and on until finally the fire brigade said, "You can't go in anymore; it's too dangerous."

And they'd brought out these tens of thousands of books by this time. Exhausted, and blackened, and all the rest of it, and smoke-filled lungs.

He then turned to the people of the town and he said, "Well, our library's gone. But we have our books. That's the most important thing. So what we are going to do," he said, "is we rebuild the library and you will keep the books. Take them home and you keep them, and in a year or two years or three years or four years, when our new library is built, I will ask you to bring them all back."

*And that's what happened. And so, he saved the books and remade a new library and it seemed to me to be such an extraordinary story of the love of books and also the librarian's care for books and I thought, "I'm not sure that story's been told before, so tell it in your own way," and that's why *I Believe in Unicorns* began."*