

The KATIE MORAG Stories

I have outlined some information using the Katie Morag stories as a focus for parents. BBC I player has a series of programmes, which was on cbeebies, based on Katie Morag which are fun and interesting. The series is based on some of the stories written by Mairi Hedderwick and gives a very visual background to life on the Island of Struay. I realise that you will not have the storybooks but there are plenty being read, with pictures being shown, on you tube. They are all lovely stories which delve into families and characters alongside different lifestyles in different places.

This is on-going work, that can be done over the next few weeks, focusing on Literacy. I have set some activities if you want to undertake any or all of them.

In one of the stories Katie Morag tries to create a family tree. This is a fun activity that everyone can do being creative , with the design of the tree, and factual with the content.

Stories to look for on you tube;

- Katie Morag and the two Grandmothers.
- Katie Morag and the New Pier.
- Katie Morag and the Tiresome Ted.
- Katie Morage delivers the Mail.



Some of the characters

Mrs Bayview

Mrs Bayview loves gardening. Her garden is like a maze. Sometimes, she even gets lost in it.



The Lady Artist

The Lady Artist is quite eccentric. She has a sculpture garden, where the grass is often very long.



Neilly Beag

Neilly Beag likes the quiet life, and gets quite cross when the Ferryman and his wife stay up late. He grows herbs in his window box, which he chops into his soups and stews. Friday is baking day on the Isle of Struay. Neilly Beag and the Ferryman's wife are the best bakers on the island, so Katie Morag makes sure she pays them a visit every Friday.



Grannie Island

Grannie Island lives on the other side of the bay. Her house is the last house at the end of the road. She drives a grey tractor, and loves making soup, which she calls BROTH. Every year, on Show Day, Grannie Island has won the silver trophy with her prize sheep, Alecina.



Granma Mainland

Granma Mainland lives far away from Struay, over the sea, in a flat in the city. She is very different to Katie Morag's other grandmother. She like hustle and bustle and all things modern.

The Isle of Struay Shop and Post Office

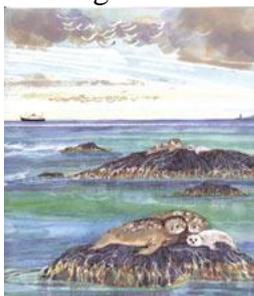
The McColl family live in the village, the busiest part of the island. Mr and Mrs McColl run the island post office and shop. Mr McColl is the shop keeper, and Mrs McColl is the postmistress. Katie Morag sometimes helps her parents out.

Katie Morag lives with Mr and Mrs McColl, her little brother Liam, baby sister Flora Ann and her two cats, Mr Mistake and Fabbydoo. Katie Morag often gets fed up with Liam pestering her, and like all brothers and sisters, they squabble, although she is very fond of him really.

Katie Morag adores her cats. Mr Mistake and Fabbydoo spend most of their time sleeping and stretching on Katie Morag's bed during the day, but at night they prowl the island. Fabbydoo is a fat, ginger cat. Mr Mistake is small, white and blind in one eye. They are the best of friends, and Fabbydoo looks out for Mr Mistake.

Katie Morag shares her birthday with both Grannie Island and Granma Mainland. It is a good reason for a big family get together every year.

Matthew McColl is Katie Morag's uncle. He lives on the other side of the island. He is a hermit, and lives in a hut. Once a month Mr McColl goes to visit his brother to check that he is all right.



The author Mairi Hedderwick



Mairi Hedderwick lived for many years on the Isle of Coll off the west coast of Scotland and although the Isle of Struay is fictional, it is clear that Coll inspired the setting for the Katie Morag books. The writer uses the interaction of individuals and generations as the basis for her stories. Katie Morag is very much part of her community, the elder daughter of the owners of the island shop and post office and the granddaughter of that feisty crofter, Grannie Island. The wonderfully curmudgeonly Grannie Island is a great source of entertainment. Her stalwart, hardworking approach to life has earned great praise as a role-model for women.

THE ADULTS

Events in the lives of adults often provide the ideas for some of the stories. The construction of a new pier for Struay has a mixed reaction – and not just from Grannie Island, alarmed at the increasing frequency with which Granma Mainland can pay her visits.



Katie Morag and the Tiresome Ted

What is it that makes Katie Morag so bad-tempered that she kicks her teddy into the sea?
Is it really the teddy that she's so cross with?
Think about being jealous. Have you ever felt jealous?
Have you ever felt as angry as Katie Morag did?
Why?



STRUAY SCHOOL

In *Katie Morag and the Riddles* we visit Struay School for the first time.

What differences can you see between Katie Morag's school and your school?
What are the advantages and the disadvantages of going to Katie Morag's school?
Do you know any riddles?
Try to collect riddles from your family.

Compile a book of your favourite riddles.

*DON'T FORGET TO READ THE WORDS THAT
AREN'T PART OF THE TEXT.*

Each illustration is rich with detail, many of them included for the benefit of adults as much as for young readers.

The Isle of Struay Shop and Post Office is always full of interest, from the notices and adverts to the covert theft by tiny hands of some of the goods on sale.

Mairi Hedderwick has a strong sense of humour and as a mother and now grandmother can't resist including witty and timely references to life's ups and downs.

*WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THE PICTURES THAT WE DON'T FROM
THE STORY IN WORDS?*

An especially good example of the way in which the two work together to create a more effective whole is the scene in *Katie Morag and the Two Grandmothers* in which Grannie Island and Katie Morag use some of Granma Mainland's belongings in order to ensure that Alecina looks her very best for the Isle of Struay Show. Enjoy the humour. The restoration of the sheep to her beautiful best is, of course, the purpose of the episode, but older children will enjoy the mischievous undertones and the way in which Grannie Island and Katie Morag team up. Their furtive smile on the last page speaks volumes.



Talking

- Identify and discuss unusual words and expressions.
- What would you say instead of Gee Whilickers!, for example?
- Talk about words and phrases used by people from different parts of the UK.
- The Village Shop and Post Office are the only shops on the Isle of Struay.
- Make a poster of some of the things you can buy there.

Writing

There are a number of activities here. You do not have to complete all of them, feel free to choose at least three.

- Write a letter to Katie Morag explaining about your home and school. Tell her about the differences and the things that are the same. Perhaps you would like to swap!
- Write a story about an adventure Katie Morag might have if she ever visited your neighbourhood and school. Remember – there's never a dull moment with Katie Morag around!
- Write about the advantages and disadvantages of living in remote communities. Remember that until the new pier was completed, only one ferry a week stopped at Struay – weather permitting. Even with the pier, the ferry visits only three times a week
- Are the islanders wholly dependent on the stores in the shop? Where else might they get their food? How do you know?
- In both the McColl's and Grannie Island's kitchens there are ranges instead of gas or electric hobs and ovens. What fuel do they burn to keep their ranges hot? How many things are the ranges used for? They are certainly used for more than simply cooking.
- Imagine that you and your family are having a holiday on the Isle of Struay.
- Write a letter telling your friends what you've been doing and seeing. Has anything exciting happened? A storm? A wedding?
- Choose words that would describe a sunny day on Struay and then words that would describe a stormy day on Struay. Write sentences using those words and phrases. Write a poem using some of your words and phrases.
- If Katie Morag hadn't found her lost teddy on the shoreline she might have asked her mum to put up a LOST TEDDY poster up in the shop. Make a LOST TOY poster for your favourite soft toy (Just in case you ever lose it).

