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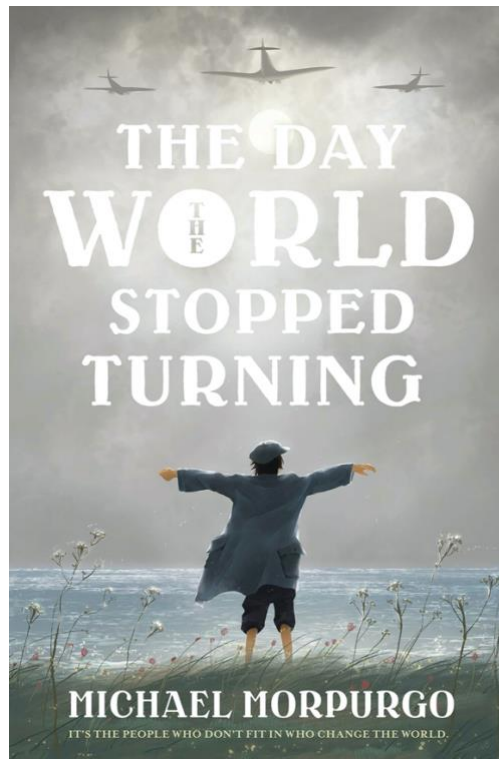
Review of *The Day the World Stopped Turning*

Written by Michael Morpurgo

Adult/Educator Reviewer: Mandy Branch

The University of Georgia, Athens, GA

Child/Student Reviewer: Rose Morley, 3rd Grade



Morpurgo, M. (2019) *The day the world stopped turning*. Feiwel and Friends.

ISBN: 978-1-250-10707-7

Adult Review: Mandy Branch

When I was a child, I held a hummingbird in the palm of my hand. The moment was fleeting, but the memory has not faded. *The Day the World Stopped Turning* by Michael Morpurgo will leave a similar impression, no doubt.

Set in Camargue, France during World War II, the book is filled with memorable characters: a boy who heals animals and dances with flamingos; a girl whose family harnesses the energy of a hand-hewn carousel; and a white-haired German soldier who chooses kindness over cruelty.

Each character resides during a time in which all hope seems lost. This book teaches the reader, both young and adult, that hope is never lost as long as your heart remains willing to flap its wings to the honk of the pink flamingo.

Another plus of this book is that it triggers within the reader a yearning to explore. Topics to address with students include: Where is Carmargue, France?; Why is it so windy there?; What are the nesting habits of flamingos?; and How were the Romani treated World War II?

The more one reads *The Day the World Stopped Turning* the more one wants to investigate, investigate, investigate! Any book that encourages young readers to “read outside the book” is a win for

both the reader and the educator.

Student Review: Rose Morley

I understood most of the book. One thing I found confusing was the title. The book is called *The Day the World Stopped Turning* but nothing in the book said anything about the world not turning or even anyone thinking it would. Overall, I liked the book and thought it was an inspiring story of how one German soldier was nice even when it was his kind that wanted to rid the land of Romani and Jewish people.

I also liked how at first the families almost gave up on the carousel but then decided to keep working on it. They were so determined that the Charbonneau carousel would make a comeback, though I do wish it told more about Vincent. In the beginning of the story, it seemed like Vincent was the main character, but then when Kezia started her story, it did not say much about him.

I also liked the character Lorenzo or Renzo. Even though he could not speak well with humans, he always seemed to have the touch with animals, (especially flamingos). He also seemed to know what to do all the time. For example, when Kezia’s caravan got set on fire, he saved her by putting her under a upside down rowboat so that she would not be seen.