

22nd August 2009

**SARAH COYLE, AGED 8, TAKES TO THE STAGE
AT EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL**

Sarah Coyle took to the stage in front of a capacity audience of 570 at the Edinburgh International Book Festival yesterday to introduce world renowned, award-winning author and former Children's Laureate, Michael Morpurgo. Sarah, aged 8 from Hampshire won a competition organised by the Book Festival to travel to Edinburgh, meet Morpurgo, introduce him on stage and to then enjoy the event from a seat in the front row. Sarah also had a 'golden ticket' to be first in the queue following the event to get her book signed.

Sara Grady, who read Sarah's shortlisted entry on stage said "Sarah was such a deserving winner. She is obviously a huge fan of Michael and his work, and wasn't fazed at all by standing up on stage and speaking in front of a huge crowd. Who knows, we may be seeing her back at the Book Festival with her own books in the future."

Michael Morpurgo said "Sarah stood up and said her piece with huge conviction and open hearted enthusiasm. It's a joy to have someone like her who seems to like my books so much."

Sarah Coyle said "His way of writing books is amazing, the best in the world I think! Not only do I think his books are brilliant, but he also helps me get higher marks at school. I am never going to stop reading his books because I think they are Super Trooper."

Sarah's winning video entry can be viewed on the Book Festival website at http://www.edbookfest.co.uk/families/childrens_competition.html

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