

STIG OF THE DUMP

Guided Reading Questions and Activities

Chapter 1: The Ground Gives Way

Day 1 (AF2)

1. What had people warned Barney about the chalk pit?
2. What did Barney think he saw when he looked down into the pit?
3. What was Barney pleased to have put in his pocket?
4. What did the writing on the water can say?
5. How does Barney describe Stig to Lou and Grandmother?

Challenge: Draw a diagram of Stig's plumbing system.

Day 2 (AF3)

1. Why do you think Barney went to the chalk pit?
2. Why might the creeper be called Old Man's Beard?
3. Why might Stig have hidden Barney's knife under the rubbish?
4. Why did Barney say 'I wish I lived here'?
5. Why would Barney put Stig's flint under his pillow?

Challenge: Make a list of how you think Barney and Stig's lives are different.

Day 3 (AF4/5)

1. Why might the book open with 'If you went too near the edge of the chalk pit the ground would give way'?
2. When Lou says 'Poor old Barney!' why does Clive King say that she laughed?
3. What technique did Clive King use when he wrote, "stones and bones, fossils and bottles, skins and tins...?"

Challenge: Write 3 more rhyming pairs to describe what you might find in Stig's den.

Day 4 (AF6/7)

1. Do you think we are supposed to feel sorry for Stig? Why?
2. What type of character do you think Stig will turn out to be?
3. What do you think the author thinks about rubbish dumps?
4. Does this story have a message about taking risks?

Challenge: Describe a time when you made a friend in an unexpected place. You could also describe a time when you found yourself in an unexpected place.



Day 1 (AF2)

1. What had people warned Barney about the chalk pit?
2. What did Barney think he saw when he looked down into the pit
3. What was Barney pleased to have put in his pocket?
4. What did the writing on the water can say?
5. How does Barney describe Stig to Lou and Grandmother?

Challenge: Draw a diagram of Stig's plumbing system.

1. People had warned Barney that the chalk pit was dangerous because the ground would give way if you stood on it.
2. Barney thought he saw a ship's wheel, an aeroplane tail and a bicycle.
3. Barney was glad he had a pocket-knife in his pocket.
4. The writing on the water can said weedkiller. (In the text this is all one word).
5. Barney described Stig as 'a sort of boy.'

Challenge: The plumbing system should be made up of a bicycle mud-guard, a vacuum cleaner tube and a can.

Day 2 (AF3)

1. Why do you think Barney went to the chalk pit?
2. Why might the creeper be called Old Man's Beard?
3. Why might Stig have hidden Barney's knife under the rubbish?
4. Why did Barney say 'I wish I lived here'?
5. Why would Barney put Stig's flint under his pillow?

Challenge: Make a list of how you think Barney and Stig's lives are different.

1. Barney went to the pit because he was bored and had nothing else to do. He wanted adventure.
2. It may be called Old Man's Beard because it hangs down and looks like the beard of an old man.
3. Stig may have hidden Barney's knife in the rubbish because he wanted to keep it to sharpen flint with.
4. Barney wished he could live in Stig's den because he was excited by all of the objects around him. Barney may have envied Stig his independence and freedom.
5. Barney would have put Stig's flint under his pillow as a reminder of his meeting with him. It shows friendship and respect from Barney to Stig. Barney may have wanted a physical reminder of his meeting with Stig, especially since his Granny and Lou did not believe in their meeting.

Challenge: The plumbing system should be made up of a bicycle mud-guard, a vacuum cleaner tube and a can.

Barney	Stig
Lives in a house.	Lives in a chalk pit.
Drinks clean water.	Drinks water filtered into a weedkiller can.
Has a family.	Lives alone.
Talks fluent English.	Dose not talk fluent English.

Day 3 (AF4/5)

1. Why might the book open with 'If you went too near the edge of the chalk pit the ground would give way'?
2. When Lou says 'Poor old Barney!' why does Clive King say that she laughed?
3. What technique did Clive King use when he wrote, "stones and bones, fossils and bottles, skins and tins... '?

Challenge: Write 3 more rhyming pairs to describe what you might find in Stig's den.

1. The book may open this way to grab the reader's attention and to suggest danger and excitement.
2. Clive King had Lou laugh to show that she found Barney's accident amusing and was not angry with him.
3. Clive King uses rhyming pairs as a technique in this section.

Challenge: Any rhyming pairs will do, i.e. rat and mat, beds and heads. Challenge students to make rhyming pairs of things that could be found in a dump.

Day 4 (AF6/7)

1. Do you think we are supposed to feel sorry for Stig? Why?
2. What type of character do you think Stig will turn out to be?
3. What do you think the author thinks about rubbish dumps?
4. Does this story have a message about taking risks?

Challenge: Describe a time when you made a friend in an unexpected place. You could also describe a time when you found yourself in an unexpected place.

1. Students may say yes because he obviously lives in a dump and is alone, or no because Barney sees Stig as living an exciting life. Barney's final thoughts in the chapter support the feeling sorry for Stig idea best.
2. Stig could turn out to be a good character because he has helped Barney already and showed his good heart. He may turn out to be a tragic character who goes through a bad time or he may be a monster that lives in a dump. His interactions with Barney would suggest the good character view.
3. The author thinks dumps may be a dangerous place, but also mysterious and exciting. They are full of interesting items and possibly people.

Challenge: Students should think about strange places they have been – aim to get them thinking about situations where they may have been alone and a bit uncomfortable.