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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 items did Barney find in the bottom of the pit?
3. What was Barney pleased to have put in his pocket?
4. What did the writing on the water 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 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.

