

Reading: Stig of the Dump

What are we learning about?

Plot Barney is a young boy staying with Granny. One day, he falls over the edge of an old chalk pit close to Granny's house. Here, he encounters Stig - a caveman! A relationship develops and a series of adventures between them take place.

Themes Friendship, Freedom, History, Loneliness, Kindness, Empathy and Imagination.

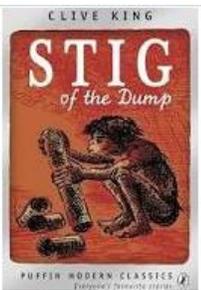
What can I do at home?

Discussion points

- How is this fictional story linked to real life?
- Where did the author get his inspiration from?

Context – Nowadays, few eight-year-olds are likely to experience this sort of outdoor adventure: Barney wanders off for whole days alone without adults worrying about him, hanging about a rubbish dump. 12 publishers rejected his story as it showed children wandering free which was not seen as sensible in the 1960s. King based Barney's experiences in the chalk pit on his own explorations of the dump by his parents' home close to the village of Ash on the North Downs of Kent in the 1930s, and watching his own son, nicknamed Barney, do the same twenty years later

Sticky Knowledge



Published in 1963



Barney
Protagonist
A young boy who meets Stig of the Dump

What Can the Book Teach Us? Friendships can be made with the most unusual or surprising of people. Experiences are best shared. Nature is the biggest playground.

Significant People/ Places



Clive King
David Clive King was an English author best known for his children's book Stig of the Dump. He served in the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve in the last years of the Second World War and then worked for the British Council in a wide range of overseas postings, from which he later drew inspiration for his novels.

Key Vocabulary

creeper	plants that grow along the ground or up a wall
bracken	large plant/fern which covers large areas
dwindled	get smaller in size, amount or strength
blundered	make a stupid or careless mistake; act or speak clumsily
brandishing	wave something (especially a weapon) as a threat
venture	A task involving chance, risk or danger
corrugated	shaped into a series of folds to add strength

Texts we are reading for pleasure and knowledge:

