



Text:

# Stig of the Dump By Clive King



<b>Plot:</b> (to support the teaching sequence)	<p>Barney is a bored young boy staying with his grandparents on the chalk Downs of southern England. One day, he falls over the edge of an old chalk pit close to his grandparents' house, tumbling through the roof of a den. While exploring the den, Barney encounters its owner, Stig, a caveman with shaggy, black hair and bright black eyes. The chalk pit is disused and full of people's dumped rubbish.</p> <p>Barney and Stig quickly become friends. They learn to communicate with each other without language, as Stig speaks no English. Stig's den is a place built out of discarded rubbish, which motivates Barney to help Stig make it look more attractive. They spend time repairing and improving Stig's den, collecting firewood, going hunting, and at one point catching some burglars who break into Barney's grandparents' house. On another occasion Barney is cornered by the bullying Snarget brothers, who become uncharacteristically docile when Stig appears and are impressed by Barney's friendship with him. When thieves try to enter Barney's house and a leopard breaks loose from a local travelling circus, Stig once again saves the day. The pair learn from each other, navigating their vastly different backgrounds. Barney comes from a comfortable family, while Stig has only the wild to rely on. As adventures unfold, practical knowledge and imaginative thinking blend together beautifully. Although Barney mentions Stig to others, no-one (with the exception of the Snargets) believes that Stig is real.</p> <p>Barney starts to give thought to where Stig has come from. During a very hot, sultry mid-summer's night, when Barney and his sister Lou are unable to sleep, they find themselves transported back in time and out onto the Downs. To their surprise, they meet Stig, back with his own people, engaged in the construction of four gigantic standing stones. They spend a night camping out with the people of Stig's tribe, and helping to shift the final stone into position before sunrise. As dawn breaks, the tribe disappear and the stones suddenly become ancient and weathered; but Stig is still there. Stig got transported forward in time with the standing stone which led him to the modern day.</p> <p>Barney and Lou do not share their adventures with anyone, and their parents never realise the truth of Stig's existence, although they jokingly talk about him as a kind of magical being that can fix particularly "odd jobs". It is left unclear whether Barney sees much more of Stig, or even whether Stig stays in the rapidly-filling rubbish dump. A figure that resembles Stig is sighted working with junk in various locations around the area; but the book concludes that "perhaps it was only a relative of his", suggesting that Stig may not be the only caveman alive in the modern world.</p>		
<b>Genre:</b>	Narrative: Fantasy, Modern Classic, Adventure	<b>Tense:</b>	Stig of the Dump is written in the past tense. The narrative follows Barney's experiences and interactions with Stig, which are presented as events that have already happened.
<b>Structure:</b>	<p><b>Adventure stories</b> are characterised by thrilling journeys, quests, and encounters with danger and excitement. Stig and Barney embark on numerous exciting escapades together, include hunting, building, catching burglars, and even time-travel. The imaginative freedom and exploration of childhood is highlighted through these adventures.</p> <p><b>Fantasy stories</b> feature settings, characters and events that are not part of the real world, often involving magic, mythical creatures and supernatural elements. Stig is a caveman living in a modern-day setting. With the juxtaposition of prehistoric and contemporary, the story blurs the lines between reality and imagination, along with possible time travel. The blend of mundane and fantastical, along with the ambiguity of whether Stig is real or a figment of Barney's imagination, firmly places the book within the fantasy genre.</p>	<b>Theme/s:</b>	<p><b>Friendship Across Differences</b> - The narrative emphasises acceptance, camaraderie and the bond between Barney and Stig. Their friendship transcends language barriers, societal norms and expectations. Stig represents total freedom to Barney, he lives his own life without bounds, and is therefore an immediate attraction. Throughout the mischief, Stig emerges as a loyal protector, revealing the strength of their budding friendship.</p> <p><b>Environmental Awareness &amp; Resourcefulness</b> - Barney's creativity flourishes as he tries to help Stig adapt to his new lifestyle. Together, they design homespun inventions, like a chimney made from discarded tin cans. This inventive spirit echoes the book's underlying theme of recycling by turning junk into treasures.</p> <p><b>Adventures &amp; Learning</b> - Every adventure the duo embarks on promotes life lessons about bravery, kindness, and ethics. Barney is</p>

	<p><b>Classics</b> achieve lasting recognition for literary merit, enduring themes and cultural impact, often transcending time and place. Considered a classic due to its timeless themes of friendship, adventure and imagination as well as its engaging narrative and memorable characters, the book continues to resonate with readers across generations.</p>		<p>conflicted, feeling guilty about the act of hunting for sport. Stig, however, simply hunts for survival. This experience opens a dialogue about ethics and morality in both hunting and society at large.</p> <p><b>Childhood Imagination &amp; Conflict</b> – the Snarget Brothers are local bullies who represent challenges for Barney but also symbolise childhood conflicts.</p> <p><b>Engaging with Nature</b> - The story encourages children to appreciate and explore the world around them.</p> <p><b>Class</b> – the story hints at Barney's upper-middle-class background compared to the Snargets' rough nature. Initially threatening to Barney, they turn out to be unpredictable. Instead of purely antagonizing Barney, their actions reflect childhood's complexities.</p>
<b>Familiarity of content:</b>	Set in the late 50s or early 60s (when the book was written), in the English countryside, in Kent but the story also features a character from the Stone Age.	<b>Perspective:</b>	Written from a third person limited perspective, primarily focusing on Barney's experiences and thoughts. The narrator observes and describes the events from Barney's point of view and does not shift to other characters, offering a limited view of their thoughts and motivations.
<b>Other language choices:</b>	<p>The language reflects the characters' backgrounds and levels of experience. <b>Basic language</b> - the author uses gestures and short, simple phrases for Stig to reflect his limited exposure to language and a more primal form of communication.</p> <p>Barney, the young boy, uses <b>more developed language</b>, reflecting his exposure to formal education and modern life. However, he sometimes adopts Stig's style when they are together, suggesting a level of understanding and adaptation between the two characters.</p> <p>The narrator uses <b>Standard English</b>, providing a clear and descriptive narrative that contrasts with the more basic language of Stig.</p> <p>The language choices in the book serve to highlight the differences between the two main characters and their respective worlds, while also demonstrating the potential for communication and understanding across cultural and developmental divides.</p>	<b>Background Knowledge:</b>	<p><b>Splinter:</b> (noun) small, sharp piece of wood or glass.</p> <p><b>Tumbled:</b> (verb) fell down or rolled around in a clumsy way.</p> <p><b>Rummage:</b> (verb) search unsystematically and untidily through a mass or receptacle.</p> <p><b>Tremendous:</b> (adjective) very great or large; (archaic) awe inspiring or dread.</p> <p><b>Glimmer:</b> (noun) a faint or unsteady light.</p> <p><b>Hollow:</b> Having hole or empty space.</p> <p><b>Clambered:</b> (verb) climbed, moved, or got in or out of something in an awkward way, typically using both hands and feet.</p> <p><b>Flint:</b> (noun) hard, grey rock that makes sparks when struck.</p> <p><b>Chalk:</b> (noun) soft, white, porous limestone.</p> <p><b>Burrow:</b> (noun) hole or tunnel dug by a small animal; (verb) make a hole or tunnel</p> <p><b>Quarry:</b> (noun) large, deep pit from which stone or other material have been extracted.</p> <p><b>Hovel:</b> (noun) small, squalid, and often dilapidated dwelling.</p>
<b>Tier 2 &amp; 3 Vocabulary :</b>	<p><b>Tier 2</b> Splinter, tumbled, rummage, tremendous, glimmer, hollow</p> <p><b>Tier 3</b> Paddock, flint, chalk, burrow, quarry, hovel</p>	<b>Diversity:</b>	<p><b>Barney:</b> The protagonist, an imaginative and adventurous eight-year-old boy whose curiosity leads him to Stig.</p> <p><b>Stig:</b> A shaggy, prehistoric caveman who communicates with Barney via gestures and grunts (embodies creativity and resourcefulness).</p> <p><b>Lou:</b> Barney's older sister, who initially dismisses Stig but learns to appreciate her brother's adventures.</p> <p><b>Grandmother:</b> Barney's caretaker, unaware of his friendship with Stig (represents the adult world's skepticism).</p>
<b>Media &amp; other links:</b>	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w9HXjRtKM8Q&amp;t=59s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w9HXjRtKM8Q&amp;t=59s</a> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cxqFNxnbL0&amp;t=248s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cxqFNxnbL0&amp;t=248s</a> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8fkaxMCIW5g&amp;t=54s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8fkaxMCIW5g&amp;t=54s</a>	<b>Links to previous texts:</b>	<p>FS2 – The Three Billy Goats Gruff</p> <p>Y1 – The Night Pirates</p> <p>Y3 – The Firework Maker's Daughter &amp; Charlotte's Web</p>