

Stig of the Dump  
Chapter One – Comprehension

Section A

1. What warning did Barney's sister and grandmother give him about the chalk pit?

2. Why did Barney decide to visit the chalk pit that day?

3. What things could Barney see when he landed at the bottom of the pit?

4. Why couldn't Barney move his legs when he landed at the bottom of the chalk pit?

5. What item had Barney put in his pocket that he thought might be useful?

6. What technique does the author use when describing things in Stig's den: 'stones and bones' and 'skins and tins'?

7. Would you like to live in Stig's den? Explain your answer.

## Section B

8. What does the word 'rickety' tell you about the fence that surrounded the chalk pit?

9. What is the chalk pit now being used for?

10. Do you think Barney was lucky after his fall into the pit? Explain your answer.

11. Why does Stig hide the broken knife under a pile of rubbish?

12. What does the author mean when he says Stig's 'face lit up'?

13. Do you think Stig is pleased with his home? Explain your answer.

14. Do you feel sorry for Stig? Explain your answer.

15. Why do you think Barney's sister and grandmother don't believe him when he tells them about Stig?

## Section C

16. Look at the opening sentence. Why do you think the author starts the chapter in this way?

17. On his way to the chalk pit, Barney describes the flint as 'sticking out like bones'. What technique is being used here?

18. What evidence from the text shows that the chalk pit is large?

19. Why does the author describe Stig as 'Something', 'Somebody' and 'The Thing' at first?

20. Why do you think Barney said that he wished he lived there?

21. Why do you think Barney was not bothered by the rustling on the way back to his grandmother's house?

22. Do you think Barney is a truthful character? Explain your answer.

23. Why do you think Barney kept Stig's flint under his pillow?

## Section D

24. Barney is a risk-taker. What evidence is there in the text to support this statement?

25. Barney sees a bicycle at the bottom of the pit. He says that 'they' didn't let him have a bicycle. Who do you think 'they' are?

26. What evidence is there to show that Barney is a trusting boy?

27. Why does the author add such detail to the description of Stig's den?

28. What evidence is there to show that Stig is intelligent and resourceful?

29. What does the author mean by the phrase 'his hands looked cleverer than his face'?

30. What do you think this chapter tries to tell us about taking risks?

31. Looking at the chapter as a whole, do you think Barney is reckless? Explain your answer.

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Chapter One – Challenge Activity

Section A

Use the text to identify whether the following items could be found in Stig's den.

	Found in Stig's den	<u>NOT</u> found in Stig's den
ironing board		
vacuum cleaner tube		
television set		
piles of newspapers		
motorcar tyres		
empty suitcase		
alarm clock		
coal scuttle		
broken hairdryer		
weedkiller can		

Section B

Use a dictionary to find the definitions of the following words from the text.

rickety	
crumbly	
wreckage	
somersault	
shelter	
blunt	
niche	
muffled	

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Chapter One – Challenge Activity

Section C

Use the information in the text to decide whether these statements are true or false.

	True	False
Stig is intelligent.		
Barney is a risk-taker.		
Stig lives with his large family.		
Barney is adventurous.		
Stig is unkind.		
Barney is untruthful.		
Stig likes to collect things.		
Barney is naïve.		

Section D

Use inverted commas and other punctuation to indicate the direct speech in these sentences.

Hi Lou Barney called as he entered the house

Where have you been his sister asked irritably

I've been down to the chalk pit he replied

But I told you not to go there Lou said It is not safe

Don't worry, it was fine Barney explained In fact, I made a brand new friend

And who might that be Lou asked doubtfully

His name is Stig He lives in the dump