

STIG of the Dump KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



Context – *Stig of the Dump* was written by Clive King and was published in 1963.

Clive King – Clive King (1924-2018) was an English author, who was best known for writing *Stig of the Dump*. When he was young, he lived in a village called Ash, near Seven Oaks in Kent, and this is where *Stig of the Dump* is set. In total, he wrote over 20 books throughout his career, and most of them were written for children.



The Stone Age – The Stone Age is the name given to the earliest period of human culture – from the dawn of civilisation 2.5 million years ago, to around 5000 years ago, when humans began using stones and other natural materials to make tools and objects. There are 3 periods of the Stone Age: **Paleolithic** (Old Stone Age); **Mesolithic** (Mid Stone Age); **Neolithic** (New Stone Age). The Paleolithic era lasted for such a long time that it accounts for 99% of all human history! Humans at the time were mainly **hunter-gatherers**, and would **migrate to find food**. Stone Age people communicated using the **beginnings of language**, but this would have been very different from how we speak today!



Kent – Kent is a county in southeast England. It is famed for its white chalk cliffs. It is the setting for most of the story – Kent is the place where Barney's grandparents live. In real life, there are several Stone Age sites in Kent. One example is the **Medway Megaliths** – a group of huge, heavy stones assembled in interesting ways.



Main Characters

Barney – Barney represents an ordinary modern boy. This helps the reader to empathise with him, and imagine what it would be like if this were to happen to them! Barney likes to look for adventure, and can be mischievous (e.g. he goes to the fancy dress party even after Grandma says no). Barney has few friends before he finds Stig, and Stig helps him to become more confident.

Lou – Lou is Barney's elder sister, who joins him in living at grandmother's house in the holidays. Although Lou is a kind and supportive sister, for much of the story she does not believe Barney's tales about Stig. After she sees the mysterious creature in the forest, her ideas begin to change however. At the end of the story, Barney and Lou share the magical experience together.

Quote: "He wished he lived all the time at Granny's house so that he could get to know Stig." (p16).

Quote: "Stig's just a pretend friend, isn't he Barney?" (p16).

Stig – Stig is a stone age man (perhaps from the paleolithic era) who inhabits the 'dump' inside the chalk pit. Barney is unsure of Stig's age, or even his name ('Stig' is may just be a sound he makes). Stig is ingenious, making helpful tools out of throwaway objects. He is also kind and loyal to Barney, despite the language barrier between them.

The Snargets – The Snargets are three boys who come from the poorer end of the village. Barney recognises them as the boys who live in an undesirable house. At first, Barney and the Snargets do not get along, judging before they know one another. However, they soon realise that they have common interests and make peace.

Quote: "Stig seemed to understand that Barney was approving of his home and his face lit up." (p13).

Quote: "Dressed in jerseys and trousers that were grubbier and more tattered than his own." (p68).

Themes – A theme is an idea or message that runs throughout a text.

Friendship – Barney and Stig form an unlikely friendship, even though they are unable to communicate with one another through language. Although the two are both lonely (in their own ways) at the beginning of the story, their friendship transforms them, helping them to build their confidence and find their way in the world.



Tolerance – The story shows the power of tolerance and acceptance. Good things happen in the novel when characters accept one another for who they are. Stig and Barney are able to look beyond their differences to become good friends, protecting one another. Likewise, they accept the Snarget boys, and at the end the tribe accepts Barney and Lou.



Chapter-by-Chapter Summary – With key quotations (Spoiler alert!)

1.The Ground Gives Way	Barney is staying with his grandmother for the holidays. She warns him not to go to the edge of the chalk pit (which is now a dump). But he does not listen, and falls into the pit. There, he meets Stig, and they become friends. When Barney tells his grandmother and sister about Stig, they do not believe him.	"Something, or somebody, had a lot of shaggy black hair and two bright black eyes that were looking hard at Barney" (page 10)
2.Digging with Stig	Barney considers whether he really did meet Stig. He goes to the chalk pit, and sees Stig digging out more chalk from the wall. Barney goes to help Stig after lunch, bringing tins and jars. They invent ways to use the items. Barney thinks Stig is very clever!	"You are clever, Stig! He said. 'You've made a chimney.'" (p35)
3.It Warms You Twice	Barney returns to his grandmother's house for Christmas. When he visits Stig, he finds that he is ill and cold. They chop some wood and make a fire together. Barney heads back home in the dark, and his grandmother and sister don't believe where he has been.	"He moved as if his joints were rusty." (p42)
4.Gone A-Hunting	Lou goes on a fox-hunt with neighbours. Barney convinces Stig to go hunting too. There is a mix-up, as Barney wants Stig to hunt the foxes, but Stig thinks he should hunt birds. Stig scares off the hound chasing the fox, and attacks a hunter's horse. Lou thinks that she sees a strange creature in the woods (it was Stig).	"Lou was never quite sure whether or not she had seen...a very odd creature indeed coming whooping out of the wood." (p65)
5.The Snargets	Barney goes to visit Stig, but finds three brothers playing in the pit instead. Barney tries to hide and throw mud at them, but they trick him and try to get him. Barney is followed to Stig's shelter by the boys. Stig takes the youngest boy hostage. The older boys make a peace offering, and they all become friends.	"Stig took one...and chewed slowly...Then a smile slowly began to spread over his face." (p79).
6.Skinned and Buried	Barney is left home alone. Some thieves try to break in, so Barney gets Stig to help him. Stig scares the men away. Barney finds that his grandmother's belongings have been taken. The police do not believe Barney's story at first. However, eventually, the things are found in Stig's pit, and Barney gets a reward.	"He let out a sound that was something between a growl and a howl and dashed at the man." (p88)
7.Party Manners	Barney and Lou are invited to a fancy dress party, but Granny won't let them go. Barney gets caveman clothes from Stig and Barney and Lou sneak to the party as cavepeople. A leopard appears at the party, and Stig (who has followed them to the party) helps them to catch it.	"Its tail lay still for an instant. Its muscles were tense." (p117)
8.Midsummer Night	Barney wakes up in the night, and decides to see Stig. He awakes Lou, who comes along too. As they move towards the pit, they are taken back in time. They find Stig in amongst a tribe of cave-people. Dinah's bark alerts the cave-people to Barney and Lou, who try to escape. Barney falls to the ground whilst being chased.	"In an open space there was quite a crowd of people round the fire. None of them seemed to be wearing much." (p128-129).
9.The Standing Stones	Stig finds Barney and Lou, and helps them to be accepted by the tribe. They are welcomed into some kind of tribal ceremony, with many rituals. Barney and Lou help the tribe to erect some large stones. In the present day, the stones still stand.	"Sitting in the entrance, as if it was his own front porch, was Stig." (p154).

Language Devices		Important Vocabulary		
Simile	"It was a sneeze like a cannon going off." (p42)	Stone Age	Lever	Friendship
Interesting Verbs	"eyes blazing with excitement, bow bent to the full." (p63)	Paleolithic	Hunters	Tolerance
Personification	The Old Man's Beard plant (Chapter 1)	Mesolithic	Den	Ritual
Onomatopoeia	"There were rustlings in the dry leaves and muffled sounds." (p15)	Neolithic	Leopard	Ceremony