

Stig of the Dump  
*By Clive King*

About the Author

We are told that Clive King was born in Richmond Surrey. Where is this on a map of England? How close is it to Hayes, where we are?

*The Ground Gives Way*

What does the chapter title suggest?

1. Why do you think everybody had told Barney that by being near the edge of the chalk-pit, the ground would give way?
2. Page 2: the fence is 'rickety'. What do you think this means?
3. Find three phrases the author uses to describe the pit- why do you think the author has spent so much time writing about the pit?
4. Page 3: 'and the ground gave way.' Why has the author used a short sentence here?
5. Page 5. Why do you think Barney 'decided he wasn't dead'? What evidence do you think he used to make this decision?
6. Why couldn't Barney move his legs?
7. Why does Barney decide that the Thing's name is Stig?
8. Page 9: why do you think Barney did not force Stig to return the knife?
9. 'Bric-a-Brac and old brock' – what do you think this means?
10. Page 9: why did Stig's face 'light up'?
11. Page 13: Barney tried to get his knife back. Why do you think Stig did not return it? Why do you think this?
12. Page 15: why did Lou think Stig was a made-up friend?
13. Page 16: Why did Barney wish he lived with grandmother all the time?

*Digging with Stig*

1. Page 17: why did Barney eat his breakfast quickly?
2. Page 19: second paragraph. What time of the year do you think it was? Why?
3. Barney doubted that he had ever met Stig. What made him realise he had met Stig?
4. Page 20: 'waded through the long wet grass'- what does this suggest?
5. How did Barney manage to get Stig out?
6. Page 27 (top) What look did Stig have that made Barney worry that he should not have played the trick on him?
7. Page 30 – why do you think Stig sniffed the apple first?
8. Page 35: why does Barney think Stig is lucky?
9. Page 39: Why does Barney feel that Stig 'has got brains'?
10. Page 43: Why do you think 'Stig was fascinated'?
11. Page 48: Why was Barney pleased that a chimney had been made?
12. How did they make the next thing that was needed: the window?

*It Warms You Twice*

1. Page 56: Why did Barney wonder if Stig was 'like a dormouse'?
2. How did Barney work out that Stig had a cold?
3. Page 58: why do you think Barney chose a 'fairly thin thorn tree'?
4. Top of page 59: Barney 'puffed'- what impression does this give the reader?
5. Page 66: 'it warms you twice – cutting wood'. What do you think this means?
6. Page 70: What did Stig do that made the author think Stig felt the matches were precious?
7. Why did Lou and Grandmother laugh after Barney told them what he had been doing?
8. Why did Barney laugh along with Grandmother and Lou?
9. Why do you think Barney felt happier from helping Stig than receiving all his Christmas presents?

### *Gone A-Hunting*

1. What do you think may take place in this chapter?
2. Page 76: Lou had gone 'clattering off on the pony'. Why is 'clattering' a good verb to use in this line?
3. Page 77: 'she looked a bit smug'. What do you think to look 'smug' means? Check if you are right.
4. Page 78: "he felt like a whaler with a harpoon'. What does this mean? Why does Barney say this?
5. Page 78: 'lake of rainwater'. The rainwater did not really take the size of a lake! Why does the author write this?
6. Page 83: why did Barney start to feel afraid of Stig? Why was Stig so annoyed?
7. What advice would you have given Stig to discourage him from killing the creatures?
8. Why do you think the dog did not know if Stig was human or not?
9. Page 90: How does Clive King build up suspense before we see that Stig is pointing an arrow at a horse?
10. At the end of the chapter, Lou does not say anything when Barney says what he has been doing. For once, she is quiet. Why do you think she is quiet this time?

*The Snargets*

1. Page 98: Barney's jersey was mixed up with his bedclothes? What impression does this give you of Barney?
  2. Why does Barney throw dirt at the Snargets?
  3. Page 101: Why was Barney so sure that the Snargets were bluffing?
  4. Bottom of page 105: why do you think Barney was not feeling comfortable? Quote evidence from the text to back up your viewpoint.
  5. Page 107. "I'll tell a policeman" said Barney stoutly. What do you think 'stoutly' means?
  6. Page 107. Why did the laughter eventually die down? What do you think was running through the minds of the Snargets?
  7. Page 112. Why did the Snarget think Stig had got him?
  8. Page 116. Why did the Snargets sigh with relief? What may have happened if Stig had not liked the jelly baby?
- (Try to miss out part of the Snargets smoking the cigarettes!)
9. What do you think of the Snargets? Use evidence from the text to back up your views – 3 marks.
  10. Why did Barney feel the Snargets were 'alright' in the end?

*Skinned and Buried*

1. Which season is this chapter set in? How do you know? Find the evidence from the text copying it out directly with quotation marks.
  
2. Page 123: why did Barney nearly fall off the branch of the tree?
  
3. Page 124. Read the paragraph that describes what Barney could see from the tree. What kind of place does Grandmother live in? Use evidence from the text to back up each of your view points.
  
4. Page 125' Barney's heart fluttered.' Why does Clive King use the word 'fluttered' – to give what impression to the reader?
  
5. Page 127. Barney told Stig about the serious situation of the thieves but Stig just grinned – why?
  
6. How does Barney try to make Stig understand? Use direct evidence from the text.
  
7. Page 132. Why do you think the men dropped the suitcases?
  
8. Why do you think Barney changed his mind so quickly that the teaspoons were for a picnic?
  
9. Page 134. What must 'loot ' mean?
  
10. Page 140. Why did the policeman stop writing?
  
11. Why did Barney think the policeman was kind?

## *Party Manners*

1. Page 151. Why were Lou and Barney gloomy?
2. What does it mean 'they hadn't the heart'?
3. Why would Stig's skirt keep off the rain?
4. Page 155. Why did Stig look relieved?
5. How did Barney use the marbles as money?
6. Page 160 'Lou jumped like a startled cat' – what impressions does this give the reader?
7. Page 163- why could Lou and Barney not stay inside any longer 'without bursting'? Were they really going to burst? What does this mean?
8. Page 166. Why did Lou and Barney hold hands?
9. Page 171. Why does the author say that Mrs Fawkham-Greene was well organised?
10. Page 177. Why did Barney feel he was turning into stone himself? What does this tell us about how he was feeling?
11. Page 180. The boy dressed as Zorro 'retreated'. What do you think 'retreated' means?
12. The children did not visit the circus. Why was the circus mentioned at the start of the chapter? (Think of how the chapter ends...)

### *Midsummer Night*

1. Why is it still daylight even though Barney is in bed?
2. Why couldn't Barney sleep?
3. Page 189. Why did the dog even hesitate?
4. Page 192. What does it mean when it says Barney 'twined his fingers more deeply in the pony's mane'? Why did Barney do this?
5. Page 194. Why do they think the place does not seem like England? Don't forget to use direct evidence from the text.
6. Barney 'rummaged' in his pocket. What do you think 'rummaged' means? What impression does this give you of Barney's pocket?
7. The chapter ends on a cliff hanger. What do you think is going to happen next?

### *The Standing Stones*

1. How did Lou figure out that Stig could not speak English?
2. Page 208. Why do you think the others lowered their weapons? Write what you think was said.
3. Page 208. What made Barney think he was invited to the party?
4. Page 209. Why did they have to walk in single file?

5. Page 210. Why were Lou's shorts ripped?
  
6. Page 214. The author describes the chief as using a 'majestic' voice. Why do you think he has used this adjective?
  
7. Why do you think Lou and Barney were reluctant to eat the meat?
  
8. Pages 222 and 223. How does the author build up suspense on this page? Explain and give evidence for each of your thoughts.
  
9. List the things that happened that night that made Lou feel as if she had been in a dream.
  
  
10. Where do you think Stig is now?
  - If you could meet Stig: what would you ask him?
  
  - What did you think of this book? Why?
  
  - Is this book similar to any other book you have read? Why do you say this?
  
  - What do you think inspired Clive King to write a book based on a person living in a dump?
  
- Write a character description of Barney. Use direct evidence from the text to back up your opinions.