

Stig of the Dump
Chapter Five – Comprehension

Section A

1. Who was Barney surprised to see in the pit?

2. What were the boys doing when Barney looked into the pit?

3. How did the Snargets trick Barney?

4. What did the Snargets say their names were?

5. What was Stig doing when Barney eventually found him?

6. What did the Snargets threaten to do to Barney when they caught him?

7. Why did Stig eat the cigarette?

Section B

8. Why did Barney say it didn't look 'very fresh' outside?

9. How do you think Barney felt when he heard voices in the chalk pit?

10. What do you think is meant by the phrase 'horseplay'?

11. Would you go inside the Snargets' shack if you were Barney? Explain your answer.

12. On page 106, Barney thinks that the Snarget brothers might get 'rough'. What do you think Barney means by this?

13. The boy calling himself Robin Hood refers to 'arrers'. What does he mean?

14. How did Barney describe Stig to the Snargets?

15. Use a dictionary to find the meaning of the word 'ignorant'.

Section C

16. Which adverb is used to describe the way Barney moved to the edge of the pit?)

17. Why do you think Barney threw the clod of clay at the Snargets?

18. What does the word ‘scowling’ tell the reader about the way the Snargets feel?

19. Was Barney right to open the tin box that belonged to the Snargets? Explain your answer.

20. What does the Snarget boy mean when he says ‘you can’t ‘alf tell ‘em!’?

21. Stig is a sensitive character. Do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.

22. What do you think the phrase ‘not as black as they were painted’ mean?

23. Think of three questions you would like to ask the Snarget brothers at this point in the story.

Section D

24. The Snarget brothers blamed each other when the clods of clay hit the shelter. Why do you think they did this?

25. Do you think Barney was unkind to throw the mud at the Snarget brothers? Explain your answer.

26. The author uses the word ‘scornfully’ to describe the way the boys spoke to Barney. Use a dictionary to find the meaning of this word.

27. Compare the way the Snarget brothers speak with the way that Barney speaks.

28. Stig gives one of the Snarget boys a ‘fatherly’ look when he falls down. What do you think this means?

29. What does the phrase ‘white flag’ mean?

30. Stig places the jelly baby ‘reverently’ in the niche in the cave. What does this adverb tell us about what Stig thinks of the jelly baby?

31. How does your view of the Snarget brothers change throughout the chapter?

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Chapter Five – Challenge Activity

Section A

Match the words from the text with their correct meaning.

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|-------------|---------------------------|
| 1. shrill | a. a prisoner |
| 2. distant | b. broken bits and pieces |
| 3. meddle | c. worth a great deal |
| 4. captive | d. high-pitched sound |
| 5. rubble | e. to interfere |
| 6. valuable | f. a promise |
| 7. puzzled | g. far off; far away |
| 8. oath | h. to be confused |

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Section B

Find as many alternatives for 'said' as you can within the chapter.

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Section C

An adverb describes a verb, an adjective, or another adverb. It can tell us how, how often, when, and where.

Find examples of adverbs from this chapter.

Section D

Imagine a conversation taking place between the three Snarget brothers on the way home after meeting Stig.

Write the conversation including the correct speech punctuation and alternative verbs for 'said' and adverbs.