

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Reading – Stig of the Dump

Below are the ages 24 and 25. Answer the comprehension questions based on this extract.

He set off running, back to the garden. Presents for Stig! When you visited people this time of year you always brought something from the garden: tomatoes you couldn't bottle or apples you hadn't room to store. He looked round the big old apple tree for windfalls. There were some big ones, difficult to manage without a basket, but he stuffed them into his shirt, making sure there weren't any wasps in them first. What else? He saw a line of carrots – his favourite fruit! He was allowed to pull up carrots, they were good for his teeth, so he heaved up a few good-sized ones and rubbed the earth off with his fingers. Then he had an idea and ran to the tool-shed where he found a ball of garden string. It was all right just to *borrow* it. Back he ran again, across the garden, over the fence, across the paddock, over into the copse, and through the brambles and dead leaves to the edge of the pit.

He sat himself comfortably on the trunk of the tree that curved out over the pit like the neck

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of a camel, and looked carefully again at what he could see. There was the broken edge of the cliff, there were the trailing creepers, there at the bottom were the scattered lumps of chalk that had come down with him. And now that he was really looking at it he could see a piece of new linoleum – well, not exactly new, nothing in the dump was new, but it looked as if it had been put there not long ago because it wasn't covered with moss like things that had been there for a long time. And he could see, at one side of this pile of branches and things that was Stig's lean-to roof, a faint path in the bottom of the pit that led to the front of the den.

He found the end of the ball of string and tied the bunch of carrots to it. Then he began to pay out the string, with the carrots dangling on the end, towards the bottom of the pit. He hoped it was long enough. There always seems to be miles of string in a ball, but it dwindled and dwindled as he lowered the carrots down, until he was afraid that it

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## Vocabulary

Find the meanings of the words in the table and write the definition.

Word	Definition
Windfalls	
Copse	
Linoleum	
Dwindled	

## Retrieve

1. What items from the garden did Barney think people took when visiting someone? \_\_\_\_\_
2. On age 24, what items did Barney collect? \_\_\_\_\_
3. On page 25, which word means the path was unclear? \_\_\_\_\_
4. a) Find the phrase that shows Barney knew that the linoleum was new to the dump? \_\_\_\_\_

**Infer** b) How do you think Barney felt when he noticed this? Why?

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