

'CAVEGIRL by Abi Longstaff and Shane Crampton

Ages 6-7

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What's it all about?

Aggie is very worried! She needs to get a present for her Mum's birthday but can't think of anything! Shiny stones and bone needles are just too boring! Her Mum deserves something amazing!

Aggie discovers that Gron has a piece of amber that would be perfect! But getting the amber may be trickier than Aggie thought, especially when an angry wild boar appears and chases her through the woods...Will she be able to keep the amber safe and ensure her Mum has the best birthday?

This fun prehistoric adventure from author Abie Longstaff is ideal for Key Stage 1 children who are learning to read by themselves. It features colourful, informative illustrations by Shane Crampton and an exciting storyline that readers will enjoy, whilst also learning lots about the stone age!

You may choose to focus on one type of reading question during a lesson, or a variety of VIPERS or you may even wish to use this guide as a starting point and then allow the children to come up with their own ideas and opinions and lines of enquiry!

Because the novel study guide is to be used to aid discussion between the adult and children, we feel there isn't a necessity for an answer booklet.

The guide provides questions and spaces for the children to record their ideas and answers but is not intended to be used as a test.

As there are many lovely pictures in this book it is important to invite the children to examine them carefully. You could encourage the children to use a magnifying glass or photocopy and enlarge a certain part of an image. Throughout the book, encourage the children to investigate:

- Page layout
- How the illustrations are framed
- The use of colour
- How the text is written – some words are in capitals and some are written at an angle, across the page
- The facial expressions of the characters

Chapter One

Vocabulary	Create a mindmap of words, themes and ideas linked to the stone age. Can you find an example of a simile on page 5 and explain what it means? What is amber? Can you find out what it is and draw a picture of it? (page 5) What does it mean if you trade with someone? (page 6)
Infer	Make a list of five interesting things you can see on page 3. What clues do they give you about the story and setting? What does the verb 'rushing' suggest about how Dib is feeling? What does the illustration on page 6 tell us about the family's relationship?
Predict	Look at the front cover and spend some time predicting what might happen in the story. Are there any clues about when the story is set? Read page 7. Predict what Gron might want – are there any clues that might help your prediction?
Explain	How does the illustration on page 3 help you understand how Aggie is feeling? Look at her facial expression and body language. Explain why a woolly mammoth tooth might be too boring. (page 4) How does the illustration on page 4 draw your attention onto Dib?
Retrieve	What is the name of the main character in this story? Who is Dib? (page 4) Dib has found a piece of amber. True or false? (page 5) Look at the illustration on page 7 – what sorts of things could Aggie trade?
Sequence	Complete these sentences: This chapter starts with Aggie thinking about... This chapter ends with Aggie deciding...

Chapters Two and Three

Vocabulary	What is the name of the piece of punctuation at the end of page 8? What effect does it have? What is the name of the piece of punctuation here: A basket! How should this be read? Which word is similar in meaning to 'skilful, accomplished'? (pg 10) What is pelt? (page 12)
Infer	What might Aggie be thinking and feeling when Urg gives her the clay? (page 10) Describe in three words how Aggie feels about the coat (page 16).
Predict	Read to the end of Chapter 2. Predict what Aggie will use the clay for. Read page 16. Predict if Gron will like the coat. Will he trade the coat for the amber?
Explain	Explain why Aggie picks the 'strongest' reeds. (page 8) Why is 'down, down, down' set out like this? What effect does it have? (page 10) Explain what Frina will use the pot for. (page 12) Why doesn't Aggie use plastic buttons for the coat? (page 14)
Retrieve	What does Aggie spend all morning making? (page 8) What does Aggie want to swap the basket for? (page 9) Why does Aggie ask Urg to help her find clay? (page 10) Aggie uses the clay to make a small pot. True or false? (page 11) Why does Aggie put the pot in the fire pit? (page 13) What does Aggie use to decorate the coat? (page 14)
Sequence	What happens after Aggie gives Urg the basket? What does he do? (page 10) What does Aggie give Frina before she receives her strips of pelt? (page 12)

Chapter Four

Vocabulary	Try reading out loud "Hooray!" How can you show Aggie's feelings through your expression? Which words and phrases are particularly effective at helping you imagine what the wild boar looks like?
Infer	Look at page 17. What can you infer about Gron from the illustration and the way he speaks to Aggie? What might Aggie be thinking and feeling on page 19 when she holds the amber? What does the verb 'thundered' suggest about the wild boar? (page 22)
Predict	Read page 17. Predict how Gron will react to the coat. Look at the illustration on pages 20 and 21. Are there any clues about what might happen next? What might be causing the 'snuffle' and 'scuff' sounds in the bushes? Read to the end of page 23. Predict what could happen to the amber.
Explain	Imagine that Gron does not want to trade with Aggie. Role-play the scene in partners – one of you should play Aggie and one of you should play Gron. How can you convince Gron to trade? Would you swap the amber for the coat? Why? Why not? How does the author create a sense of tension and excitement on pages 22 and 23? Think carefully about the length of the sentences!
Retrieve	What is Gron's house made from? (page 17) Complete this sentence: Gron gasped because...(page 18) Which creature bursts out of the bushes?
Sequence	At the beginning of the chapter, Gron refuses to swap the amber. True or false? At the end of the chapter, a woolly mammoth eats the amber. True or false? What happens after Aggie trips and falls? (page 24)

Chapters Five and Six

Vocabulary	What is the difference between a wild and tame animal? Replace the words in bold with synonyms: Aggie decided to make a beautiful coat with shiny buttons and soft fur to trade with Gron.										
Infer	How is Aggie feeling at the beginning of Chapter 5? How do you know? How does Mum feel about the present? How do you know?										
Predict	Read to the end of page 27. Predict what Aggie's idea will be. Read page 28 and predict what Aggie will paint. Do you think Aggie will find the amber again? Write a new stone-age adventure for Aggie to go on. What will happen next? Will she find the amber?										
Explain	Is there anything interesting about how the words and sentences are set out on page 26? Why might this be? Aggie is brave and hard-working. Do you agree with this? Why? Why not? Find your favourite illustration in this story and explain why it is your favourite.										
Retrieve	What does Aggie find by the river? (page 28) Aggie makes a brush from wild boar hair. True or false? (page 28) What has Aggie made Mum? (page 31)										
Sequence	Create your own stone age inspired storyboard, using charcoal, to show the events of the story. Order these events from 1-5. One has been done for you? <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 5%;"></td><td>She discovers that Gron has found a shimmering piece of amber.</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>Gron trades the amber for the coat, but on her way home a wild boar eats the amber!</td></tr> <tr> <td>1</td><td>Aggie is worried because she has nothing to give her Mum for her birthday.</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>Aggie paints a story for her Mum instead – her Mum is thrilled with her present!</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>Aggie trades with the other people in the village so she can make a beautiful coat to give to Gron.</td></tr> </table>		She discovers that Gron has found a shimmering piece of amber.		Gron trades the amber for the coat, but on her way home a wild boar eats the amber!	1	Aggie is worried because she has nothing to give her Mum for her birthday.		Aggie paints a story for her Mum instead – her Mum is thrilled with her present!		Aggie trades with the other people in the village so she can make a beautiful coat to give to Gron.
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