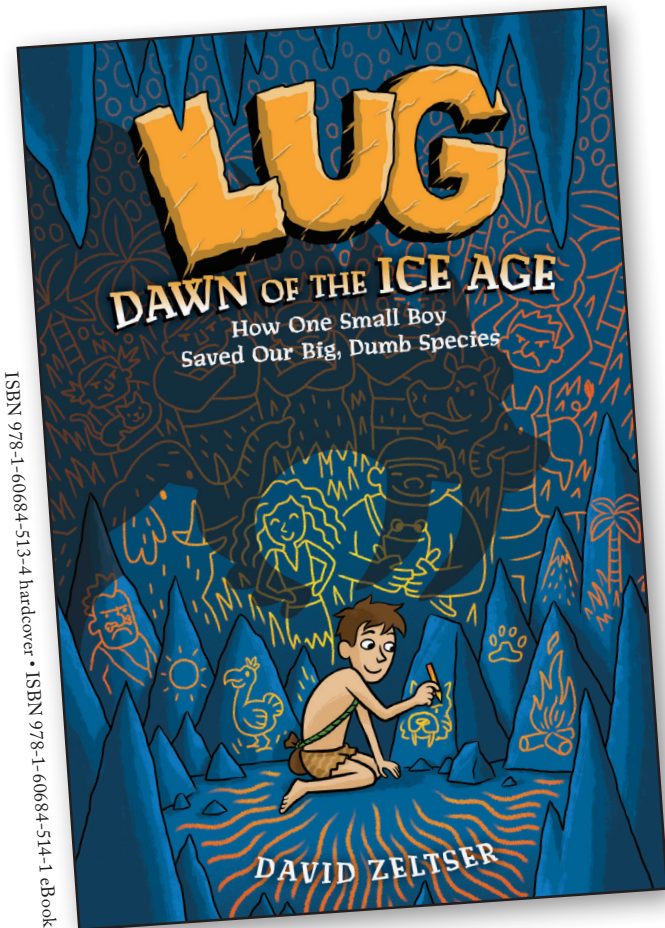


CURRICULUM GUIDE



LUG DAWN OF THE ICE AGE

**How One Small Boy
Saved Our Big, Dumb Species**

BY DAVID ZELTSE

**A hilarious middle-grade novel
about a misunderstood caveboy
and climate change**

Lug would rather paint pictures than smash skulls like the other boys in his clan. Because he's different, he's got bullies on his tail and the clan's Big Man is out to get him. When Lug is banished for failing to catch a jungle llama, he teams up with Stony, a silent

Neanderthal with a very expressive unibrow, and Echo, who just may be prehistory's first vegetarian and animal-rights activist. Lug discovers the Ice Age is coming and must bring two rival clans together to save them from the freeze—and a particularly unpleasant migrating pride of saber-toothed tigers. How do you convince a bunch of cavemen that climate change is more than “just a little weather?”

“*Lug* blasts its way from pre-history to the present in a laugh-aloud funny, big-hearted story full of smart surprises. David Zeltser's voice is fresh and witty, with some important things to say about modern life, in a delightful mix of satire and silliness.”

—**Peter Lerangis**, *New York Times* bestselling author of the *Seven Wonders* series

“Readers will cheer for prehistory's earliest underdog in this rollicking adventure of cave kids, wild boars, and woolly mammoths. *Lug* makes the Ice Age sizzle.”

—**Gordon Korman**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The 39 Clues* and *Swindle* series

“Fred Flintstone would feel right at home in this light-as-pumice comedy.” —**Kirkus Reviews**

“A roaring addition for public and school libraries.” —**School Library Journal**

Common Core State Standards addressed by the discussion questions and activities in this guide are noted throughout. For more information on the Common Core, visit statestandards.org.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Study the title of the book, the cover illustration, and the page of introductory text before chapter 1 begins. What predictions can you make about the setting, the characters, and the problem in this novel? Cite evidence from the illustration and the text to support your predictions.
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.7 and 3.7
- The story begins with the main character, Lug, lying injured on a cave floor. Lug has no recollection of what led to his injury but his family voices their disapproval of his recent behavior. What information about Lug and his family is revealed in this first scene?
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1, 3.1, 4.1, and 5.1
- Lug is observant of the world around him. He begins to notice that it is becoming colder and that the plants are changing. Look back through chapter 3 to find examples of Lug's observations about how his environment is changing. Predict what Lug's observations about his world may mean.
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1, 3.1, 4.1, and 5.1
- Due to his lack of hunting skill, Lug is called before the Council Circle. What is the decision of the council and which other characters are also affected by the council's decision?
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1, 3.1, 4.1, and 5.1
- Stony is Lug's companion. Why do you think the author decided to have Stony not speak? How does Stony's quiet presence add to the story? How would the story change if Stony were to speak?
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3 and 5.3
- Lug and Stony are discovered in the jungle by their clan's enemies, the Boar Riders. Lug's clan considered the Boar Riders to be dirty and uncivilized. What do Lug and Stony realize once they are brought to the Boar Rider village? **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1, 3.1, 4.1, and 5.1**
- How is the character of Echo helpful to Lug and Stony as they try to figure out a way to return to the clan from which they were banished? **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.3, 3.3, and 4.3**
- Why is it easy for Lug to connect to the character of Crazy Crag? What do the two characters have in common? **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.3**
- Lug is different from his peers in his clan. He is not interested in hunting and prefers to create art. Bonehead and Bugeyes tease Lug and call him Little Slug. What changes does Lug undergo in the story that make him less of a target for the bullies? **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.3, 3.3, 4.3, and 5.2**
- Stony has Froggy and Echo has Woolly. How are these two animals helpful in solving problems that the characters encounter?
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.3, 3.3, and 4.3
- How does Crazy Crag's "storm light" help save Lug's clan?
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1, 3.1, 4.1, and 5.1



- Crazy Crag lives near the top of Mount Bigbigbig. It is considered a sacred place off limits to Lug and his clan. Lug and Echo break the rules and travel to the top of the mountain. What new information do they learn when they look down from the mountain? How does this new perspective help them understand the changes that are coming? **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1, 3.1, 4.1, and 5.1**
- When Lug goes to Crazy Crag's cave on Mount Bigbigbig, Lug and Crag have a brief dialog about the shift in climate:

Lug: "The mammoths said they haven't seen a single human settlement that's survived."

Crag: "Then it's probably too late."

Lug: "Why?"

Crag: "Because the problem has gotten too big. Nothing can be done."

Lug's world is becoming colder, plants are withering, and new animals are migrating farther south. Do you agree that the problem can't be solved? Why? Why not? How do the changes in Lug's environment compare to the climate changes the world faces today?

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.2, 4.2, and 5.2

ACTIVITIES



- Lug recorded his life and the lives of his clan by drawing on the walls of a secret cave. Try your hand at telling a story through drawings like Lug does. Take a brown paper bag and cut it so that the bag becomes one long piece of brown paper. Crumple it and then unfold it. Using brown, black, red, and yellow crayons draw a picture of the scene in chapter 20 where the saber-toothed tigers have Lug surrounded as his stick of fire grows smaller and smaller. Re-read the section of the story that describes the attack to make sure that your cave drawing includes all of the necessary details.
- Crazy Crag was originally banished from the clan because of his inquisitive nature and desire to invent new things. When Lug goes to Crazy Crag's cave, he discovers that Crazy Crag has invented several things in addition to discovering the power of fire. Pretend you are a member of Lug's clan. What type of useful tool could you invent? Use only natural materials such as rocks, shells, sticks, and vines to create a model of your caveman tool. Write a description of how your tool would be used.
- Investigate how a changing atmosphere affects temperature. You will need two small towels, two thermometers, a clear glass lid to a casserole dish, a stopwatch, and paper and pen to record your observations. Lay the towels on a table in direct sunlight. Place a thermometer at the center of each towel. Place the glass lid over the top of one of the thermometers. Take a temperature reading from both thermometers every 30 seconds for at least 10 minutes. Create a line graph with a different colored line for each thermometer, with time in 30-second increments on the horizontal axis and temperature in Fahrenheit on the vertical axis. What do you notice about the data you collected? Were the temperatures the same for each thermometer? Why or why not? How might an increased amount of CO₂ in our atmosphere be analogous to the glass lid?

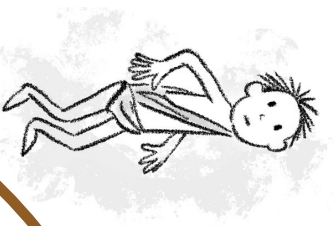
The discussion questions and activities in this guide were created by Leigh Courtney, PhD. She teaches in the Global Education program at a public elementary school in San Diego, California. She holds both master's and doctoral degrees in education, with an emphasis on curriculum and instruction.

VENN DIAGRAM

Name _____

Comparing two characters from the story

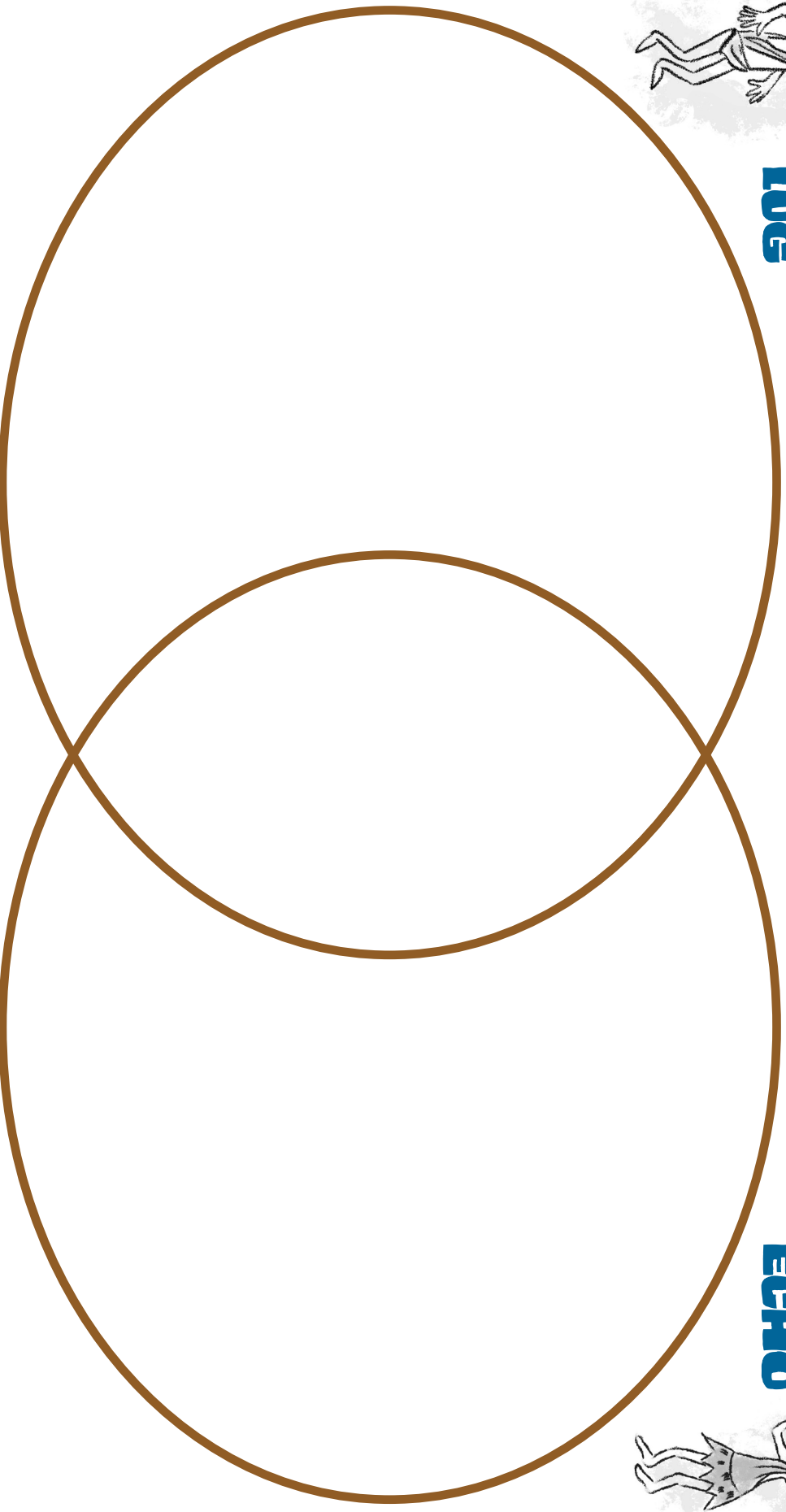
Lug meets Echo when he and Stony are on the run from their clan. Echo and Lug are alike in some ways, but there are also marked differences in their personalities. Fill in the Venn diagram below with story information that illustrates which characteristics are shared by Echo and Lug and which characteristics make each unique.



LUG



ECHO



DEFINING VOCABULARY

Using context clues to understand vocabulary

Read the following sentences from *Lug: Dawn of the Ice Age*. Study the underlined word in each passage. Using the other words in the passages, determine the meaning of the underlined word. Write your own definition of it and then look up the word in a dictionary to confirm its meaning. Write the dictionary definition of the word in the space provided.

“A great raucous laughter went up around the circle. The Big Man GUFFAWED uncontrollably, his jowls and belly jiggling in unison. Even Snortimer smiled.”

Your definition _____

Dictionary definition _____

“If you failed at either step you were considered unworthy, cast out into the jungle, and expected to politely die. In all the stories I’d heard, only one BANISHED caveboy was said to have survived into cavemanhood.”

Your definition _____

Dictionary definition _____

“B-b-but” STAMMERED Bonehead, “but me next Big Man!”

Your definition _____

Dictionary definition _____

“I stopped talking, thinking that I’d heard something moving in the FOLIAGE, but I decided that it was just the wind rustling in the leaves.”

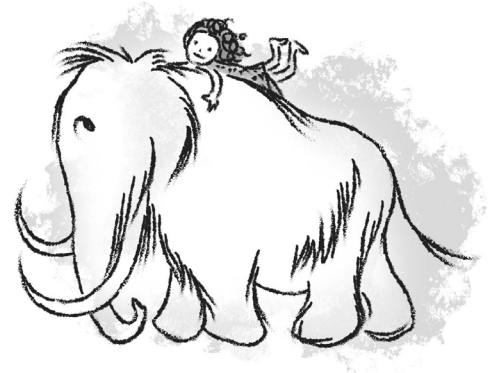
Your definition _____

Dictionary definition _____

“As the sun DESCENDED, my friends and I led Woolly back through the jungle to the big red cavern by the creek. For the rest of the evening, the young mammoth just lay there...”

Your definition _____

Dictionary definition _____

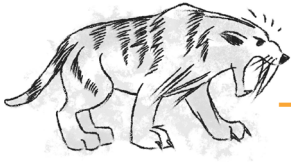


CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.4, 4.4, and 5.4

ALL IN ORDER

Sequencing story events

Read the story events in the list below. Decide the order in which they occurred in *Lug: Dawn of the Ice Age*. Number the story events from 1-8 in the correct order.



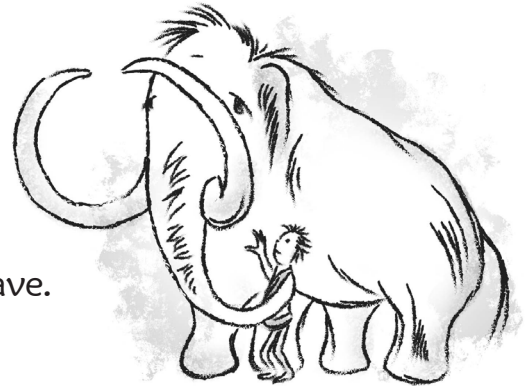
_____ The Boar Riders capture Stony and Lug and take them back to the Boar Riders' village as prisoners.

_____ Lug learns about fire from Crazy Crag and brings fire back to his village.

_____ Lug is knocked out while trying to catch a macrauchenia to ride in the Big Game and finds out that his clan is set to banish him.

_____ Echo helps Lug and Stony escape from the tiny dark cave where the Boar Riders have imprisoned them.

_____ After Lug successfully brings the two clans together, his family goes to see his secret art cave.



_____ Lug discovers that Woolly the mammoth can draw when he finds Woolly drawing a picture of himself with his mother. Lug understands what happened to Woolly's family.

_____ Lug rides Woolly in the shortest Big Game ever and wins the right for Lug and Stony to rejoin the clan.

_____ Smilus and the other saber-toothed tigers appear at Lug's village at dawn, ready to attack both clans hiding in the caves.