



Maroo of the Winter Caves

Ann Turnbull

Teacher's Guide

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Synopsis

Chapter 1

The novel takes place at the end of the Ice Age and describes a tribe of hunter-gatherers. When the novel opens, Maroo, a young girl around age 13, awakens hungry. She gives her little sister Nimai a root to still her hunger pains. Old Mother, the children's grandmother, is preparing the fire. She sends the children out to find some herbs to flavor the hot water as they wait for the hunters to return with meat. Maroo is joined by her younger brother Otak. The hunters return, and the children run to greet them.

Chapter 2

The hunters have slain a bison and the tribe feasts all day. After, the tribe prepares to leave for their summer hunting. Maroo gathers her small treasures. She fears the spirits that the tribe believes inhabit the mountains.

Chapter 3

Soon, the tribe passes the White Mountain and reaches the Great Plain. They eagerly feast on a cache of delicious grubs.

Chapter 4

The children find a dead she-dog and her injured wild pup. Maroo bandages the pup and brings it to camp. To the children's joy, their father Areg gives them permission to keep the dog, even though it will consume precious food. While they eat, Old Mother tells a story, to everyone's enjoyment.

Chapter 5

Maroo cares for the puppy and the children gradu-

ally tame him. They name the puppy Rivo, which means "friend."

Chapter 6

The tribe travels for about two weeks. Tikek, the children's mother, is soon due to deliver her third child. The tribe reaches the sea, new to Maroo, and the children frolic happily in the waves and sand. They watch the seals, whom they call the "Seal People," and collect valued shells. They stay at the beach through high summer and into autumn, when Tikek's baby is born.

Chapter 7

They do not yet name the baby. Since the family has been delayed waiting for the baby's birth, they decide that Sovi's group will go on ahead. Areg and Vorka, his brother, hunt for much-needed meat. When the men do not return, Old Mother sends Maroo after them. Maroo finds them at the base of a cliff: Areg is dead and Vorka is badly injured.

Chapter 8

Under Old Mother's guidance, Maroo descends the treacherous cliff and rescues Vorka. They bring up Areg's body and bury it, amid much grief. They name the new baby Areg after his dead father.

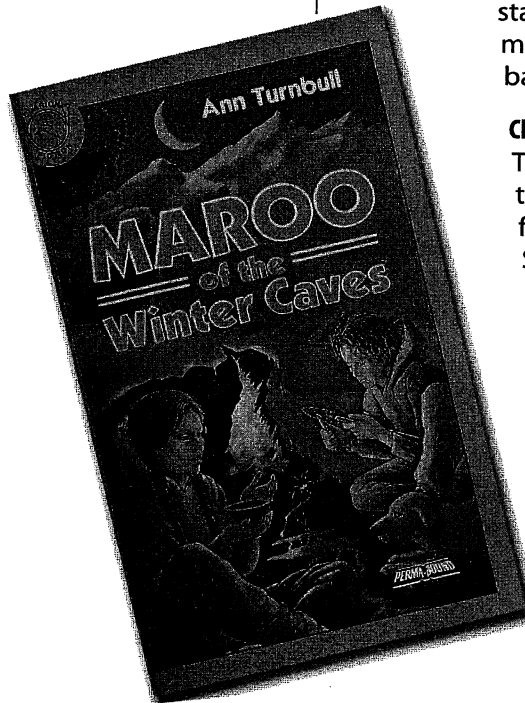
Vorka is devastated about his brother's death.

Chapter 9

Vorka gradually recovers his spirit, but he is not much use because of his broken arm. Otak and Rivo hunt small game, supporting the family while Vorka can not hunt. The snows come and Old Mother hurries them on before they get marooned without food during the long winter. The march is so difficult that to her shame, Maroo breaks down in tears. They stop and built a snow house, where they wait until the blizzard stops.

Chapter 10

For two days the blizzard rages. The children save the family by seizing the rest of a deer killed by



wolves. Realizing that the family will never reach the hunting grounds in time, Old Mother sends Maroo and Otak to cross the mountain and get help. It is their only chance, yet a highly dangerous plan.

Chapter 11

Old Mother tells the children how to find the White Mountain. She tells Otak that Maroo is the leader, which Otak resents. The children begin their perilous journey through the lonely tundra. After a day of trudging, they make camp for the night.

Chapter 12

The children reach the glacier and Maroo is caught in an avalanche. She digs free, but the children are shaken by their brush with death. They see a big ibex and think perhaps it is their father's spirit, watching over them.

Chapter 13

Caught in a blizzard, the children make a snow house for shelter. They fear the huge cave lion they have spotted. To calm themselves, they tell stories. Their food is almost gone so they must hunt.

Chapter 14

The next morning, the blizzard has blown out. They pass a cave, which frightens them because it might be sheltering the dangerous cave lion. Maroo spears a hare with Otak's spear, which infuriates him because it is a blow to his pride. The next morning, Maroo awakens to find that Otak and Rivo have gone.

Chapter 15

Maroo waits for Otak and searches for him, but finally decides that she must go on. She treks on, exhausted. To her despair, Maroo realizes that she has walked in a circle. She confronts a huge lion, but scares him off with a torch. She keeps walking and staggers into camp, finding her people at last. All four tribes are there.

Chapter 16

Although delighted to be safe and have accomplished her mission, Maroo is devastated that her brother is dead. The young men search for Otak, but cannot find him. The young men rescue Old Mother and the rest of Maroo's family, led by Maroo. Several days later, Rivo returns, followed by Otak! Otak tells Maroo that he would have died without Rivo. Time passes and once again the people seek the winter caves.

Timeline

- c. 2.5 million b.c. People start using stone tools
- c. 1.5 million b.c. First Ice Age begins
- c. 70,000 b.c. Old Stone Age begins
- c. 10,000 b.c. Last Ice Age ends
- c. 9,000-1800 b.c. The New Stone Age. Farming begins.
- c. 7,000-5500 b.c. Catal Hüyük
- c. 6000 b.c. Copper first used for tools
- c. 3500-2000 b.c. Bronze first used for tools
- c. 1500 b.c. Iron first used for tools

Author Sketch

Ann Turnbull was born in 1943 Hertford, England, the daughter of an executive. She attended Bexley Technical School from 1956-1960. From 1960 to 1971, Ann worked as a secretary in London and Reading to support her goal of becoming a writer, a long-time desire.



On her website, Ann explained her desire to write: "I've been writing since I was about six years old and started writing historical novels intended for adults when I was sixteen and sending them to publishers. It was thirteen years before I got anything accepted, and that was after being introduced to modern children's novels at college and realizing that this was where my own interest really lay."

In 1971, Ann enrolled in Balls Park College of Education, which she attended for two years. She then taught for a year in Stevenage, England. She married Simon Thorne in 1966, but they divorced seven years later. She married Timothy Nicol, a landscape architect, in 1973. They have a son.

Critic's Corner

Ann Turnbull was shortlisted for the W. H. Smith Mind-boggling Books Award as well as the Smarties Book Prize, both for *Pigeon Summer*. *No Shame, No Fear* earned her shortlist status for the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize and the Whitbread Children's Book Award.

"Turnbull has a sure, deft hand with description," praised a reviewer for *Publishers Weekly*. Speaking of *Maroo of the Summer Caves*, a reviewer on amazon.com noted: "Because it's not long and has simple language, you may think it [the novel] is a quick read, but it's actually well-researched, interesting and stays with you." Another amazon.com reviewer was equally impressed by the novel: "This is a great historical fiction... Ann Turnbull makes the story clear and exciting."

Other Books by Ann Turnbull

The Frightened Forest (1975)
The Wolf King (1976)
Summer of the Cats (1989)
Never a Witch's Cat (1989)
The Queen Cat (1989)
The Sand Horse (1989)
Rob Goes a-Hunting (1990)
Make It, Break It (1990)
The Lost Spaceship (1990)
There's a Monster under My Bed (1990)
A Flying Day (1991)
Pigeon Summer (1992)
The Tapestry Cats (1992)
No Friend of Mine (1994)
Too Tired (1994)
Room for a Stranger (1996)
Deep Water (1996)
The Sleeping Beauty (1997)
A Long Way Home (1998)
The Fairy Cow (1998)
House of Ghosts (2000)
The Serpent's Cave (2000)
Gunner's Boy (2002)
No Shame, No Fear (2004)
Josie under Fire (2004)
Forged in the Fire (2006)

Bibliography

American Bookseller, August, 1992, review of *Speedwell*.
Booklist, December 15, 1992, Candace Smith, review of *Speedwell*; March 15, 1994, Stephanie Zvirin, review of *Too Tired*, p. 1375; August, 1995, Hazel Rochman, review of *No Friend of Mine*, p. 1950; May 1, 1996, Hazel Rochman, review of *Room for a Stranger*, p. 1508; October 1, 2004, Cindy Welch, review of *No Shame, No Fear*,

p. 340. Kliatt, November, 2004, Claire Rosser, review of *No Shame, No Fear*, p.12.

Contemporary Authors Online, Thomson Gale, 2006.

Publishers Weekly, November 23, 1990, Diane

Roback and Richard Donahue, review of *Make*

It, Break It, p. 64; July 13, 1992, review of *The*

Tapestry Cats, p. 54; April 11, 1994, review of *Too*

Tired, p. 64; May 13, 1996, review of *No Room for*

a Stranger, p. 77.

School Library Journal, November, 2004, Laura Reed,

review of *No Shame, No Fear*, p. 155.

General Objectives

1. To understand what life might have been like in the Stone Age
2. To appreciate the difficulty of survival during the Stone Age
3. To learn how hunter-gatherers lived
4. To enjoy an exciting adventure story
5. To study strong, brave characters
6. To understand the hope that stories give us
7. To define maturity
8. To analyze different characters
9. To describe the beliefs of Stone Age people
10. To explore the conventions of historical fiction

Specific Objectives

1. To understand why Stone Age families follow the herds
2. To examine the foods they eat
3. To probe how Areg's death affects the family
4. To analyze the family's structure
5. To appreciate Maroo's maturity and sense of responsibility
6. To understand why Old Mother sends Maroo and Otak ahead alone
7. To determine what the ibex symbolizes
8. To analyze the family's belief in spirits
9. To compare and contrast Maroo and the reader
10. To identify the novel's structure, especially its climax

Literary Terms and Applications

For a better understanding of Ann Turnbull's style, present the following terms and applications to the novel:

description a word picture of what something or someone is like. Description is made up of sensory details that help readers form pictures in their minds. Turnbull uses a great deal of description, evident from the first page of the novel: "She lay for a moment with her eyes shut, imagining biting into tough, hot meat, savoring the charred, smoke-tasting outer part and then the salty blood within." By appealing to the reader's sense of smell, taste, sight, and touch, the description helps readers imagine that they are in the Stone Age themselves.

conflict in literature is a struggle or fight. Conflict makes a story interesting because readers want to find out the outcome.

conflict There are two kinds of conflict. In an external conflict, characters struggle against a force outside themselves. In an internal conflict, characters battle a force within themselves. Novels often contain both external and internal conflicts. Maroo and her family face an external conflict as they battle the fierce winter weather. Maroo faces several internal conflicts, most notably when she is torn over whether to go on after Otak and Rivo disappear.

theme the main idea in a literary work, the author's general statement about life. The theme of *Maroo of the Winter Caves* concerns the importance of maturity and responsibility. Even though she is barely a teenager, Maroo does not hesitate to trek through the frozen wilderness to save her family. As a result, Maroo is an excellent role model for young—and old—readers.

The Importance of Setting

Maroo of the Winter Caves is set in the Paleolithic era or Stone Age. Based on fossils, ancient tools, skeletons, and other clues, scientists believe that human life began in Africa over two million years ago. For nearly 2.5 million years, people made tools mainly from stone. As a result, this era is called the Stone Age. This setting is integral to the novel because of the demands it places on the charac-

ters. It was a brutally difficult life because of the cruel weather and wild animals.

During the past billion years, Earth's climate has varied greatly. There have been warm periods and cold periods. The Ice Age was the coldest period of all. The name refers to a period that started 70,000 years ago, peaked about 20,000 years ago, and ended about 10,000 years ago. During the Ice Age, ice covered more than one-third of Earth's surface. Hunter-gatherers survived the brutal winters by building fires for warmth and cooking. During the warmer months, hunters traveled great distances tracking bison, reindeer, and other animals, as we see in the novel. They stored food for the winter by drying it or smoking it over a fire. They built stronger shelters and made warmer clothing out of animal furs, too.

Since the Paleolithic people were always on the move, as is evident in *Maroo of the Winter Caves*, they had to adjust to many surroundings. They became expert at knowing how to find animals they could eat and where tasty plants and roots grew. They knew how to fish and gather honey, too. Maroo's younger sister Nimai recalls with great delight the taste of honey and yearns for more.

Depending on where they lived, some Paleolithic people found shelter in caves, as shown in the novel. Others built tents by covering huge mammoth bones with animal hides. Fire also helped people survive. In the novel, for instance, Maroo fights off a huge lion by thrusting a burning torch in its face.

No one knows when the first humans discovered fire. Charred bones found in Africa suggest early humans roasted meat on fires more than a million years ago. We do know what fire brought early people: cooked food, warmth, light, and safety from wild animals.

Cross-Curricular Sources

Nonfiction

Robert Angeletti, *The Cave Painter of Lascaux*
Margaret Cooper, *Exploring the Ice Age*
Linda Hayward, *Cave People*
David King, *Early Humans*

Fiction

Raymond Briggs, *Ug: Boy Genius of the Stone Age*
Mel Brooks, *The 2000 Year Old Man Goes to School*
Marjorie Cowley, *Anooka's Answer*
Ruth Craig, *Malu's Wolf*
Ann Howard Creel, *Under a Stand Still Moon*
Peter Dickinson, *The Kin, Suth's Story, Mana's Story, or Po's Story*
Peni Griffin, *11,000 Years Lost*
James Mayhew, *Boy*
Michelle Paver, *Chronicles of Ancient Darkness #1: Wolf Brother*
Margaret Zehmer Searcy, *Eyr the Hunter: A Story of Ice-Age America*

Media

Pigeon Summer was adapted for television by Channel 4 School TV.

Websites

Ann Turnbull Home Page
[http:// www.annturnbull.com](http://www.annturnbull.com)
Author Profile of Ann Turnbull
www.wordpool.co.uk/ap/turnbull.htm
Ann Turnbull
www.walkerbooks.co.uk/
Ann Turnbull
www.contemporarywriters.com
Ann Turnbull
www.jkp.com/catalogue/author.php/id/1049

Videos/Films

Clan of the Cave Bear (1986)
Encino Man (1992)
The Flintstones (1994)
One Million Years BC (1967)

Themes and Motifs

A study of the central issues and situations in Ann Turnbull's *Maroo of the Winter Caves* should include these aspects:

Themes

- dogs
- families
- food
- fun
- grief and loss
- nature
- stories
- survival
- wild animals
- winter

Motifs

- domesticating a wild puppy
- coping with the death of a father
- foraging for food
- surviving a brutal winter
- dealing with hunger and starvation
- believing in spirits
- frolicking in the ocean
- saving your family
- being mature
- deriving comfort from stories

Meaning Study

Below are words, phrases, sentences, or thought units that have particular meaning in the novel. Explain the meaning of each. Chapter and page numbers indicate the context from which the item is taken.

1. "Yes," said Areg. "He can stay." (p. 26)
(To the great delight of Maroo and Otak, their father Areg gives them permission to keep the puppy. While evidence exists that Stone Age hunters domesticated dogs and dogs provided great assistance, dogs also took valuable food. As a result, Areg's decision reveals his love for his children and awareness of their need for a canine playmate. This action also shows his intelligence; indeed, the dog later saves Otak's life.)
2. Areg agreed. "The spirit came as a great cat," he said. (p. 50)
(The family believes in spirits. These spirits help them explain that which they cannot explain. The spirits must be placated with gifts of precious food, as readers see in this scene.)
3. "You must search for the men," Nimai said importantly. (p. 55)
(Nimai is a young child, but she is correct. When Areg and his brother Vorka do not return from the hunt, Maroo must go after them. This action foreshadows how Maroo must save the entire family when they cannot reach the winter grounds in time. This event also shows Maroo's maturity and immense courage.)
4. Movement seemed impossible. Her fingers were frozen to the rock. (p. 59)
(Maroo is terrified to rappel down the canyon to

find out what happened to her father and uncle. Nonetheless, she does it, which reveals her impressive courage and determination. These are the traits that help save her life in the blizzard when she must forge ahead to save her family.)

5. Old Mother took her hand as Maroo sobbed, "Father is dead." (p. 61)
(Areg's death sparks grief among the whole family, but it also places them in immense danger and sets the rest of the plot into motion. Without an adult male to hunt for them, the family is likely to starve to death.)
6. For two days the blizzard roared, and they did not leave the snow house. There was nothing to eat; Nimai cried continually, and Maroo felt dizzy with hunger. (p. 81)
(The family suffers tremendously in the frigid winter. This scene recalls the first chapter, when the hungry girls waited for the hunters to return, hoping that they had killed a large animal. This scene shows the difficulty of survival in the Stone Age.)
7. Maroo sprang forward, straddled the remains of the dead animal, and beat back every attempt by the dogs to touch it. (p. 84)
(Maroo and Otak fight off the wild dogs and seize the rest of their kill. The children's bravery saves the family—for the moment. They must have food again soon or they will die.)
8. "You must remember the songs and stories," Old Mother had answered. (p. 91)
(As the children set off alone on their perilous journey to the White Mountain, Old Mother reminds them that stories give hope, even when the worst comes. Without hope, she cautions the children, people will die. This shows the importance of narrative and history to all people.)
9. "I must go on without him." (p. 123)
(When Otak and Rivo go off to hunt without Maroo, she faces a brutal decision: should she wait for him to return or go on without him? Torn, she searches for her brother. Finally, she realizes that she must go on to give the rest of her family a chance to survive.)

10. The circle of people had broken and Otak staggered into the firelight. (p. 135)
(Maroo and the rest of the family are overcome with joy when Otak turns up alive. They had given up hope that he survived the blizzard. On this happy note, the novel ends.)

Comprehension Study

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important and you should be ready to defend your answers by referring to passages in the book.

Questions 1-5 (Literal Level)

1. When and where does the story take place?
(The story is set in the Stone Age, likely somewhere in North America.)
2. How does Rivo the dog help the family?
(The dog proves to be an excellent hunter, supplying the family with much-needed food. At the end of the novel, he saves Otak's life.)
3. Why does the family migrate so often?
(Stone Age people were hunter-gatherers. They followed the herds of animals on their migrations. Settled farming came much later in human development.)
4. Why doesn't the family arrive at their winter camp in time?
(Titek, Maroo's mother, is pregnant. Her pregnancy and later, the birth of her son, slow them down.)
5. What happens to Otak at the end of the novel?
(He had gone off to hunt and had not returned. Presuming him dead, Maroo had gone on without him. She arrived at camp and told everyone that he had died. He arrives at camp, to everyone's great joy.)

Questions 6-8 (Interpretative Level)

6. What can you tell about the Stone Age people from their belief in animal spirits and their fear of them?
(Their belief system and extreme fear show that Stone Age people were primitive. There was much they did not understand, and so they needed a way to explain the unexplainable.)

7. Who is the dominant member of the family?
(Possible responses: Areg is the leader because he is the man and the hunter. Proof is the fact that he gives the children permission to keep the puppy Rivo. Students could also argue that Old Mother is the leader, because she determines the family's migrations and routes. This is especially true after Areg dies.)
8. What do you admire most about Maroo?
(Students are likely to admire her courage and her kindness, especially toward her brother.)

Questions 9 and 10 (Critical Level)

9. What does the ibex symbolize or represent in this novel?
(Possible response: It symbolizes strength and survival.)
10. Do you think the novel gives a realistic description of life in the Stone Age? Why or why not?
(Yes, because we know from artifacts that people did indeed live as described in the novel. No, because these people seem far more civilized and sophisticated than the archeological evidence suggests.)

Questions 11-13 (Creative Level)

11. Working with a small group of classmates, discuss which aspects of life in the Stone Age would be the most difficult for modern teenagers to accept.
12. Tell one of Old Mother's stories in your own way.

Across the Curriculum

Language Arts

1. Create a new title for the novel and explain its significance.
2. Writing as Maroo, draft three journal entries: one as winter begins, one when you go on without Otak, and one when Otak arrives at the camp.
3. Create a character sketch of Maroo. What skills enabled her not only to survive, but also to thrive?

4. Commenting on the difficulty of breaking into publishing, Turnbull said: "I spent years writing and rewriting the same historical novel. It was rejected by several publishers - although I did have encouraging comments from some of them." Imagine that *Maroo of the Winter Caves* is Turnbull's first novel. Write some "encouraging comments" based on this novel for her.
5. When interviewed about the books she most enjoyed as a child, Turnbull said, "...it would have been one of the *Narnia* books." Read one of the *Chronicles of Narnia* books by C.S. Lewis and write a critical review of it.
6. Make a chart showing each name in the novel and its meaning. If the meaning is not provided, create a meaning that accurately describes the character.

Drama

1. Role-play a scene between Maroo and Otak in which they discuss their roles in the society.
2. Deliver a speech about the dangers of going into nature unprepared.
3. Enact an especially dangerous scene, such as the one where Maroo rescues Vorka and brings up her father's body from the gorge.
4. Play one of the rhythm games described in the novel.
5. Debate Old Mother's plan: should Maroo and Otak have been sent on alone? Why or why not?

Art and Music

1. Most people think that Old Stone Age people were short, hairy, hunched-over brutes with big clubs. Not true! In 1868, geologist Louis Lartet found skeletons that show ancient people looked surprisingly like us: they had high foreheads, upright posture, and slender skeletons. They were taller than we are today: men averaged 5 feet 10 inches and women, 5 feet 6 inches. They were healthy and strong, too. Using this information, draw Maroo and her family.

Maroo of the Winter Caves

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2. Design a poster for a movie version of *Maroo of the Winter Caves*.
3. Draw a cave painting, such as those found in the caves in Spain or France. In your painting, record some of the main events in this novel.
4. Choose a dramatic scene and select background music. Play the music for the class as you read the scene.
5. Make a drum, such as the one the people in the novel play.

Geography/History

1. Imagine that you are an archeologist. What clues did Maroo and her family leave that you could use to piece together the story of their lives?
2. Create a map showing the progression of the Ice Age.
3. Write a report on a famous archeologist such as Louis Leakey or Mary Leakey.
4. Working with some classmates, create a museum display for life in the Stone Age. Include some models of fossils, tools, and animals from that era.

Science/Health

1. Find out more about reindeer. Make a chart showing the myths and the realities of these creatures.
2. The family eagerly consumes the grubs. They find the insects delicious. Find out which insects are edible and how they can be prepared. In which countries are insects routinely enjoyed today?
3. Make a map of the constellations shown the sky in your area at the present time.

4. Complete the chart below to show when and where animals were first domesticated.

Species	Approx. Date	Location
dog	1500 b.c.	multiple places
goat		
sheep		
pig		
cow		
horse		
bee		
chicken		
cat		

Math

1. Calculate your age in moons, as the people in the novel do.
2. Make a chart showing the number of bison in America in the 1800s and today.
3. Create a timeline showing the key events in the Stone Age.

Alternate Assessment

1. Make a diorama of a key chapter in the novel.
2. Make a character list and explain what function each character serves in the novel.
3. Imagine that you were producing a movie version of *Maroo of the Winter Caves*. Cast the main characters.
4. Write a critical review of the novel for publication in the school newspaper.

Vocabulary

Write synonyms (words that means the same) and antonyms (words that means the opposite) for each of the following words from *Maroo of the Winter Caves*. Try to write as many synonyms and antonyms as you can.

Vocabulary Word	Synonyms	Antonyms
1. furtive _____	_____	_____
2. jubilant _____	_____	_____
3. sulky _____	_____	_____
4. ravenous _____	_____	_____
5. zenith _____	_____	_____
6. rival _____	_____	_____
7. abundant _____	_____	_____
8. ascent _____	_____	_____
9. musty _____	_____	_____
10. dilate _____	_____	_____

Comprehension Test A

Part I: Matching (20 points)

Complete each of the following descriptions with a name from the list that follows. Place the letter of your answer in the blank provided.

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| ___ 1. The author | A. Maroo |
| ___ 2. Areg's brother; he suffers a badly broken arm in a hunting accident | B. Nimai |
| ___ 3. Maroo's grandmother | C. Otak |
| ___ 4. The puppy who becomes a fine hunting dog | D. Ann Turnbull |
| ___ 5. Maroo's younger sister | E. Areg |
| ___ 6. Maroo's mother | F. Rivo |
| ___ 7. Maroo's father; later, the name is given to her new baby brother | G. Vorka |
| ___ 8. The main character | H. Keriatek |
| ___ 9. One of the elder male leaders | I. Tikek |
| ___ 10. Maroo's younger brother; he wants to be a hunter | J. Old Mother |

Part II: True/False (20 points)

Mark the following statements T if they are true or F if they are false.

- ___ 1. The novel is set during the Ice Age and describes a tribe of hunter-gatherers.
- ___ 2. Maroo was named for a ptarmigan, a bird.
- ___ 3. The characters do not eat meat because they regard it as spiritual.
- ___ 4. The children rescue a wounded dog, bandage its wound, and are allowed to keep it.
- ___ 5. The tribe is slowed down because Old Mother cannot walk very well.
- ___ 6. The children make friends with the Seal People and have a good talk.
- ___ 7. Maroo has seen the ocean many times and does not like it very much.
- ___ 8. Maroo's parents are both killed by a fierce tiger.
- ___ 9. The men often paint their faces before they go on a hunt.
- ___ 10. Maroo fights off a lion with a blazing torch.

Comprehension Test A (Page 2)

Part III: Quotation Identification (20 points)

Explain the significance of each quotation in the novel.

1. She did not know what a spirit was; she had often asked the adults about them.
2. Otak and Rivo became hunters of small game. Once Otak killed a lemming with his sling, but more often Rivo would catch hares or marmots and bring them to Otak.
3. "That was well done, children. You have saved all our lives."
4. "Maroo and Otak must go alone and fetch help," Old Mother insisted, "or we shall all die."
5. The circle of people had broken and Otak staggered into the firelight.

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. What qualities make Maroo an admirable character? List two qualities and describe specific examples.
2. Based on *Maroo of the Winter Caves*, would you have liked to have lived in the Stone Age? Why or why not?
3. Argue that Maroo and Otak should or should not have been sent ahead to seek help.
4. Explain what you learned about being mature from this novel.

Comprehension Test B

Part I: Sentence Completion (20 points)

Circle the word or phrase to complete each of the following statements.

1. The novel takes place at the end of the **(Renaissance, Ice Age)** and describes a tribe of hunter-gatherers.
2. When the novel opens, Maroo gives Nimai a **(root, rock)** to quiet her hunger pains.
3. The tribe feasts on a **(bison, dinosaur)** that the hunters have caught.
4. Maroo has a cache of treasures, which includes **(shells, food)**, necklaces, and a reed whistle.
5. The tribe passes the **(Rocky, White)** Mountain on their way to the Great Plain.
6. They eagerly feast on pile of delicious **(grubs, bees)**.
7. The dog's name means **("Friend," "Seal")**.
8. The family builds a **(tent, snow house)** for shelter on their trek to the winter grounds.
9. The children reach the glacier and Maroo is caught in an **(icy river, avalanche)**.
10. Maroo confronts a huge lion, but scares him off with a **(scream, torch)**.

Matching: (20 points)

Match the following descriptions with names of characters from the list below. Place the letter of your response in the blank provided at left.

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| ___ 1. Old Mother's real name | A. Rivo |
| ___ 2. Maroo's younger sister | B. Vorka |
| ___ 3. The author | C. Maroo |
| ___ 4. Tikek's husband | D. Tevo |
| ___ 5. Maroo's mother | E. Nimai |
| ___ 6. Areg's brother | F. Otak |
| ___ 7. Maroo's younger brother | G. Tikek |
| ___ 8. The dog | H. Irimgadu |
| ___ 9. The teenage girl who saves her family | I. Areg |
| ___ 10. One of the elders; a tribal leader | J. Ann Turnbull |

Comprehension Test B (Page 2)

Part III: Identification (20 points)

Explain why each is important in the novel.

1. ibex
2. avalanche
3. food
4. lion
5. Old Mother's stories

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Explain what you learned about life in the Stone Age from this novel.
2. Compare and contrast Maroo's life to your life.
3. Describe the novel's setting and explain its importance to the story.
4. Write a review to convince someone your age to read this novel.

Maroo of the Winter Caves Ann Turnbull

Answer Key

Vocabulary Word Synonym

1. furtive	sneaky, sly
2. jubilant	exultant, triumphant
3. sulky	sullen, moody, morose
4. ravenous	voracious, famished, starved
5. zenith	highest point
6. rival	enemy, competitor
7. abundant	copious, plentiful
8. ascent	rising, climbing
9. musty	moldy, stale
10. dilate	expand, widen

Antonym

open, aboveboard
depressed, sad
cheerful, jovial, genial
sated, satisfied
lowest point
ally, advocate
insufficient, scant, short
descent, plunge
fresh, sweet
constrict

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Matching (20 points)

1. D 2. G 3. J 4. F 5. B
6. I 7. E 8. A 9. H 10. C

Part II: True/False (20 points)

1. T 2. T 3. F 4. T 5. F
6. T 7. F 8. F 9. T 10. T

Part III: Quotation Identification (20 points)

1. This quote shows the tribe's belief in spirits and the fear the spirits engender. The spirits helps explain that which the tribe members cannot explain, such as echoes.
2. The dog proves to be a tremendous help. First, he is a fine hunter and with his assistance, Otak bags a great deal of small game. Second, at the end of the novel, the dog saves Otak's life by leading him to safety with the tribe.
3. Maroo and Otak fight off the wild dogs to take the rest of their kill. The children's bravery saves the family's lives—for the moment. They must have food again soon or they will die.
4. Old Mother realizes that she, her daughter Tikek, and Tikek's infant son Areg will not reach their winter shelter before their food runs out. To save their lives, Old Mother decides that Maroo and Otak will go ahead and get help. Considering that Maroo is about thirteen and Otak is younger, readers can see that Old Mother is desperate and that young people had far greater responsibility in the past than they do today.
5. Maroo and the rest of the family are overcome with joy when Otak turns up alive. They had give up hope that he survived the blizzard. On this happy note, the novel ends.

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Answers will vary.

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Sentence Completion (20 points)

1. Ice Age 6. grubs
2. root 7. friend
3. bison 8. snow house
4. shells 9. avalanche
5. White 10. torch

Part II: Matching (20 points)

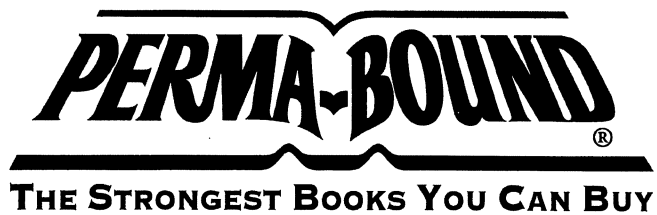
1. H 2. E 3. J 4. I 5. G
6. B 7. F 8. A 9. C 10. D

Part III: Identification (20 points)

1. Maroo's father Areg is killed and her uncle Vorka is injured hunting an ibex. When Maroo is finally freed from the avalanche, she and Otak see an ibex watching them. They wonder if the ibex is their father's spirit. The ibex becomes a mystical symbol of danger and hope.
2. Maroo is caught in an avalanche and almost dies. This incident shows the danger the children – and all the members of their tribe—face.
3. Food is vitally important to the characters because it is so scarce. The novel opens with the characters being hungry. The middle of the novel concerns Maroo and her brother Otak trying to catch game to feed the family. The novel ends on a happy note: with a feast.
4. The lion attacks Maroo, but she fights it off with fire. The lion shows another danger Stone Age people faced: wild animals.
5. Old Mother tells stories to amuse the family and teach them important lessons. The most important lesson of all is that stories bring hope. Stories sustain people in difficult times.

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Answers will vary.



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