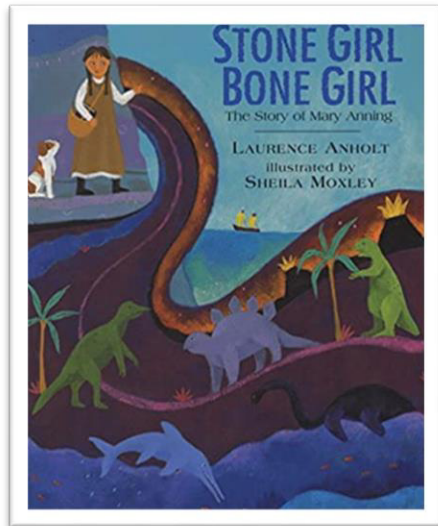


Read for Pleasure

Stone Girl, Bone Girl

By Laurence Anholt and Sheila Moxley



Mary Anning was just twelve when she discovered the fossilised remains of a sea creature known as an Ichthyosaurus.

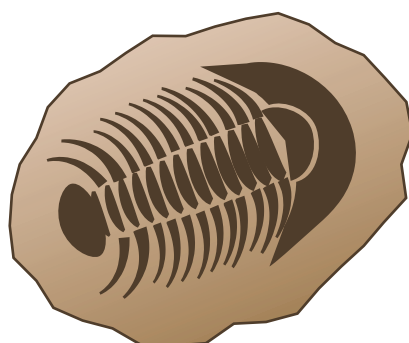
Her prehistoric discovery is of such importance, her name and her work are still talked about to this day...

A story that begins with a bolt of lightning!

Title Talk

The title of this story is: Stone Girl, Bone Girl.

- Why might someone use the words STONE and BONE to describe a girl?
- What might this suggest about this particular girl?
- Why do you think the fact that she is a girl is stated twice? Might this be significant?
- Now look at the second part of the title: A Story of Mary Anning of Lyme Regis.
- Have you heard of this name before? Do you know what she did when she was twelve years old? Go back and reread the main title. How does her name relate to her being described as Stone Girl, Bone Girl?
- What kinds of stones and bones do you think she might discover?
- Why would this discovery be of such importance?



Cover Chat

Now look at the cover of this picture book.

- Where do we see young Mary Anning stood? Why might this be important?
- What else do we see depicted in the layers on the beach? Why do you think they are there?
- How might these dinosaurs be linked to a girl being described as a Stone Girl, Bone Girl? Discuss.
- One of these dinosaurs is an Ichthyosaurus. Do you know which one? Why might this dinosaur be of particular importance in the story of Mary Anning?

Page 1-2

- What extraordinary event did Mary Anning survive when she was a baby?

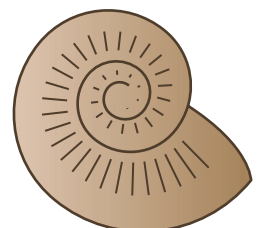
Knowledge: This event happened when Mary was 15 months old in 1800. Sadly, the three older girls who were caring for her at this time died.

- Why do you think the illustrator chooses to depict this event by showing Mary's father running through the streets of Lyme Regis during the thunderstorm? Discuss.
- How must he have felt at this time? What must he have feared?

Location: Find Lyme Regis on a map of the UK. Lyme Regis is on the coast. Might this be important if we think of what Mary Anning becomes famous for?

Page 3-4

- Why do you think Mary's mother used to say that Mary had 'a mind as quick as lightning'? What might this tell us about A] Mary and B] Mary's mother?
- What does Mary call her father? Why did she call him this?
- Where does Pepper take Mary one Saturday?
- Why are the cliffs of Lyme Regis particularly dangerous?
- Does Mary know how dangerous these cliffs are?
- How is this depicted on page 3?



Page 5-6

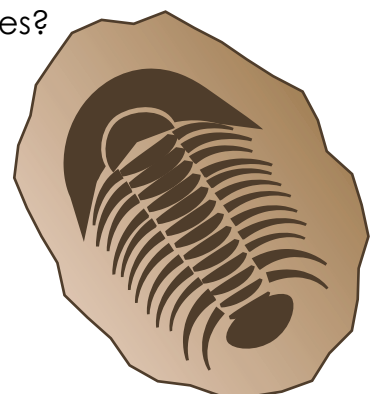
- What does Pepper give Mary as a present when they visit Black Ven?
- Why might Mary call such a stone TREASURE?
- What did Pepper do at his workshop that would have amplified this idea?
- Why did Mary find it hard to sleep that night?
- What did she keep whispering to herself, over and over again?
- Notice what Mary is holding in bed. Why might the shape of this snakestone have been replicated over and over again in Mary's thoughts? Discuss.

Page 7-8

- What does Mary do in order to find her own Curiosities?
- How does her father encourage this? Was this a good thing? Discuss.
- What rhyme did some children make up in order to tease Mary?
Say it out loud.
- Where have we seen part of this rhyme before? Might this be where it was taken from? Why would this be significant?
- Why might some children have created such a rhyme?
- How did this make Mary feel?
- Did Mary continue her hunt for Curiosities at this time? Why not?

Page 9-10

- Who is it that visits Pepper's workshop one evening?
- Why had they come to Pepper's workshop?
- Why would this intrigue Mary? Discuss.
- How did the Philpot sisters react when Mary showed them her collection of Curiosities?
- What does Annie Philpot promise Mary before she leaves?
- Why do you think she did this? Discuss.
- How important a meeting was this for Mary?

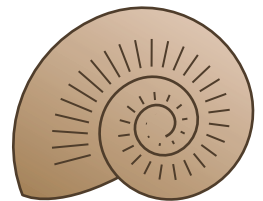


Page 11-12

- From what wood did Pepper make the Philpot sisters' curiosity cabinet?
- Do you think this was a conscious decision by Mary's father? Why might this be? Discuss.
- Why do you think it took so long for Pepper to make this cabinet?
- Why would this worry Mary?
- What does Annie Philpot show Mary and what do they call such finds?
Remember: at this time in history, no whole DINOSAURS had ever been found and they were generally regarded as being SEA MONSTERS.
- Why does Annie Philpot tell Mary that if anyone could ever find a whole creature hidden in the cliffs, that would be the greatest treasure of all?
- How would these words have excited Mary? How might they have motivated her? Discuss.
- When she leaves the grand house of the Philpot sisters, where does she run to?
- Why do you think she runs to Pepper's workshop instead of going home?
- We are told that, upon arriving, she immediately knows that something is wrong. What do you think has happened to Pepper?

Page 13-14

- After Pepper's death, why did Mary and her mother struggle?
- Why might Mary have gone to visit her father's grave one foggy night?
- Who did she meet in the graveyard?
- Why might this dog have followed Mary to her father's workshop and curled up beneath Pepper's workshop table?
- We are told that from this moment on, Mary and the dog become the firmest of friends. Why do you think such a friendship would develop?



Page 15-16

- Who visits Lyme Regis during the summer months? Why do they visit?
- While watching these rich ladies and gentlemen wander around her home town, what idea pops into Mary's head?

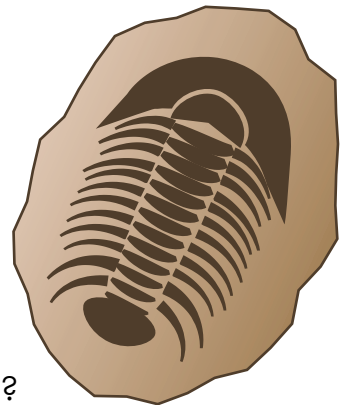
- Why do you think she comes up with such an idea? Discuss.
- Which of her Curiosities would she never sell? Why?
- How successful is Mary at selling her fossils?
- Why would this have pleased Mary and make her determined to continue her work?
- What does she whisper to her dog? Why might this be important?

Page 17-18

- As well as trying to find fossils to sell, what else does Mary busy herself with?
- Why is gaining this knowledge important?
- As she searches for her fossils, what does she dream about?
- How is this depicted on page 18?

Page 19-20

- How did Mary discover the first whole dinosaur?
- How excited would Mary have been?
- Why would she have been so thrilled?
- Why might this have been tinged with a touch of sadness?
- Why did she run to the local quarry after its discovery?
- How eager were the quarrymen to help Mary unearth this fossilised treasure?

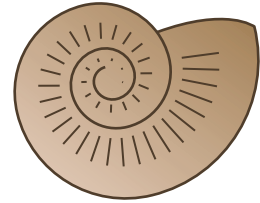


Page 21-22

- How quickly did the news of Mary's discovery spread?
- Who gathered on the beach to watch its excavation?
- How many quarrymen did it take to carry Mary's find to Pepper's workshop?
- Why do you think the quarrymen allowed Mary to lead them through the town as they carried this treasure to Pepper's workshop? Discuss.

Page 23

- Who came to visit 'the fossil girl' of Lyme Regis?
- What did scientists name Mary's dinosaur?
- What is the meaning of this dinosaur's name?
- Who eventually bought the Ichthyosaurus?
- What did this mean for Mary and her mother?



Think about the story as a whole:

Why do you think Mary continued her work even when being teased and her father had died?

What might this teach us about persevering when times are tough?

Did you know?

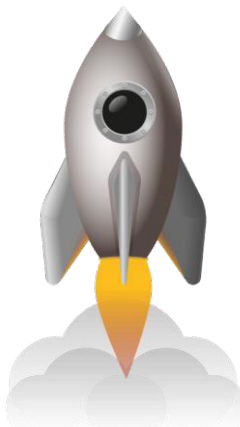
The following tongue twister is supposedly about Mary Anning. It recalls the time when Mary used to look for fossils to sell to the tourists visiting Lyme Regis in the summer months.

She sells sea shells on the sea shore.

The shells that she sells are sea shells I'm sure.

So if she sells sea shells on the sea shore,

I'm sure that the shells are sea shore shells.



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