



2009
FINALISTS

YOUNG ADULT FICTION



Chronicles of Stone #1: Scorched Bone

Vincent Ford

Scholastic New Zealand

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Target Age 14+

Set in an ancient time, when humans were few and survival required a fighting spirit, it is a time of drought for the People of the Canyons, and they are going hungry. Trei and his twin sister Souk secretly determine to travel north to seek help from the Manhunters, a tribe who can throw a spear like a lightning bolt and bring down mammoth or bison. First Trei and Souk must escape their people, then begin the perilous journey north. But it is said that no one ever returns from the territory of the Manhunters.



Vincent Ford researched the *Chronicles of Stone* trilogy while in the United States with the University of Iowa's International Writing Programme in 2000. He visited archaeological sites in Texas and New Mexico and spoke with a number of leading archaeologists. Vincent also spent a great deal of time researching on the Internet, studying tracking and survival skills, animal behaviour, hunter/forager lifestyles, plant foods and herbal medicines.

Great Activity and Event Ideas...

1. If you were the leader of a tribe like Trei's 'the people of the canyons' or Thrang's 'people of the ink',
 - What would your name be?
 - How would you have over come and prepared for disasters that are scattered throughout the story?
 - What would you do differently?
 - Would you have let Trei leave the tribe and why?
 - How would you save your tribe?
2. The Clovis Point was widely used by 'the people of the canyon'. What design and materials would you use for a tool of this type?
3. What other interesting facts can you find about the Clovis people and culture?
4. If you could write the story of Souk — what sort of adventures would you envision for her and how she might be the one to save her people and lands?
5. The mammoth is a creature associated with the Ice Age and extinct for thousands of years. Find out where it lived and what scientists know about this creature from its remains.



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Activity

The book describes how people lived day to day; ways they cooked and how they kept themselves warm, sheltered and fed in pre-historic times.

- Create a collage of images that you think best reflects this theme.
- Use magazines, colouring books or images from the web to create your master piece!