Could Your Family Manage in Carl's World?

A family time-travel challenge inspired by Volume 01

Welcome to Carl's world

Your family wakes up in the Ore Mountains around 1762. Scharfenstein Castle stands nearby. The war has not yet ended. There is no fridge, electric light or telephone – but there are neighbours, forests, animals and practical skills that help families get by.

Read the challenges together. Children and adults choose their answers separately first; then hold a family council.

1 · Your first morning

Who does what?

Share out these jobs: fetching water, tending the fire, preparing food, looking after a younger child, collecting firewood, caring for animals and repairing something. Which skills do you already have?

What would you miss most?

Everyone names one modern convenience they would miss straight away. How might people have managed without it?

2 · Hussars at the door

In Volume 01, soldiers put Carl's family in danger. The episode involving Carl's mother and the hussars comes from later tradition; the detailed scene in the book is literary storytelling.

What would your family do first?

An adult has to leave the house. A small child remains behind. Who could fetch help? Which neighbour would you ask? What might be dangerous?

What helps when someone is frightened?

What do you do today when someone in your family is scared? What help might have been possible in 1762?

3 · Forest, water and a clever idea

Your supplies are running low.

What could you grow, gather or trade? What could you not simply take from the forest? Discuss how woodland and hunting rights affected everyday life.

A wooden toy has broken.
Who could mend it? What tools and skills would help?

4 · Family finale

Your family's greatest strength
Name three things your family can do better together than alone.

A gift from Carl's world
What handmade present would you give another family member?

Take this home

Carl & Strups is not only a story about danger. Volume 01 also explores courage, help, practical knowledge and family bonds. Ask at home: which skills did you learn from your parents or grandparents?