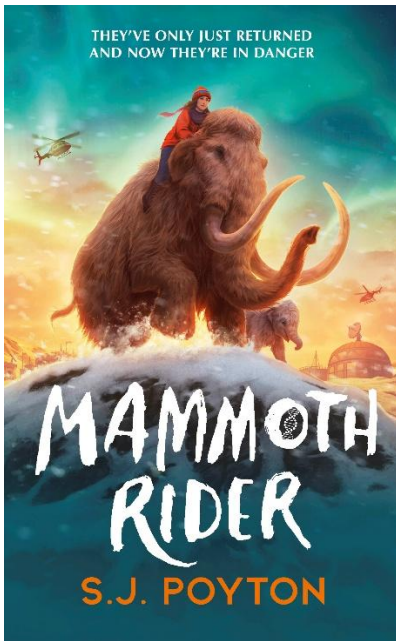


Mammoth Rider – Ethics Questions & Educational Notes -Younger Students 7+ by S.J. Poyton



In *Mammoth Rider*, scientists bring mammoths back to life to help the Arctic. The Arctic is getting warmer, and thick snow is making the ground melt underneath. When the frozen ground melts, it releases gas that makes the Earth warm faster. Mammoths can help by digging through the snow and walking over it, which stops the ground from getting too warm.

Scientists make new mammoths using DNA from woolly mammoths and Asian elephants. These new mammoths are not exactly the same as the old ones — they are new animals that look and act like mammoths.

Let's think about what this means!

1. Mammoths in Nature

Questions for children

- What might happen if mammoths live in the Arctic again?
- Could the Arctic animals today be happy, confused or scared?

Teaching Notes

- Guide children to think about how new animals might change the place they live in.
- Use simple ecosystem ideas like:
 - “Who might eat what?”
 - “Who needs the same food?”
- Encourage feelings-based thinking too: “How might the animals feel?”

2. How Will Mammoths Learn?

Questions for children

- Baby elephants learn from older elephants. There are no older mammoths alive today — so how will baby mammoths learn what to do?
- Could humans help teach them? How?

Teaching Notes

- Focus on the idea of learning by watching grown-ups.
- Let children suggest imaginative options (rangers, trainers, even robot helpers!).
- Vocabulary support: *instinct* (things animals know automatically), *learned behaviour* (things they learn).

3. Keeping Mammoths Safe

Questions for children

- Some people hunt elephants for their tusks. How could we protect mammoths?

Teaching Notes

- Keep the discussion hopeful and positive.
- Focus on protection: rangers, cameras, safe parks, rules against hunting.
- Avoid terrifying imagery — focus on *helping* animals.

4. Helping Elephants Too

Asian elephants are endangered and would have the babies for mammoths.

Questions for children

- Is it fair to use Asian elephants to help bring mammoths back?
- Should we help elephants first?

Teaching Notes

- Encourage fairness thinking: “Is this kind to elephants?”

- Use simple conservation logic: “If someone needs help now, should we help them first?”
- Avoid complex biotechnology — keep it ethical and empathetic.

5. People and Mammoths Together

Questions for children

- If mammoths lived near people, could there be problems?
- Could there be good things too (like learning about them or visiting a mammoth park)?

Teaching Notes

- Help students consider both sides:
 - Problems: broken fences, people getting too close.
 - Positives: tourism, research, excitement.
- Keep it relatable to real life (e.g., like living near cows, deer, or elephants).

6. Big Question!

Question for children

- Do you think helping the Earth is a good reason to bring back mammoths? Why or why not?

Teaching Notes

- Focus on respectful opinions: “People can think differently.”
- Use simple ethical language:
 - **Good for Earth**
 - **But might cause problems**
- Encourage reasoning: “I think ___ because ___.”

Learn more at mammothrider.com