

How to Train Your Dragon - Cressida Cowell

Lesson 1

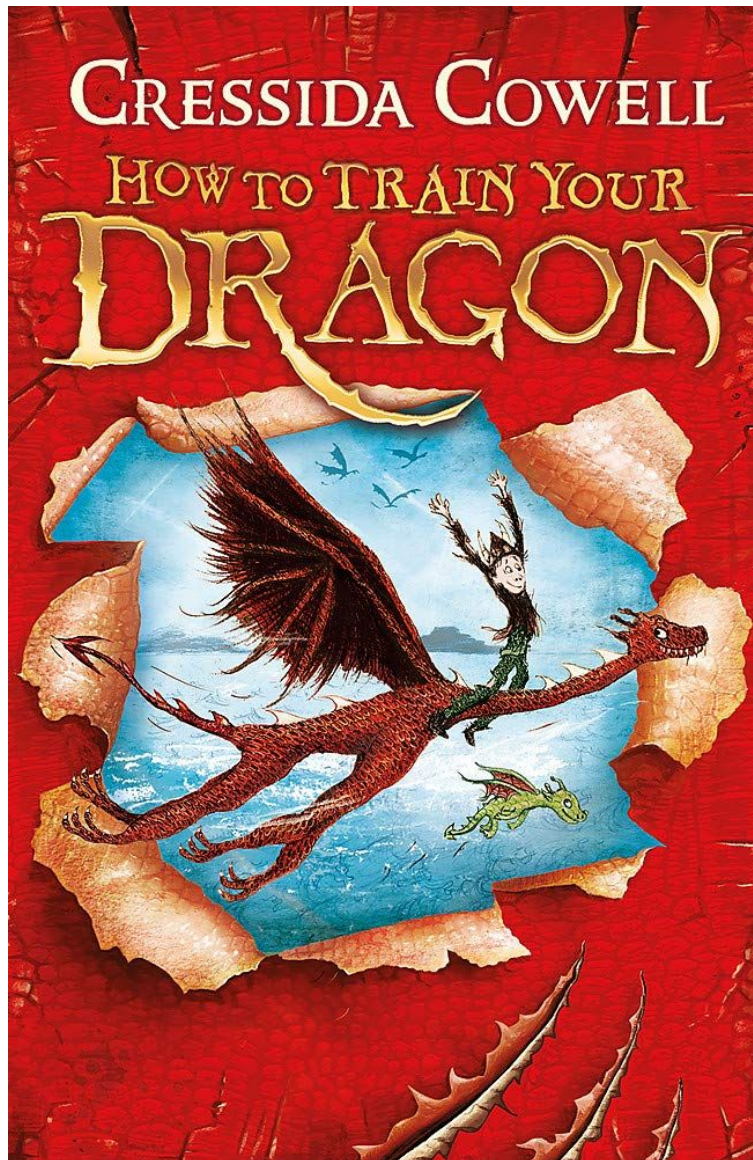
Before reading...

Look at the front cover.

- What do you think the book will be about?
- What things can you see on the front cover?
- What sort of story will it be?
- Who might enjoy it?

Now read the blurb...

- Were any of your predictions correct?



The Opening Lines

Read the first lines of the book (below) and think about the following questions:

- What tone does this set for the book?
- What do we learn from these lines?
- How do we feel when we read these lines?
- Why does the book begin with these lines?

Long ago, on the wild and windy isle of Berk, a smallish Viking with a longish name stood up to his ankles in snow.

Hiccup Horrendous Haddock the Third, the Hope and Heir to the Tribe of the Hairy Hooligans, had been feeling slightly sick ever since he woke up that morning.

Ten boys, including Hiccup, were hoping to become full members of the Tribe by passing the Dragon Initiation Programme. They were standing on a bleak little beach at the bleakest spot on the whole bleak island. A heavy snow was falling.

'PAY ATTENTION!' screamed Gobber the Belch, the soldier in charge of teaching Initiation. 'This will be your first military operation, and Hiccup will be commanding the team.'

'Oh, not Hic-cup,' groaned Dogsbreath the Duhbrain and most of the other boys. 'You can't put Hiccup in charge, sir, he's USELESS.'

Hiccup Horrendous Haddock the Third, the Hope and Heir to the Tribe of the Hairy Hooligans wiped his nose miserably on his sleeve. He sank a little deeper into the snow.

Comprehension

Chapter 10

'I'm going to kill you ,' hissed Snotlout at Hiccup, Fireworm snarling menacingly from his shoulder. 'First thing after we're banished, I'm going to kill you,' and he ran off after the others.

'I've lost my t-t-tooth,' Toothless complained whiningly. 'C-c-came out when I bit that Fireworm dragon.'

Hiccup took no notice. He looked up at the heavens, beside himself with fury as the wind scooped up sea-water in handfuls and flung it straight into his face.

'JUST ONCE,' yelled Hiccup, 'Why couldn't you just let me be a Hero JUST ONCE? I didn't want anything amazing, just to pass this STUPID TEST so I could become a proper Viking like everybody else.'

Questions

1. *What verb is used instead of 'said' for Snotlout. What does this tell us?*
2. *How does Cowell show that Toothless is speaking Dragonese?*
3. *What does Toothless' reaction to Hiccup being banished tell you about dragons?*
4. *What does the phrase 'beside himself with fury' mean? Who might Hiccup be shouting at?*

Vocabulary

1. Bulging
2. Flaming
3. Tradition
4. Dramatically
5. Horizon
6. Extendable
7. Warrior
8. Unmemorable
9. Menacing
10. Bossily
11. Clammy
12. Countless
13. Properly
14. Disobedience
15. Entire
16. Scrambled
17. Raked
18. Process
19. Encouragement
20. Annihilate

HOMEWORK

How does Cowell **excite the reader** in these chapters?

OR

Write a **short story** using **at least 5 new words** (above) that we learned from these chapters.