

How to Train Your Dragon - Cressida Cowell

Lesson 3

Read through the following extract (which ends the book):

'If I'm EVER going to be Chief of this Tribe,' whispered Hiccup to Fishlegs, as he started taking off his jacket and buckling on his sword, 'I'm going to have to be a Hero at something...'

'Trust me,' said Fishlegs, 'THIS IS NOT YOUR THING... Clever ideas, yes. Talking to dragons, yes. But one-to-one combat with a brute like Dogsbreath? Absolutely NO, NO, NO.'

Hiccup ignored him. 'The Horrendous Haddock's have always had a gift for swordfighting. I reckon it's in the blood... Look at my great-great grandfather, Grimbeard the Ghastly. Best swordfighter EVER...'

'Yes, but have YOU ever done any swordfighting before?' asked Fishlegs.

'Well, no,' admitted Hiccup, 'but I've read books on it. I know all the moves... The Piercing Lunge... The Destroyer's Defence... Grimbeard's Grapple... And I've got this great new sword...'

The sword was, indeed, an excellent one, a Swiftpoint Scaremaker with go-faster stripes and a handle shaped like a hammerhead shark.

'Besides,' said Hiccup, 'I'm never going to be in actual danger...'

The Pirates-in-Training practised with wooden cases on their swords. 'Molly-coddling, we never did that in MY DAY,' was Gobber's opinion. However, it DID mean the Hooligan Tribe ended up with more live Pirates at the end of the Programme.

Fishlegs sighed. 'OK, you madman. If you have to do this... keep looking in his eyes... keep your sword up at all times... and say a big prayer to Thor the Thunderer because you're going to need all the help you can get...'

Comprehension

Chapter 11

The first person to discover the dragons was Badbreath the Gruff, who set out very early to check how his nets had fared in the storm.

He took one look at the beach, rushed to the chief's house, and woke him up.

'We have a problem,' said Badbreath.

'What do you mean, A PROBLEM?' snapped Stoick the vast.

Stoick had not slept at all. He had lain awake worrying. What kind of father did put his precious Laws before the life of his son? But then what kind of son would fail the precious Laws that his father had looked up to and believed in all his life?

By morning Stoick had made the awesome decision that he was going to reverse the solemn pronouncement he had made on the beach, and un-banish Hiccup and the other boys. 'It is WEAK of me. WEAK,' said Stoick to himself gloomily.

All in all, Stoick was not in a state to deal with any more problems.

'There are a couple of humongous dragons on the Long Beach,' said Badbreath.

'Tell them to go away,' said Stoick.

'You tell them,' said Badbreath.

Stoick stomped off to the beach. He returned again looking thoughtful.

'Did you tell them?' asked Badbreath.

'Tell IT,' said Stoick. 'The larger dragon has eaten the smaller one. I didn't like to interrupt. I think I shall call a Council of War.'

Questions

1. *How can we tell that Badbreath is worried by what he sees on the beach?*
2. *What word tells us that Stoick is not happy to be bothered by Badbreath?*
3. *What two worries have kept Stoick awake during the night?*
4. *Stoick says that he is weak to decide to un-banish the boys. Do you agree? Explain why.*
5. *What does Stoick discover when he goes to the beach? What does he decide to do?*

Vocabulary

1. Superior
2. Stolen
3. Absentmindedly
4. Outstretched
5. Operation
6. Irritation
7. Commanders
8. Further
9. Avoidance
10. Miniscule
11. Thrash
12. Hissing
13. Tremendous
14. Tortuous
15. Somersaulted
16. Cavernous
17. Fuming
18. Wreckless
19. Hideous
20. Repugnant

HOMEWORK

Explain why you **like** or **do not like** the **ending** of the book.

OR

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