

## How to be a Pirate - Cressida Cowell

### Lesson 2

Read and think about the extract below:

#### Chapter 13: The Argument

*The graze on Hiccup's chest was actually deeper than he had realised in the terror of the moment. It would leave a scar that would stay with him for the rest of his life as a reminder of a morning spent on the Isle of the Skullions.*

*And his right arm was dislocated from the strain of hanging from the talons of Newtsbreath. Gobber put it back in its socket (a very painful process, as Gobber was not the most tender of nurses) and tore a strip off his shirt to make Hiccup a sling for it.*

*The Hooligans gave themselves a couple of minutes to pat each other on the back and celebrate, before grabbing the oars again. They were eager to leave the spooky Isle of the Skullions far, far behind them. It wasn't until they were within sight of the friendly cliffs of Berk that they felt safe enough to ship their oars, and let the Lucky Thirteen drift for a while in calm but misty seas while they investigated their prize.*

*When Stoick lifted the lid of the box again, the smell had nearly gone. But underneath the treasure there was a scattering of greenish-yellow crystals which appeared to be smoking slightly, and they still gave off that rotten-egg stench. These were what Grimbeard had used to booby-trap the box – as soon as they came into contact with the air they let off their smell, which then alerted the Skullions.*

*A very effective and deadly defence of his treasure.*

*And WHAT a treasure it was... Alvin could not speak for at least three minutes. He just stood there, eyes popping, picking up object after object and stroking it, letting his hands run lovingly through the coins.*

## Comprehension

### Chapter 15: The Battle on Board the Lucky Thirteen

Alvin advanced towards Hiccup, with the Stormblade raised above his head.

Hiccup closed his eyes, waiting for the blow. But at that moment Toothless finally managed to overturn the barrel he was trapped underneath.

He had been throwing his entire body weight at one side for the past five minutes. At last he made an extra-strong he-e-e-eave, the barrel tipped over, and rolled at great speed across the deck with Toothless rumbling round and round inside it... and bowled straight into the legs of Alvin the Treacherous... who lost his footing and fell over...

Alvin gave an ooohh of surprise, the Outcasts were distracted for one vital second, and Stoick turned round and felled Curly Horns with a good old-fashioned upper cut right under the chin.

From that moment on, there was chaos aboard the Lucky Thirteen.

The Hooligans took advantage of their captors' surprise as the swords against their throats were lowered for a moment.

'THIS IS MORE LIKE IT! I'LL TEACH YOU TO SAY THE HOOLIGANS HAVE GONE SOFT!!!!'

Stoick let out the Viking War Cry and launched himself on the enemy completely barehanded. He crashed two Outcasts' heads together, jabbed another in the kidney with his foot, and when that one doubled over in pain, leapfrogged over his back to face another couple of the opposition.

All might not have gone well for him, however, unarmed as he was, if Baggybum the Beerbelly had not come to his aid. The two brothers, who had been fighting each other five minutes earlier, now fought the enemy back-to-back for the rest of the battle.

## Questions

1. *How do we know that Hiccup is scared?*
2. *How does the writer use capital letters in this extract?*
3. *Find an example of onomatopoeia.*
4. *How does the writer use repetition in this extract?*
5. *How long had the two brothers been fighting?*

## **Vocabulary**

1. Precious
2. Struggling
3. Phenomenal
4. Untrainable
5. Predator
6. Tendon
7. Barbarian
8. Vision
9. Trickery
10. Startle
11. Contraption
12. Mechanism
13. Horrified
14. Prejudice
15. Burglarious
16. Uneasiness
17. Astonishment
18. Elaborate
19. Stench
20. Kerfuffle

## **HOMEWORK**

Write a **detailed explanation** of **who your favourite character is** and **why**.

**OR**

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