

## How to be a Pirate - Cressida Cowell

### Lesson 3

#### Final Extract

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

*Now I am an old, old man, the same age as Grimbeard the Ghastly when he got his dragons to swim down to the cavern with the treasure. Toothless and Fishlegs and I have kept the secret of what really happened on that terrible day all those years ago...*

*But because I am writing my memoirs I find I have to write it down, as it is such an important part of my journey to becoming a Hero. Even though I know I will never be able to show it to anyone of my own time.*

*As soon as I have finished writing these papers, I shall lock them in a box. I shall throw that box into the sea.*

*And I shall throw it hoping, like Grimbeard the Ghastly, that some day it may be found by someone who will be a better Leader than I have been.*

*Someone living way, way, in the future, in times more civilised than those in which I have lived, where men can own beautiful and dangerous things and use them wisely.*

*Surely that would be the last Hiccup would see of that wicked villain, Alvin the Treacherous?*

*His grim hook sank to the bottom of the ocean with the wreck of the Lucky Thirteen. He himself was last seen struggling in the throat of a monstrous Strangulator in an inaccessible cavern deep, deep underground.*

*Nobody could get out of that situation alive.*

*Or could they???*

*Look out for the next volume of Hiccup's memoirs, How to Speak Dragonese.*

## **Comprehension**

### **Chapter 19: The Heir to Grimbeard the Ghastly**

'So,' chatted Hiccup, 'while we're waiting for this poison to take effect, why don't you tell me how it works?'

'Well,' crowed the Strangulator, 'you will lose control of your tentacless ass they sssstart to sssstiffen...'

'I can feel a sort of tingling in my feet, like pins and needles,' admitted Hiccup.

The Strangulator's own tentacles were leaping about wildly, as stiff as boards.

'The poissson turnsss ssssome victimsss green before they die...' hissed the Strangulator gleefully.

'Is it just me,' said Hiccup, 'or is there a sort of greenish tinge to my left arm?'

There wasn't. It was as white and freckled as ever. But a strange green cloud was building within the Strangulator's transparent body, gradually obscuring the unfortunate dragons he was digesting.

'... and then as the poissson reaches the head,' continued the Strangulator, 'the nervoussss ssssystem ssssimply explodesss...'

He looked at Hiccup hopefully.

Nothing seemed to be happening.

'That'sss funny,' said the Strangulator. 'It doesn't sssseem to be working...'

'Maybe some people take longer,' said Hiccup reassuringly. 'You're looking a little peaky yourself, maybe you should lie down.'

## **Questions**

1. *What does the 'Strangulator's' name suggest about what kind of creature it is?*
2. *Why does the Strangulator speak with lots of s's?*
3. *Why did Hiccup's arm look green?*
4. *What makes the Strangulator confused?*
5. *What are 'pins and needles'?*

## **Vocabulary**

1. Narrowed
2. Swish
3. Dislocate
4. Treacherous
5. Defensive
6. Exhilarating
7. Shifting
8. Reasoning
9. Concern
10. Unexpected
11. Singularly
12. Indentation
13. Shriek
14. Serpent
15. Digestive
16. Squirming
17. Dangling
18. Faint
19. Solely
20. Loping

## **HOMEWORK**

Explain why you think this is a **happy or unhappy ending** of the book.

**OR**

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