

How to Train Your Dragon 3 - Cressida Cowell

Lesson 1

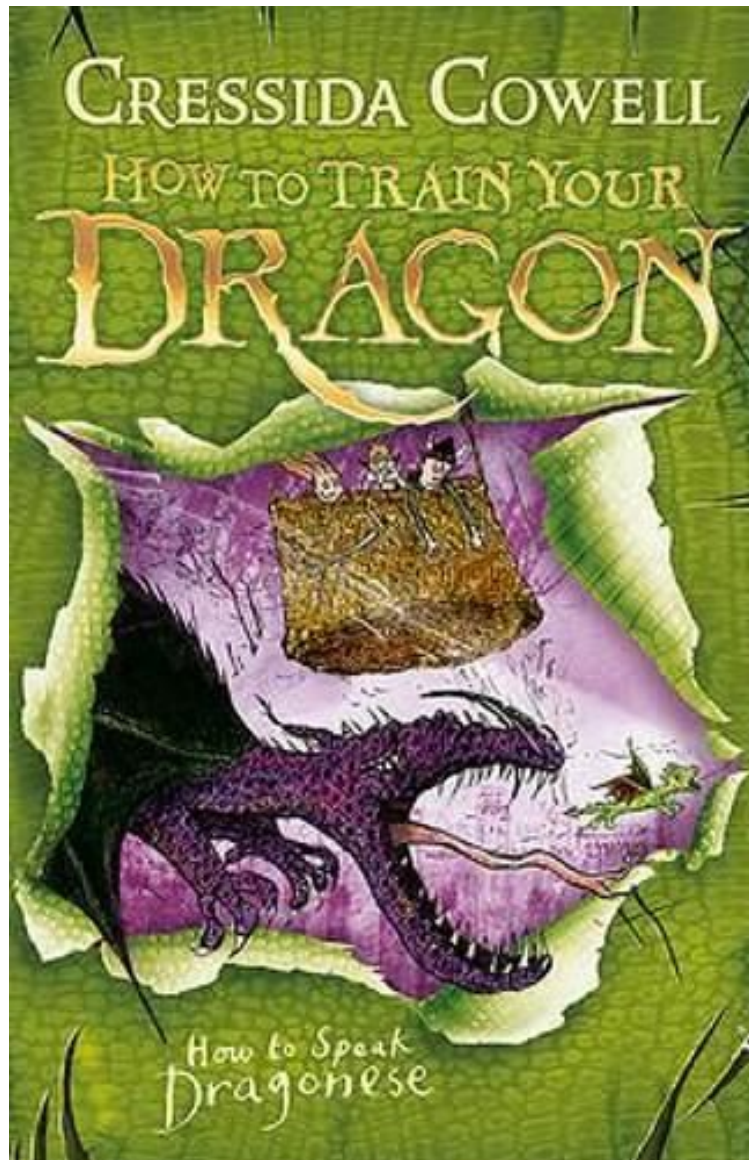
Before reading...

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):

1. THE BOARDING-AN-ENEMY-SHIP LESSON

Once upon a foggy day in a cold, cold country long, long ago, seven small Viking boats floated through the Sea- Known-as-Woden's-Bathtub. The fog had swallowed up the Peaceable Country to the north, and the Isle of Berk to the west, and, indeed, had swallowed up so much of everything, that it was as if the boats were sky-boats, and had left the earth entirely, and were sailing through cloud banks way, way up in the air.

In the first boat, The Fat Boar, sat Gobber the Belch, a six and a half foot giant in teeny-weeny hairy shorts, who had leg muscles so enormous they had muscles of their own, and a beard like a hedgehog struck by lightning. Gobber was the teacher in charge of the Pirate Training Programme on the Isle of Berk, and this sail through the fog was part of a Boarding-an-Enemy-Ship lesson.

The six boy-sized boats that were following The Fat Boar each had two boys in them, and these boys were Gobber's pupils, young members of the Tribe of the Hairy Hooligans.

'OK, YOU DISGUSTING GLOBS OF GIRLY SNOT!' yelled Gobber, in a bellow so loud it could be heard several miles away. 'WE ARE NOW GOING TO PRACTISE BOARDING AN ENEMY SHIP ON THE EASY TARGET OF A PEACEABLE FISHING BOAT... CAN ANYONE REMEMBER THE FIRST RULE OF AMBUSH?'

'TAKE THE ENEMY BY SURPRISE, SIR!' shouted out Snotface Snotlout, a tall, unpleasantly smug-looking boy with gigantic nostrils and the beginnings of a small moustache.

'Very good, Snotlout,' purred Gobber the Belch, and he continued at full volume: 'IN A FOG THIS THICK YOUR VICTIM SHIP WILL NOT HAVE A CHANCE OF SEEING YOU COMING!' They can hear us, though, thought Hiccup Horrendous Haddock the Third, gloomily trying to peer through the fog, unless, of course, we have the luck to stumble across some completely deaf Peaceable fishermen...

Comprehension

2. SHARKWORMS

Just as the sound of the bugle died away, the fog lifted, for a second giving a glimpse of the entire bay. Over to the right, further towards the grey outline of the Peaceable Country, there were the shadowy shapes of four or five Peaceable fishing boats, surrounded by clouds of screeching Blackbacked Seadragons.

'Over there!' yelled Sharpknife and Tuffnut Junior, turning their boat, The Raven.

'It's all under control, Fishlegs!' shouted Hiccup excitedly. 'I can see where we're going!' Hiccup yanked the rudder of The Hopeful Puffin so sharply that Fishlegs lost his balance and fell face first into the water at the bottom of the boat.

The wind caught the sails at exactly the right speed and The Hopeful Puffin surged forward after the others... But Hiccup hadn't noticed Snotlout's boat, Sparrowhawk, steaming up behind him at great Speed.

Sparrowhawk was as lean and mean and hungry as Snotlout himself. Beautifully built out of elm wood, she came to a point so sharp at the prow that she sliced through the water as easily as an axe through a scallop.

Questions

1. *What does the name 'Peaceable Country' suggest about what kind of place it is?*
2. *How many fishing boats were seen?*
3. *Find a simile in this extract.*
4. *What is the Sparrowhawk made out of?*
5. *What does 'lean' mean?*

Vocabulary

1. Lean
2. Rudder
3. Severe
4. Dent
5. Lapping
6. Brief
7. Rummage
8. Emerald
9. Eczema
10. Current
11. Absurd
12. Clarity
13. Sulking
14. Pathetically
15. Perish
16. Snappy
17. Hypnotic
18. Muttered
19. Relative
20. Squint

HOMEWORK

How does Cowell **build excitement** in these chapters?

OR

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