

## How to Train Your Dragon 3 - Cressida Cowell

### Lesson 2

Read and think about the extract below:

#### 10. THE SECRET IDENTITY OF THE THIN PREFECT

*The Kidnappers threw the boys over their shoulders again and strode through several large courtyards, busy with soldiers and cooks and horses and people selling things to each other. They walked up some steps and through a door into a brightly lit, gorgeously painted room. This was the Consul's Palace. Tapestries hung from the walls, couches were draped in silken covers, the mosaic floor was warm and toasty underfoot.*

*The Romans certainly knew how to make themselves comfy.*

*In one corner of the room, the Fat Consul was having his tonsils tickled with a feather so he could vomit and fit in some more Monstrous Nightmare Crème Brûlée for pudding. In another, the Thin Prefect was having his temples massaged. He looked up when they came in and gave an 'Aha!' of evil satisfaction.*

*At the Prefect's feet lay a particularly large Gronckle, a dragon about two metres high with a spiny ruff around its neck. When they came into the room it heaved its enormous bulk onto its thick muscly legs and an ominous growling began deep in its thick bull neck.*

*It leaped at the First Kidnapper, who dropped Fishlegs with a scream.*

*'Stop!' shouted the Thin Prefect in Dragonese. Very poor Dragonese, but Dragonese nonetheless. The Gronckle had grabbed the First Kidnapper by the leg in his immense jaws, and the First Kidnapper uselessly drummed his fists on the gigantic creature's great, warty back. The Gronckle had been enjoying itself, gnawing away at the Kidnapper's knee, its great tail lashing from side to side; but at the Thin Prefect's command it reluctantly stopped.*

*'Think you.' The Thin Prefect had a terrible accent and he kept on getting the words wrong. 'You can hold on to the Kidnapper now.'*

*The Gronckle didn't move.*

## **Comprehension**

### **11. THE BOG-BURGLAR HEIR**

The Gronckle trotted into the room. It was a large, bare space with a table and a few chairs and some straw in the corner that served for beds. The windows were barred. The boys were clearly not going to have the same luxuries the Romans gave themselves. The Gronckle dropped Fishlegs and Hiccup on the floor and backed out of the room.

'Making yourselves at home,' sneered the First Kidnapper, and the door clanged shut.

Standing in the middle of the room was a small girl with wild blonde hair and a ferocious expression.

The girl drew her sword with a flourish.

'Who are you? What are your names?' she demanded fiercely. 'Who sent you? Where do you come from?'

'My name is Hiccup,' stammered Hiccup. 'And this is Fishlegs – we're Hooligans...'

'I don't believe you!' yelled the little girl.

'You're Roman spies! Draw your swords and FIGHT like men, you Latin low lives!'

The boys looked at the furious little girl in amazement.

Fishlegs began to laugh.

## **Questions**

1. *How would you describe the room? (Use your own words.)*
2. *What are 'luxuries'?*
3. *Why is it surprising that the girl draws a sword?*
4. *Why does Cowell capitalise the word 'FIGHT'?*
5. *How does the girl intimidate the others?*

## Vocabulary

1. Serve
2. Expression
3. Squallor
4. Programme
5. Gormless
6. Concentrate
7. Pant
8. Parry
9. Hooligan
10. Execute
11. Burglar
12. Bother
13. Entrapment
14. Imprisoned
15. Thoroughly
16. Perimeter
17. Eager
18. Relief
19. Dull
20. Reproach

## **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.