

How to Train Your Dragon 3- Cressida Cowell

Lesson 3

Final Extract

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

The Sting in the Tale

Surely, surely, that must be the end of Alvin the Treacherous, last seen dropping from a height into a heaving mass of Sharkworms? And surely, surely there must be a happy ending at last for all our Viking warriors large and small?

But as with many happy endings, there is a sting in the tale. In this case, unknown to everybody, in the confusion when the balloon fell out of the sky, one of our Heroes was stung with a single drop of poison from the terrible tail of the Venomous Vorpent.

And, as everybody knows, the sting of the Venomous Vorpent is absolutely always fatal...

Which of our Heroes was unlucky enough to be stung?

Look out for the next volume of Hiccup's memoirs, How to Cheat a Dragon's Curse.

Comprehension

EPILOGUE BY HICCUP HORRENDOUS HADDOCK THE THIRD, THE LAST OF THE GREAT VIKING HEROES

Here I am, back where I started; this all happened such a long, long time ago.

But now I come to think of it, if I look around the desk where I am writing now I can see things all around me that remind me of that time.

The hook of Alvin the Treacherous hangs on my wall like a golden question mark. By the door rests the shield given to me by the Fat Consul.

I have taken that shield into battle with me all my life, much to the amusement of my friends, for instead of being circular like Viking shields it is square in the Roman fashion.

But then I have always been somewhat of a square peg in a round hole.

Even the quill with which I am writing now is made out of a Roman golden eagle's feather that I found in my cell at Fort Sinister.

I look at these things and I remember, and what I remember most clearly is the moment when the balloon rose out of the jabber and hullabaloo of the prison of Fort Sinister and into the clear blue sky like a perfectly round bubble of happiness, or a balloon of thought.

I remember the quiet stillness of that moment, floating free of all care and worry, suspended magically in the endless nothingness of the air below and above us.

I remember my child-self looking down over the rim of the basket and seeing my entire world laid out beneath me like a map in a made-up story. For the first time I saw that the place where I lived and struggled and worried was part of an Archipelago of staggering beauty: hundreds of tiny green islands set in a shimmering blue sea.

Questions

1. *What does Hiccup see that reminds him of Alvin?*
2. *What reminds him of the Fat Consul?*
3. *What does it mean to be 'a square peg in a round hole'?*
4. *Describe the moment the balloons rose into the air in your own words.*
5. *How many islands did he see?*

Vocabulary

1. Shimmer
2. Hullabaloo
3. Jabber
4. Sinister
5. Imperfect
6. Horizontal
7. Observation
8. Flare
9. Triumphal
10. Noble
11. Unfamiliar
12. Unsteady
13. Saviour
14. Nobly
15. Snaky
16. Rang
17. Incidentally
18. Venomous
19. Fatal
20. Disobedience

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.