

# MONDAY

**V**ocabulary  
**I**nfer  
**P**redict  
**E**xplain  
**R**etrieve  
**S**ummarise



# CONTROL THE TEXT – HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON BY CRESSIDA COWELL

## 1. FIRST CATCH YOUR DRAGON

Long ago, on the wild and windy isle of Berk, a smallish Viking with a longish name stood up to his ankles in snow.

Hiccup Horrendous Haddock the Third, the Hope and Heir to the Tribe of the Hairy Hooligans, had been feeling slightly sick ever since he woke up that morning.

Ten boys, including Hiccup, were hoping to become full members of the Tribe by passing the Dragon Initiation Programme. They were standing on a bleak little beach at the bleakest spot on the whole bleak island. A heavy snow was falling.

‘PAY ATTENTION!’ screamed Gobber the Belch, the soldier in charge of teaching Initiation. ‘This will be your first military operation, and Hiccup will be commanding the team.’

‘Oh, not Hic-cup,’ groaned Dogsbreath the Duhbrain and most of the other boys. ‘You can’t put Hiccup in charge, sir, he’s **USELESS**.’

Hiccup Horrendous Haddock the Third, the

Hope and Heir to the Tribe of the Hairy Hooligans, wiped his nose miserably on his sleeve. He sank a little deeper into the snow.

‘**ANYBODY** would be better than Hiccup,’ sneered Snotface Snotlout. ‘Even Fishlegs would be better than Hiccup.’

Fishlegs had a squint that made him as blind as a jellyfish, and an allergy to reptiles.

‘**SILENCE!**’ roared Gobber the Belch. ‘The next boy to speak has limpets for lunch for the next **THREE WEEKS!**’

There was absolute silence immediately. Limpets are a bit like worms and a bit like snot and a lot less tasty than either.

‘Hiccup will be in charge and that is an order!’ screamed Gobber, who didn’t do noises quieter than screaming. He was a seven-foot giant with a mad glint in his one working eye and a beard like exploding fireworks. Despite the freezing cold he was wearing

hairy shorts and a teeny weeny deerskin vest that showed off his lobster-red skin and bulging muscles. He was holding a flaming torch in one gigantic fist.



‘Hiccup will be leading you, although he is, admittedly, completely useless, because Hiccup is the son of the **CHIEF**, and that’s the way things go with us Vikings. Where do you think you are, the **REPUBLIC OF ROME**? Anyway, that is the least of your problems today. You are here to prove yourself as a Viking Hero. And it is an ancient tradition of the Hooligan Tribe that you should’ – Gobber paused dramatically –

‘**FIRST CATCH YOUR DRAGON!**’

Ohhhhhh suffering scallops, thought Hiccup.

‘Our dragons are what set us apart!’ bellowed Gobber. ‘Lesser humans train hawks to hunt for them, horses to carry them. It is only the **VIKING HEROES** who dare to tame the wildest, most dangerous creatures on earth.’

Gobber spat solemnly into the snow. ‘There are three parts to the Dragon Initiation Test. The first and most dangerous part is a test of your courage and skill at burglary. If you wish to enter the Hairy Hooligan Tribe, you must first catch your dragon.’



# WHAT DO YOU ALREADY KNOW ABOUT...?

Dragons



Vikings



Training



**TRAINING**

# VOCABULARY

**Initiation-**  
completing a  
difficult task  
in order to  
join a group

**Bleak**– a cold  
and miserable  
place

**Military** –  
relating to  
soldiers or  
armed forces

**Squint** –  
having eyes  
that look in  
different  
directions

**Glint** –  
  
Gives out  
flashes of  
light

**Dramatically**  
– in an  
exciting or  
impressive  
manner



What other words were unfamiliar?

Let's use a dictionary or thesaurus to  
define them.

Can you see any clues within the  
word to help us work out what they  
mean?

# **SUMMARISE**

**Can you summarise three points we learn from this text**

**1.**

**2.**

**3.**



# TUESDAY

**V**ocabulary  
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# DO NOW



Choose the correct word for each sentence:

**military      initiation      dramatically**

The classroom was cleaned up like a \_\_\_\_\_ operation.

“I don’t care!” said Jessica \_\_\_\_\_ as she stormed out of the room.

In order to join the Secret Screamers Club you had to complete an \_\_\_\_\_.

# **RETRIEVAL QUESTIONS**

## **WHAT DO THESE MEAN AGAIN?**

## **HOW CAN WE ANSWER THEM?**



### **Stage 1**

1. What was Hiccup's full name?
2. How many boys were taking part in the Dragon Initiation Programme?
3. Name 3 of the other boys taking part.
4. What were the 2 problems that Fishlegs had?
5. What was Gobber's beard described as?
6. What was Gobber wearing?
7. What was the first part of the Dragon Initiation Test?

### **Challenge:**

1. Why did Hiccup have to complete the Dragon Initiation Test?



# WEDNESDAY

**V**ocabulary  
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# DO NOW

1. Find and copy a word in the first column that means 'rubbish' or 'awful' .
2. Find and copy a word in the second column which means 'complete'.
3. Find and copy a word in the third column which means 'to shout loudly'.

**Challenge: Write your own Find and Copy questions.**



# **INFERENCE QUESTIONS**

**WHAT DO THESE MEAN AGAIN?**

**HOW CAN WE ANSWER THEM?**



## **Stage 1**

1. Why was Hiccup feeling slightly sick?
2. How did the other boys feel about Hiccup commanding the team?
3. Did the boys like eating limpets? Explain your answer.
4. Why did Gobber wear shorts and a vest in freezing weather?
5. Why do only Vikings catch dragons?

## **Challenge:**

1. How is Hiccup feeling about the first part of the initiation test? Explain your answer.

# THURSDAY

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# DO NOW

**Write these events in the order in which they happen.**

- 1. The boys are told that they must first catch a dragon.**
- 2. Gobber spits in the snow.**
- 3. The 10 boys gather on the beach.**
- 4. The boys are threatened with eating limpets.**
- 5. Gobber puts Hiccup in charge of the group.**

**Challenge:**

**Write your own retrieval questions.**



# THE BIG QUESTION

## BIG QUESTION

**Should young children be forced to complete dangerous activities by adults?**



# FRIDAY

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# DO NOW



**Think carefully about what you have read and make a prediction about the following:**

**What do you think will happen next in the story? Explain your answer.**

**Challenge:**

- 1. What role does Gobber have in the tribe? Do you think he was good at the Dragon Initiation Test? Explain your answer.**

# REVIEW

Was there anything you liked about this text?

Was there anything you disliked about this text?

Was there anything that puzzled you?

Were there any patterns or connections that you noticed?

