

# How to Train Your Dragon: Chapter Four

## **Activity 1**

Hopefully, you should have received your own copy of the novel in the post. Enjoy! This week, read Chapter 4. Once you have completed the chapter, answer the questions below in order to check your understanding.

**1) What does Snotlout suggest Hiccup's dragon is comparable to?**

- a. A teeny toothless frog that hovers
- b. An ickle brown bunny rabbit with wings
- c. A minute garden lizard that flaps about

**2) What does Snotlout call his dragon?**

- a. Fireworm
- b. Fireworth
- c. Firewrath

**3) What does the adjective 'uncivilised' mean?**

- a. very old-fashioned or ancient
- b. well organised with a developed culture and way of life
- c. not behaving in a socially acceptable way, or not having developed a modern culture

**4) What does the word 'exile' mean?**

- a. the state of being sent to live in another country that is not your own, especially for political reasons or as a punishment
- b. to send or bring somebody back to their own country
- c. to leave your own country to go and live permanently in another country

**5) Who does Hiccup challenge?**

- a. Snotlout
- b. Speedifist
- c. Fishlegs

**6) Where does Hiccup go to get the book recommended by Gobber?**

- a. The Library
- b. The Great Hall
- c. The Village Bookshop

**7) What is the book's main premise?**

- a. Learn to speak dragon
- b. Whisper to your dragon
- c. Yell at your dragon

**8) How does Hiccup react to the advice given in the book?**

- a. He is furious and frustrated
- b. He is relieved and grateful
- c. He is confused and unsure

**9) On the inside cover of the book by Professor Yobbish, someone has gratified: 'Beowulf is a softy.' Who is Beowulf?**

- a. A historical character from Ancient Greece
- b. A fictional hero in what is believed to be the first English Epic
- c. An important writer of Old English mythology and poetry

## Activity 2

Professor Yobbish's one and only rule for dragon training is rather unhelpful. Create your own information leaflet in which you instruct young Vikings how to effectively train their newly acquired dragons. Focus on one particular task. It could be: to train them to catch fish for your dinner or to follow simple return commands when taking your dragon for their daily exercise.

You could use the VCOP below to help with your writing.

# How to Train Your Dragon to...

Vocabulary	Temporal Connectives	Openers	Punctuation
Unruly Boisterous Disobedient Overexcited Insubordinate Excitable Mischievous Firm Clear Authoritative Boundaries Confident Commanding Tone of voice	First Second Next Finally After Meanwhile Now When Until	Dragons are much like puppies in that...  The purpose of this information leaflet is to...  With this simple to follow guide, you can train your dragon to...	;-()-  "  ...'  ,  !?  .

## Stretch & Challenge:

Reading widely is the best thing you can do to prepare for Secondary English. Visit the Nobel Website to access our recommended reading list: <http://thenobelschool.org/reading/>

Like Hiccup, Charlotte Brontë's 'Jane Eyre' tells the story of an unlikely heroine. Two readers share their experiences of reading the novel during their early teens. You can listen to Thandie Newton reading the novel here: [https://stories.audible.com/pdp/B01COOZ5C2?ref=adbl\\_ent\\_anon\\_sc\\_pdp\\_pc\\_0](https://stories.audible.com/pdp/B01COOZ5C2?ref=adbl_ent_anon_sc_pdp_pc_0)

### Sarah Waters

I first read *Jane Eyre* as a teenager, but have returned to it many times since; it is one of those novels that, with each rereading, only seems to grow richer. My favourite lines come just over halfway through, when Jane is engaged in one of her many wrangles with the teasing Mr Rochester. "Do you think," she asks him, "because I am poor, obscure, plain, and little, I am soulless and heartless? You think wrong!" The lines capture part of the appeal that the book has always had for me: the small, unglamorous, passionate figure staking her claim to equality, insisting on her right to feel, to act, to matter. Meanwhile, however, up on "the fateful third storey" of Thornfield Hall, the inconvenient first wife gives her "goblin ha! ha!" ... What I love most about *Jane Eyre* is the way it combines vastly different narrative registers, with mad Bertha Rochester prowling just below the realist surface and occasionally erupting though it to start a fire,

bite a shoulder or rend a wedding veil. With her, Brontë created the sort of gothic icon – like Dracula or Mr Hyde – that it is now hard to imagine the world ever having been without. Just like Jane herself, Bertha lives on in many forms – and gets her own story, of course, in another inspiring novel, Jean Rhys's prequel to *Jane Eyre*, a brilliant bit of post-colonial revisionism *Wide Sargasso Sea*.

### **Helen Simpson**

I was 10 when first I read *Jane Eyre*, thrilled that this heroine of a grown-up book was the same age as me, for the first 100 pages at least. The book itself was small, crimson, second-hand, its print fascinatingly spidery on very thin paper. I asked for another one like that when my 11th birthday came round and received a Brontë bargain bumper-pack. More than three inches thick and almost 3lbs in weight (I've just checked), three sisters for the price of one, it lumped Emily and Anne in with Charlotte.

Having said thank you, I returned discreetly to the little second-hand edition. The child heroine's first-person centrality, her super-sensitivity to injustice and her impassioned yet powerless state all commanded my readerly identification. Jane and I were one as we defied Aunt Reed, rubbed our chilblains, revered *Rasselas*-reading Helen Burns, raged at the headband marked "Slattern". Ah, the solace of Miss Temple's seed cake! And how rousing were Jane's regular Miltonic blasts against tyranny; though I find on recent rereading that she was not quite the revolutionary I took her for (domestic endearment and household joys are "the best things the world has", she declares to refrigerator suitor St John Rivers somewhere in *Jane Eyre's* remaining four-fifths). Even so, who could resist a novel where the heroine sets her course by the moral compass of Bunyan's pilgrim while her passions blaze with Byronic ardour from beginning to end? I took it to heart when I was 10, and there it has stayed.

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2016/apr/16/charlotte-bronte-bicentenary-birth-jane-eyre-by-sarah-waters-margaret-drabble-jeanette-winterson>