

How to Train Your Dragon: Chapter Five

Activity 1

Read Chapter 5. Once you have completed the chapter, answer the questions below in order to check your understanding.

1) What is the name of Hiccup's mother?

- a. Venerika
- b. Valhallarama
- c. Vajaka

2) What is a soothsayer?

- a. the father of a king
- b. a medicine man, concerned with looking after your teeth
- c. a person who is believed to be able to tell what will happen in the future

3) According to Hiccup, what is 'extraordinary' about his dragon?

- a. it is very small
- b. it is always sleeping
- c. it is very intelligent

4) How does a 'Real Sea Dragon' compare with Hiccup's dragon?

- a. Sea Dragons are fifty times as big
- b. Sea Dragons are sixty times as big
- c. Sea Dragons are half the size

5) Who is Thor?

- a. a cunning trickster god who had the ability to change his shape
- b. a hammer-wielding god associated with thunder, lightning and storms
- c. the god of war and of the dead who ruled over Valhalla

6) What has Hiccup been doing secretly in his spare time?

- a. Reading about dragons
- b. Watching dragons
- c. Training dragons

7) Hiccup is an unconventional Viking. He is not a good warrior. However, what is he good at?

- a. He can talk to dragons
- b. He is a great writer and has written his own books on dragon training
- c. He can read dragons' thoughts

8) 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

9) What is a myth?

- a. a story from ancient times, especially one that was told to explain natural events or to describe the early history of a people
- b. a long poem about the actions of great men and women or about a nation's history
- c. a serious play with a sad ending, especially one in which the main character dies

Activity 2

Myths were created by early civilisations to make sense of things happening in the natural world around them. Below are links to animated retellings of a few myths from around the world:

- How Thor Got His Hammer (Norse): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qytj-DbXMKQ>
- Isis and the Seven Scorpions (Ancient Egyptian): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JycXLG6GeYk>
- The Myth Behind the Chinese Zodiac:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=may2s9j4RLk&list=PLJicmE8fK0EjW2AVwcSc4NvGyJJaw7bzh&index=6>
- The Aztec Myth of the Unlikeliest Sun God: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fMPG-2vXi-s>



Predict: Before you watch each story, look carefully at the title. What do you think the story will be about based on the title? What prior knowledge do you have that could aid your predictions?

Clarify: Are there any unfamiliar words in the titles? Use this online dictionary <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/choose?q=choose> to find the meanings of these unfamiliar words. Now watch the clip. Are there any further terms you need to know in order to understand the story? Do you need to watch the story again to have a clear idea of what is happening?

Question:

- Who are the main characters in the story?
- Where is the story set?
- What happens?
- Why does it happen?
- What key ideas are being explored?

Summarise:

Write a paragraph summarising what you have watched. Try and make your summary succinct. Can you summarise the story in no more than 5 lines? Could you reduce it even further?

Stretch & Challenge:

Read this short extract from Neil Gaiman's book, 'Norse Mythology.' Follow the same steps as above.

Predict- Clarify-Question-Summarise (in no more than 5 lines)

Thor

Thor, Odin's son, is the thunderer. He is straightforward where his father Odin is cunning, good-natured where his father is devious.

Huge he is, and red-bearded, and strong, by far the strongest of all the gods. His might is increased by his belt of strength, Megingjord: when he wears it, his strength is doubled.

Thor's weapon is Mjollnir, a remarkable hammer, forged for him by dwarfs. Its story you will learn. Trolls and frost giants and mountain giants all tremble when they see Mjollnir, for it has killed so many of their brothers and friends. Thor wears iron gloves, which help him to grip the hammer's shaft.

Thor's mother was Jord, the earth goddess. Thor's sons are Modi, the angry, and Magni, the strong. Thor's daughter is Thrud, the powerful.

His wife is Sif, of the golden hair. She had a son, Ullr, before she married Thor, and Thor is Ullr's stepfather. Ullr is a god who hunts with bow and arrows, and he is the god with skis.

Thor is the defender of Asgard and of Midgard.

There are many stories about Thor and his adventures. You will encounter some of them here.