

How to Train Your Dragon: Chapters Nine & Ten

Activity 1

Read Chapters 9 & 10. Once you have completed the chapters, answer the questions below in order to check your understanding.

1) What is a myth?

- a. a long poem about the actions of great men and women or about a nation's history
- b. a story from ancient times, especially one that was told to explain natural events or to describe the early history of a people
- c. a speech or a piece of writing that argues very strongly for or against something/somebody

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) What was the Sea Dragon's last meal?

- a. A coalition of Scandinavian warriors
- b. A two-hundred strong militia
- c. A Roman legion

4) How long has the Sea Dragon been in a sleep coma?

- a. Six or seven centuries
- b. Nearly five-hundred years
- c. Precisely eight decades

5) What colour are Toothless' eyes?

- a. green
- b. yellow
- c. purple

6) Where does Toothless bite Hiccup?

- a. His leg
- b. His hand
- c. His arm

7) What does the adjective 'indignant' mean?

- a. having or showing no interest in somebody/something
- b. difficult to understand, and presented in a complicated way
- c. feeling or showing anger and surprise because you think that you have been treated unfairly

8) What are the names of Stoic's hunting dragons?

- a. Fireworm and Horrorcow
- b. Newtsbreath and Hookfang
- c. Yellowbelly and Redtail

9) Why does Hiccup let Toothless sleep in his bed?

- a. Toothless helps keep Hiccup warm
- b. So Toothless isn't left with Stoic's dragons
- c. Because Hiccup can't get Toothless to stay on the rug by the fire

Activity 2

When Hiccup's father first sees Toothless, he notices how remarkably small he is for a dragon and that he doesn't have any teeth. Fishlegs comes to his friend's rescue. What embellishments does Fishleg's add to his description of the diminutive dragon in order to placate the anxious Viking Chief? Find evidence from the text.

**diminutive= extremely or unusually small.*

**embellishment= the addition of details to make something more interesting/ attractive, even if the details are not true*

**placate= to make somebody feel less angry about something*

Activity 3

Just like Fishlegs, take an ordinary object or pet and use exciting descriptive vocabulary to make it sound more interesting and attractive. Write a description of your chosen object exaggerating it in every way you can. Use exciting adjectives and similes to embellish your chosen object.

You could use this VCOP to help with your writing.

Vocabulary	Connectives	Openers	Punctuation
Appearance		• It is easy to underestimate...	;
Exterior	However		() -
Form	Although	• A quick glance and you would be forgiven for thinking...	" "
Deceptive	Whilst		'
Extraordinary		• Whilst _____ may appear to be....	...'
Superlative	Moreover		,
Remarkable	In addition	• In fact, the _____ is....	!
Prodigious	Furthermore		?
Marvellous		• Many people have tried to acquire...	.
Lineage	Consequently		
World leading	As a result	• The numerous benefits of possessing a _____ include...	
Mammoth	Finally		
Colossal		• _____ is like a _____ and as _____ as a _____	
Awe-inspiring			
Rapid			
Swift			
Nimble			
Valuable			

Stretch & Challenge

Fictional and real-life heroes are often depicted as infallible (unable to make mistakes) and super-human. Why might this be damaging or even dangerous? Read the article below as stimulus for a discussion with family and friends.

Heroes Aren't Meant To Be Infallible

We've seen it all before. The player gets lauded for his overall achievement. He is a once in a lifetime talent. His skills and physical attributes are off the charts and read more like a cataclysmic event rather than an average tremor on your metronome. We embrace them, but then something happens. They fail to make the shot. They skewer a penalty. Miss an open net. Blow a possession. Fail to cure cancer and bring world peace. And all of a sudden they're a bust. It's a lie. It's nonsense!

LeBron James has been riding this narrative for years. His failures in the finals are well documented. Up until a week ago, everyone was quick to remind us that James hasn't won a championship without the support of at least two superstars (but then his volleyball spiked a basketball into the orbit of Neptune and the talking ceased). Ronaldo faces this every time he plays for Portugal. Even Floyd Mayweather was labelled a coward before whipping Pacquiao into shape in the most technical (albeit slightly boring) display of boxing. Now, it appears it's Messi's turn.

That is Leo Messi, arguably the best player on the planet (at least in the top two) missing a penalty kick and arguably losing the Copa American for Argentina. Let's ignore the fact that the Chilean opposition missed their first kick and it was still 0-0 at that point, let's even ignore the fact that Argentina lost 4-2, meaning at least ONE MORE PERSON had to miss for this to happen. Let's even ignore that Gonzalo Higuain missed a sitter that could have won the game in regulation. Because goddamn, all of you already are.

The discussion will inevitably come down to one whole sided question "is Messi even that god?"

I don't know.

Is he?

Here's the thing: these sportsmen and women are infallible. We need to stop seeing them as Gods among men.

The fun aspect of heroes is about them overcoming a challenge. It's not fun to watch someone rampage through the opposition a-la Genghis Khan. There is no tension. People loved the 2015 Warriors because they were bucking against the system. They were the underdog that was never meant to make it and they were breaking the game.

In every movie, there has to be that moment where the hero looks human, where he might just lose. We have to really believe in him losing. This belief comes from us knowing that failure is in fact possible. A true hero is more a sum of his failures than he is a sum of his successes. Successes are rudimentary at this point. I dare you to recite all of Messi's accolades in one breath. I'll just be over here with an air pump. It is actually through the lens of failure that the best do what they do best.