**How To Train Your Dragon Chapter 2 Inside the Dragon Nursery p32-35**

It was a perilous climb. The rocks were slippery with snow and the other boys were thoroughly over excited, making the ascent far too quickly. At one point Clueless missed his footing and fell – luckily on to Gongsbreath, who caught him by the back of the trousers and heaved him back on to the rock again, before he brought the whole lot of them down. When they finally made it to the mouth of the cave, Hiccup looked down briefly at the sea pounding the rocks way below, and swallowed very hard…..

‘Untie the ropes! Ordered Snotlout, his eyes popping with excitement at the thought of the dangers to come. ‘Hiccup goes into the cave first because HE is the son of the Chief….’ He sneered. ‘And, if any of the dragons ARE awake, he’ll be the first to know about it! Once we’re in the cave, it’s every man for himself. Only the strong can belong…’

Although he wasn’t your usual mindless thug of a Hooligan, Hiccup wasn’t a wimp either. Being frightened is not the same as being a coward. Maybe he was as brave as anyone else there, because he went to catch a dragon despite knowing what dragons are like. And, when he had climbed perilously to the mouth of the cave and had found that inside there was a long, twisty tunnel, he still went down it, despite not being too keen on long, twisty tunnels with dragons at the end of them.

The tunnel was dripping and clammy. At times it was high enough for the boys to walk upright. Then it would be close down into the narrow, claustrophobic holes that the boys could only just squeeze through, squirming on their stomach with the flares held in their mouths. After ten long minutes of walking and crawling into the heart of the cliff, the stench of dragon- a salty stink of seaweed and old mackerel heads- got stronger and stronger, until finally it became unbearable and the tunnel opened out into a ginormous cavern.

The cavern was full of more dragons that Hiccup could ever have imagined existed. They were every possible colour and size, and they included all the species that Hiccup had heard of, and quite a few more that he hadn’t. Hiccup started sweating as he looked around him at pile after pile of the animals, draped over every available surface; even hanging upside-down from the roof like giant bats. They were all fast asleep, and most of them were snoring in unison. This was a sound so loud and so deep that it seemed to penetrate right into Hiccup’s body and vibrate around his soft insides, churning his stomach and bowel, and forcing his heart to beat at the same slow dragon pulse.

If one, just one of, of these countless creatures were to wake up, it would raise the alarm to the others and the boys would meet a horrible death. They left the torches in a pile at the entrance. The cavern was already well-lit by the Glow worms and the Flamehuffers.

Snotlout made a big fuss about grabbing a vicious-looking Monstrous Nightmare, smiling nastily at Hiccups as he did so. Snotlout was the son of Baggybum the Beerbelly,Stoick the Vast’s younger brother. He was intending to get rid of Hiccup some time in the future so that he, Snotlout, would become Chief of the Hairy Hooligan Tribe.

Wartihog and Dogsbreath got into a loudly whispered fight over a Gronckle, a heavily-armoured brute with fangs like kitchen knives sticking out in such numbers that it couldn’t keep its mouth shut. Dogsbreath won, then managed to drop it as he was trying to bundle it into his basket. The weaponry of the beast made a horribly loud clatter as it landed on the floor of the cavern. The Gronckle opened its evil, crocodile eyes. Everybody held their breath. The Gronckle stared ahead. It was difficult to tell from its blank expression whether it was awake or fast asleep. Hiccup realised, in agony of suspense, that the gossamer-thin third eyelid was still down. And there it stayed for a few heart-stopping moments, until ……….

It slowly closed its upper eyelids again. Amazingly, not one of the other dragons woke up. A few grumbled groggily before making themselves comfy again. But most were in such a stupor that they barely even stirred.

1. What does the word perilous mean in the first sentence?
2. Who missed their footing while climbing up the cliff?
3. Why was Hiccup sent inside the cave first?
4. Describe any three things about the tunnel the boys had to walk through to get their dragon?
5. Describe what Hiccup and the other boys saw inside the cavern?
6. Why did the boys leave their torches by the entrance?
7. Which dragon did Snotlout grab?
8. How is Snotlout related to Hiccup?
9. Why were Wartihog and Dogsbreath fighting?
10. Why did Gronckle open its eyes?

**Reading**

**Answers How To Train Your Dragon - Chapter 2 p32-35**

1. Perilous mean full of danger or risk.
2. Clueless missed his footing while climbing up the cliff.
3. Hiccup was sent inside the cave first because he was the chief’s son.
4. The tunnel the boys had to walk through was dripping and clammy. It was high enough for the boys to walk upright and then suddenly it becomes low and claustrophobic that they need to squeeze through it. The tunnel also reeks of salty seaweed and old mackerel head.
5. Hiccup and the other boys saw dragons of all sizes and colour fast asleep inside the cavern. They saw all different species of the dragons lying pile after pile over every available surface, even hanging upside-down from the roof like giant bats.
6. The boys left the torches by the entrance because the cavern was already well-lit by the Glow worms and Flamehuffers.
7. Snotlot grabbed the vicious looking Mostrous Nightmare.
8. Snotlout is Hiccup’s cousin.
9. Wartihog and Dogsbreath were fighting to get the dragon Gronckle, a heavily-armoured brute with sharp fangs like kitchen knives.
10. Gronckle opened its eyes because Dogsbreath accidentally dropped it when he was trying to bundle it into his basket.