

## Into the Dragons' Cave

Cressida Cowell

- 1 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.
- 8 The tunnel was dripping and clammy. At times it was high enough for the boys to walk upright. Then it would close down into narrow, claustrophobic holes that the boys could only just squeeze through, squirming on their stomachs, with the flares held in their mouths.
- 12 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.
- 16 The cavern was full of more dragons than Hiccup could ever have imagined existed.
- 18 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.
- 20 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 bowels, and forcing his heart to beat at the same slow dragon pulse.
- 33 If one, just *one*, of these countless creatures were to wake up, it would raise the alarm to the others and the boys would meet a horrible death.



## Challenge 2

- 1 Find and copy **two** words from the first paragraph that tell us what most of the Hooligan Tribe are like.

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- 2 In the first paragraph, what does the word "*despite*" mean? Tick **one**.

although       because       thoughtless       unkind

- 3 What did Hiccup expect to find at the end of the tunnel?

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- 4 The tunnel was not a comfortable place to be.

Find **two** pieces of evidence from paragraph 2 for this statement. You do not have to use direct quotations from the text.

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- 5 Look at the paragraph beginning "*After ten long minutes ...*".

Find and copy the first word that warns us that dragons do not smell good.

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- 6 Why do you think the smell got stronger as the boys got closer to the end of the tunnel?

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2b

1 mark

2a

1 mark

2b

1 mark

2d

2 marks

2g

1 mark

2f

1 mark

Write the question number and then answer the questions:

**Answers:**