

HOW TO TRAIN YOUR **DRAGON** 3D

Book to Script

Here is the film script for the opening sequence from the film.

DRAGON – Sq 200 Dragon Attack ~ 01/08/2010 1.

FADE IN:

EXT. NORTH SEA/VILLAGE – NIGHT

Sequence 0200 (Dragon Attack)

We skim above a dark, wild ocean. The camera turns toward a lone island, Berk.
It is a gigantic shard of rock jutting straight out of the water.

HICCUP (V.O.)

This, is Berk. It's twelve days
North of hopeless, and a few
degrees South of freezing to death.
It's located solidly on the
meridian of misery.

The camera drifts over rolling hills to reveal a small village nestled on an outcropping
of sea mounts.

HICCUP (V.O.) (CONT'D)

My village. In a word, sturdy.
And it's been here for seven generations,
but every single building is new.

The camera drifts closer, circling.

HICCUP (V.O.) (CONT'D)

We have fishing, hunting, and
a charming view of the sunsets.
The only problems are the pests.
You see, most places have mice or mosquitoes.
We have...

Sheep graze peacefully on a hillside. Suddenly one is snatched.

CUT TO:

INT. STOICK'S HOUSE – CONTINUOUS

A door is pulled open...as a dragon swoops directly toward it, blasting fire.
The door is slammed. The fire shoots through the slats of wood, illuminating HICCUP,
a gangly teenage Viking.

HICCUP
...dragons.

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Task

Print it out, then compare it to the opening page of the book. Use these questions to help you:

1. The book starts with this sentence:

Long ago, on the wild and windy isle of Berk, a smallish Viking with a longish name stood up to his ankles in snow.

The film script starts with this sentence:

FADE IN:

EXT. NORTH SEA/VILLAGE – NIGHT

Why does Cressida Cowell introduce her main character in the first sentence?
Why does the film script describe the setting and not Hiccup?

2. In the book, the island of Berk is described as ‘wild and windy’. In the film script, it’s described in this way:

We skim above a dark, wild ocean. The camera turns toward a lone island, Berk. It is a gigantic shard of rock jutting straight out of the water.

Why do you think there is more detail in the film script? Draw what you think Berk looks like from above from the book’s description, then the film’s description. Which one was easier to draw?

3. Read through the book passage again and describe Hiccup in no more than ten words.

4. Read through the script extract again and describe Hiccup in no more than ten words. What are the differences between the way Hiccup is portrayed in the book and in the film? Why?

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5. Towards the end of the script extract, it says:

The camera drifts closer, circling.

Whose point of view do you think the camera is showing here?

6. The dragons are only mentioned once in the book version:

'Ten boys, including Hiccup, were hoping to become full members of the Tribe by passing the Dragon Initiation Programme. They were standing on a bleak little beach at the bleakest spot on the whole bleak island. A heavy snow was falling.'

How do you think Hiccup and the boys feel about the Dragon Initiation Programme? What do you think this programme entails? Why do you think their teacher, 'Gobber the Belch', calls it a 'military operation'.

7. How are the dragons introduced in the film script? Why do you think the film does it so differently?

8. Look back at the image you created from the first page of Cressida Cowell's novel. Why do you think the filmmakers chose such a different approach to the film's opening sequence, and not something like yours?