

HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON

Written by

Dean DeBlois & Chris Sanders

Based on the novel by

Cressida Cowell

Final Draft  
February 13, 2010

FADE IN:

EXT. NORTH SEA/VILLAGE - NIGHT

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.)

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.)

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

EXT. STOICK'S HOUSE

He reopens the sizzling door, as leaps off of the front porch. He weaves through the erupting mayhem as Vikings pour out of the buildings, ready for a fight.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 2.  
More dragons swarm in, setting rooftops alight and hauling  
off sheep.

HICCUP (V.O.)

Most people would leave. Not us.  
We're Vikings. We have stubbornness  
issues. Vikings sound the alarm.  
Viking men and women pour out into  
the streets, axes in hand. ON  
HICCUP darting through alleys,  
staying under eaves, making his way  
through the battle.

HICCUP (V.O.)

My name's Hiccup. Great name, I  
know. But it's not the worst.  
Parents believe a hideous name will  
frighten off gnomes and trolls.  
Like our charming Viking demeanor  
wouldn't do that. Dragons sweep  
back and forth, dodging axes and  
blasting the Vikings who throw  
them. A burly warrior gets tossed  
in an explosion, knocking Hiccup to  
the ground.

VIKING

(FIERCE)

Argggghhhh!

(cheery, insane)

Mornin'! Hiccup gets to his feet  
and continues to rush past gigantic  
men and women.

HICCUP (V.O.)

Meet the neighbors. Hoark the  
Haggard...

HOARK

What are you doing out!?

HICCUP

... Burnthair the Broad...

BURNTHAIR

Get inside!

HICCUP

... Phlegma the Fierce...

PHLEGMA THE FIERCE

Get back inside!

HICCUP

. Ack. He passes a silent ox of a viking, picking his ear.

HICCUP

Yep, just Ack. Enter STOICK, the biggest Viking of all. He yanks Hiccup from the path of a strafing dragon and holds aloft to the crowd.

STOICK

Hiccup!?  
(accusingly; to the crowd)  
What is he doing out again?!

(TO HICCUP)

What are you doing out?! Get inside! The flames light up his scowling face and matted red beard. He sets Hiccup down and turns to the sky, searching.

HICCUP (V.O.)

(IN AWE)

That's Stoick the Vast. Chief of the tribe. They say that when he was a baby he popped a dragon's head clean off of its shoulders. Do I believe it? Stoick grabs a wooden cart and hurls it, knocking the strafing dragon out of the sky.

HICCUP (V.O.)

Yes I do. An EXPLOSION forces Vikings to DUCK. Stoick stands firm, brushing flaming debris off of his shoulder.

STOICK

(barking; to his men)  
What have we got?

VIKING #1 Gronkles. Nadders. Zipplebacks. Oh, and Hoark saw a Monstrous Nightmare.

STOICK

Any Night Furies?

VIKING #1 None so far.

STOICK

(RELIEVED)

Good.

VIKING

Hoist the torches! Massive flaming braziers are raised on poles, lighting up the night sky... and revealing swirling dragons of all types. Below, Hiccup crosses an open plaza and ducks into an open building with a tall chimney.

INT. BLACKSMITH STALL - CONTINUOUS

He crosses behind a counter, where a peg-legged, one-armed hulk of a Blacksmith reshapes blades with a hammer and tongs appendage.

GOBBER

Ah! Nice of you to join the party. I thought you'd been carried off. Hiccup dons a leather apron and starts to put away Gobber's scattered appendages.

HICCUP

Who me? Nah, come on! I'm way too muscular for their taste. They wouldn't know what to do with all this. Hiccup strikes a bodybuilder pose.

GOBBER

They need toothpicks, don't they? Hiccup gets to work, transferring bent and chipped weapons to the forge as Vikings crowd the counter for replacements.

HICCUP (V.O.)

The meathead with attitude and interchangeable hands is Gobber. I've been his apprentice ever since I was little. Well...littler.

EXT. VILLAGE - CONTINUOUS

ON STOICK

STOICK  
We move to the lower defenses.  
We'll counter-attack with the  
catapults.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 5.  
Armed men rush past, flanking others who carry sheep to  
safety. Stoick follows up the rear as, overhead, a dragon  
strafes the rooftops with Napalm-like fire.

HICCUP (V.O.)  
See? Old village. Lots and lots of  
new houses.

VIKING

FIRE! In response, the fire brigade charges through the  
plaza -- four TEENS, tugging a large wooden cask on wheels.  
From it, they fill buckets of water to douse the flames. One  
among them is a cute, energetic Viking girl. Hiccup leans  
out of the stall to watch her.

HICCUP (V.O.)  
Oh and that's Fishlegs, Snotlout.  
The twins Ruffnut and Tuffnut.  
And...

(DREAMY)  
Astrid. A SLOW-MOTION explosion  
erupts behind her, framing her in a  
sexy ball of fire. The others join  
her, looking awesome and heroic.

HICCUP (V.O.)  
Their job is so much cooler. Hiccup  
tries to join them as they pass,  
but he's hooked by Gobber and  
hoisted back inside.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

(PLEADING)  
Ah, come on. Let me out, please. I  
need to make my mark.

GOBBER  
Oh, you've made plenty of marks.  
All in the wrong places.

HICCUP  
Please, two minutes. I'll kill a  
dragon. My life will get infinitely  
better. I might even get a date.

GOBBER

You can't lift a hammer. You can't swing an axe... Gobber grabs a bola (iron balls connected by rope).

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 6.

GOBBER

... you can't even throw one of these. A Viking runs by and nabs it out of Gobber's hand, hurling it at a dive-bombing Gronkle. The bola binds its legs, sending it into a heavy crash.

HICCUP

(ready with the answer)  
Okay fine, but... He rushes to the back corner of the stall and presents a bizarre, wheel barrow-like contraption.

HICCUP

... this will throw it for me. Hiccup OPENS the hinged lid of the device. An arm springs up, equipped with twin bows. They prematurely launch a bola, narrowly missing Gobber... and taking out a Viking at the counter.

VIKING

Arggh!

GOBBER

See, now this right here is what I'm talking about.

HICCUP

Mild calibration issue.

GOBBER

Hiccup. If you ever want to get out there to fight dragons, you need to stop all... Gobber gestures in Hiccup's general direction.

GOBBER

... this.

HICCUP

(ASTONISHED)  
But... you just pointed to all of  
me.

GOBBER  
Yes! That's it! Stop being all of  
you.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 7.

HICCUP

(THREATENING)  
Ohhhh...

GOBBER

(MIMICKING)  
Ohhhhh, yes.

HICCUP  
You, sir, are playing a dangerous  
game. Keeping this much,  
raw...Vikingness contained.

(BEAT)  
There will be consequences! Gobber  
tosses him a sword.

GOBBER  
I'll take my chances. Sword.  
Sharpen. Now. Hiccup takes it  
begrudgingly and lobs it onto the  
grinding wheel. He stews...  
fantasizing...

HICCUP (V.O.)  
One day I'll get out there. Because  
killing a dragon is everything  
around here.

EXT. VILLAGE - LOWER PLAINS - CONTINUOUS

Nadders land, gathering like seagulls around a seemingly  
vacant house.

HICCUP (V.O.)  
A Nadder head is sure to get me at  
least noticed. The Nadders clamber  
onto the building, tearing the roof  
and walls apart. Sheep pour out and  
SCATTER.



Elsewhere, hippo-like Gronckles  
pick drying racks clean of fish and  
fly off like loaded pelicans.

HICCUP (V.O.)

Gronckles are tough. Taking down  
one of those would definitely get  
me a girlfriend. A stealthy, snake-  
like dragon head peeks over a  
rooftop, breathing gas into a  
chimney.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 8.

HICCUP (V.O.)

A Zippelback? Exotic, exciting. Two  
heads, twice the status. A second  
head pokes through the door and  
lights it. KABLAM! The two heads  
fly through the explosion, their  
necks zipping together to reveal a  
single body. It flies past Stoick  
as he climbs to the top of a  
CATAPULT

TOWER.

CATAPULT OPERATOR

They found the sheep!

STOICK

(FRUSTRATED)

Concentrate fire over the lower  
bank!

CATAPULT OPERATOR

Fire! Boulders are catapulted at  
the corralling Nadders... Just as a  
huge red dragon whips past,  
spraying the base of the catapult  
with sticky fire.

HICCUP (V.O.)

And then there's the Monstrous  
Nightmare. Only the best Vikings go  
after those. They have this nasty  
habit of setting themselves on  
fire. It emerges from the flames,  
climbing the catapult with a  
leering, toothy grin.

STOICK  
Reload! I'll take care of this.  
Stoick takes on the Nightmare, face  
to hammer. Suddenly, a LOUD  
BALLISTIC MOANING streaks overhead.  
The catapult crew ducks.

INT. BLACKSMITH STALL - CONTINUOUS

ON HICCUP, looking up from his work, reacting to the same  
sound.

HICCUP (V.O.)  
But the ultimate prize is the  
dragon no one has ever seen. We  
call it the--

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 9.

VIKING  
Night Fury! Get down! Vikings  
everywhere take shelter. The  
moaning sound BUILDS.

EXT. VILLAGE - CATAPULT - CONTINUOUS

The Monstrous Nightmare suddenly stops fighting and takes  
flight. Stoick looks skyward.

STOICK

JUMP! KABOOM! The Catapult EXPLODES as though hit by an  
artillery shell... sending Stoick and the crew leaping for  
their lives.

HICCUP (V.O.)  
This thing never steals food, never  
shows itself, and... The sound  
recedes, leaving the crippled  
catapult in flames.

HICCUP (V.O.)  
...never misses.

(BEAT)  
No one has ever killed a Night  
Fury. That's why I'm going to be  
the first.

IN THE STALL  
Gobber trades his hammer for an  
axe.

GOBBER

Man the fort, Hiccup, they need me out there! Gobber pauses. Turns with a threatening glare.

GOBBER

Stay. Put. There. You know what I mean. Gobber charges into the fray, HOLLERING. ON HICCUP, a smirk crosses his face.

EXT. VILLAGE - MOMENTS LATER

WHAM! Hiccup pushes his wheeled contraption through a wall of clustered Vikings. He weaves through the ongoing mayhem, as fast as his legs can carry him.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 10.

VIKING #6 (O.S.)

Hiccup, where are you going!

VIKING #7 Come back here!

HICCUP

I know. Be right back!

ON THE PLAIN BELOW

The Nadders have cornered the housefull of sheep. They close in, ready to spring upon them. Stoick suddenly appears, HURLING FISHING NETS over them. The surprised Nadders are caught. Stoick and his men rush in. A Nadder blasts a hole through its net. Stoick leaps onto it, clamping his thick arms around its head, forcing its jaws shut.

STOICK

Mind yourselves! The devils still have some juice in them.

ON THE PLAIN ABOVE

Hiccup reaches a cliff overlooking the smoking CATAPULT and drops the handles to the ground. He cranks several levers, unfolding and then cocking the bowed arms of his contraption. He drops a bola onto a chamber and then pivots the weapon on a gimbal head toward the dark sky.

He listens, with his eye pressed to the scope, hand poised on the trigger. He hears the NIGHT FURY approaching... and turns his aim to the defense tower. It closes in for the final strike, completely camouflaged in the night.

HICCUP

(TO HIMSELF)

Come on. Give me something to shoot at, give me something to shoot at. KABLAM! The tower topples. The blast of fire illuminates the dragon for a split second. Hiccup pulls the trigger. KERTHUNK! The flexed arms SNAP forward, springing the weapon off the ground. The bola disappears into the sky, followed by a WHACK and a SCREECH.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 11.

HICCUP

(surprised, then elated)

Oh I hit it! Yes, I hit it! Did anybody see that? Hiccup's victory is short-lived. A Monstrous Nightmare appears, slithering up over the lip of the cliff.

HICCUP

Except for you. ON STOICK, holding down the netted Nadders. He hears a familiar HOLLER and looks up to see... HICCUP running through the PLAZA, SCREAMING, with the NIGHTMARE fast on his heels. Alarmed, Stoick abandons the Nadders and runs off.

STOICK

(to his men, re: the

NADDERS)

DO NOT let them escape!

IN THE PLAZA

Vikings scatter as Hiccup dodges a near fatal blast. The Nightmare's sticky, Napalm-like fire splashes up onto buildings, setting them alight.

Hiccup ducks behind the last standing brazier -- the only shelter available. The Nightmare blasts it, spraying fire all around him. Hiccup peers around the smoldering post. No sign of the Nightmare. He turns back to find it leering at him, blocking his escape. It takes a deep breath. Hiccup is finished. Suddenly, Stoick LEAPS between them, tackling the Nightmare to the ground. They tumble and wrestle, resuming their earlier fight. The Nightmare tries to toast him, but only coughs up smoke.

STOICK

You're all out. He smashes the Nightmare repeatedly in the face, driving it away. It takes to the air and disappears. Winded, Stoick turns to Hiccup.

HICCUP (V.O.)

Oh, and there's one more thing you need to know...

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 12.  
The burnt brazier pole collapses, sending the massive iron basket crashing. It bounces down the hill, destroying as it goes and scattering the Vikings who were holding down the netted Nadders. The freed dragons escape... with several sheep in tow.

HICCUP

Sorry, dad.

EXT. VILLAGE - UPPER PLAZA - CONTINUOUS

The escaped Nadders fly past with sheep in their clutches. The raid is over. The dragons have clearly won. The murmuring crowd eyes Stoick, awaiting his response.

HICCUP

(SHEEPISH)

Okay, but I hit a Night Fury. Stoick grabs Hiccup by the back scruff of his collar and hauls him away, fuming with embarrassment.

HICCUP

It's not like the last few times, Dad. I mean I really actually hit it. You guys were busy and I had a very clear shot. It went down, just off Raven Point. Let's get a search party out there, before it--

STOICK

--STOP! Just....stop. He releases Hiccup. Everyone goes silent, staring expectantly.

STOICK

Every time you step outside, disaster follows. Can you not see that I have bigger problems? Winter's almost here and I have an entire village to feed! Hiccup looks around. All eyes are upon him.

HICCUP

Between you and me, the village could do with a little less feeding, don't ya think? A few rotund Vikings stir self-consciously.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 13.

STOICK

This isn't a joke, Hiccup!

(EXASPERATED)

Why can't you follow the simplest orders?

HICCUP

I can't stop myself. I see a dragon and I have to just... kill it, you know? It's who I am, Dad.

STOICK

You are many things, Hiccup. But a dragon killer is not one of them. Sting. Hiccup looks around to see many nods of agreement.

STOICK

Get back to the house.

(TO GOBBER)

Make sure he gets there. I have his mess to clean up. Stoick lumbers off in the opposite direction. Gobber leads Hiccup through the walk of shame. They pass the teen fire brigade as they snicker.

TUFFNUT

Quite the performance.

SNOTLOUT

I've never seen anyone mess up that badly. That helped!

HICCUP

Thank you, thank you. I was trying, so... Hiccup avoids Astrid's glare and heads up toward a large house, standing prominently on the hill above the others.

HICCUP

I really did hit one.

GOBBER

Sure, Hiccup.

HICCUP

He never listens.

GOBBER

Well, it runs in the family.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 14.

HICCUP

And when he does, it's always with this... disappointed scowl. Like someone skimped on the meat in his sandwich.

(MIMICKING STOICK)

Excuse me, barmaid. I'm afraid you brought me the wrong offspring. I ordered an extra large boy with beefy arms. Extra guts and glory on the side. This here. This is a talking fish bone.

GOBBER

You're thinking about this all wrong.

It's not so much what you look like. It's what's inside that he can't stand. Beat.

HICCUP

Thank you, for summing that up.  
They reach the doorway.

GOBBER

Look, the point is, stop trying so hard to be something you're not.  
Hiccup SIGHS heavily.

HICCUP

I just want to be one of you guys.  
Gobber eyes him sympathetically.  
Hiccup turns and goes through the front door. And straight out the back door. He hurries off into the woods, determined.

INT. GREAT HALL - DAY

A noisy din of PROTESTING VOICES leads to... STOICK, glowering in the firelight. Surrounded by his men.

STOICK

Either we finish them or they'll finish us! It's the only way we'll be rid of them! If we find the nest and destroy it, the dragons will leave. They'll find another home.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 15.  
He sinks his blade into a... LARGE NAUTICAL MAP, spread out on the table... the blade pierces the middle of an uncharted corner, swirling with painted sea monsters and dragons.

STOICK (CONT'D)

(DECIDEDLY)

One more search. Before the ice sets in.

VIKING

Those ships never come back.

STOICK

(MATTER-OF-FACT)

We're Vikings. It's an occupational hazard. Now who's with me? Stoick throws up his fist. No one follows.



The crowds shifts in restless  
silence. Head scratches. Eyes  
averted.

VIKING

(FEEBLE)

Today's not good for me.

VIKING (CONT'D)

(EQUALLY FEEBLE)

I've gotta do my axe returns.

STOICK

Alright. Those who stay will look  
after Hiccup. Hands jut into the  
air, volunteers galore.  
Enthusiastic murmurs of prep and  
packing fill the room.

PHLEGMA THE FIERCE

To the ships!

SPITELOUT

I'm with you Stoick!

STOICK

(DRY)

That's more like it. The Vikings  
rush for the door, leaving Gobber  
and Stoick alone. Gobber gulps back  
the contents of his tankard  
attachment and scrapes back the  
bench.

GOBBER

I'll pack my undies.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 16.

STOICK

No, I need you to stay and train  
some new recruits.

GOBBER

Oh, perfect. And while I'm busy,  
Hiccup can cover the stall. Molten  
steel, razor sharp blades, lots of  
time to himself...what could  
possibly go wrong? Stoick sinks  
onto the bench beside Gobber, his  
brow burdened.

STOICK  
What am I going to do with him  
Gobber?

GOBBER  
Put him in training with the  
others.

STOICK  
No, I'm serious.

GOBBER  
So am I. Stoick turns to him,  
glaring.

STOICK  
He'd be killed before you let the  
first dragon out of its cage.

GOBBER  
Oh, you don't know that.

STOICK  
I do know that, actually.

GOBBER  
No, you don't.

STOICK  
No, actually I do.

GOBBER  
No you don't!

STOICK  
Listen! You know what he's like.  
From the time he could crawl he's  
been...different. He doesn't  
listen.

(MORE)

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 17.

STOICK  
Has the attention span of a  
sparrow. I take him fishing and he  
goes hunting for... for trolls.

GOBBER

(DEFENSIVE)  
Trolls exist! They steal your  
socks.

(DARKLY)  
But only the left ones. What's with that?

STOICK  
When I was a boy...

GOBBER

(GRUMBLING)  
Oh here we go.

STOICK  
My father told me to bang my head against a rock and I did it. I thought it was crazy, but I didn't question him. And you know what happened?

GOBBER  
You got a headache.

STOICK  
That rock split in two. It taught me what a Viking could do, Gobber. He could crush mountains, level forests, tame seas! Even as a boy, I knew what I was, what I had to become.

(BEAT)  
Hiccup is not that boy.

GOBBER  
You can't stop him, Stoick. You can only prepare him.

(BEAT)  
Look, I know it seems hopeless. But the truth is you won't always be around to protect him. He's going to get out there again. He's probably out there now. ON STOICK, as Gobber's words hit their mark.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

ON AN OPEN NOTEBOOK

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 18.  
A drawn map of the island, covered in X's. Hiccup looks up from it and peeks over a gorge, expectantly. Sees nothing.

He adds another 'X' to the page, then scratches his pencil over the whole map in frustration. He snaps the book closed and pockets it.

HICCUP

Uggh, the gods hate me. Some people lose their knife or their mug. No, not me. I manage to lose an entire dragon. Hiccup WHACKS a low-hanging branch. It SNAPS back at him, hitting him in the face. He looks up to see a snapped tree trunk. His eyes follow it to a long trench of up-turned earth. He follows it to a downed, black dragon, its body and tail tangled in a bola. It appears dead. Hiccup approaches, beaming.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

(IN SHOCK)

Oh wow. I did it. I did it. This fixes everything.

(ELATED)

Yes! He strikes a victory pose, planting his foot on the fallen Night Fury.

HICCUP

I have brought down this mighty beast! It suddenly shifts.

HICCUP

Whoa! Hiccup springs back, terrified. He turns his blade on it. Rattled, Hiccup creeps along the length of the weak, wounded dragon, dagger poised to strike. As he reaches the head, Hiccup finds the Night Fury staring coldly at him. Hiccup tries to look away, but he's drawn back to its unnerving, unflinching stare. With the dragon safely tangled in the ropes, Hiccup jabs with his dagger, puffing himself up with false bravado.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 19.

HICCUP

I'm going to kill you, Dragon. I'm gonna cut out your heart and take it to my father. I'm a Viking.

(BEAT)

I am a VIKING! Hiccup raises the dagger, determined to prove his Viking-ness. The dragon's labored breathing breaks Hiccup's clenched concentration. He opens an eye, uncertainty leaking through. The dragon holds the stare. Something profound is exchanged. Finally, the Night Fury closes its eye and lowers its head, resigned to its fate. Hiccup tries to go through with it, holding the dagger aloft... fighting himself... until finally lowering it with a frustrated sigh. He looks over the dragon's chaffed rope wounds.

HICCUP

(muttered, ashamed)

I did this. He turns to leave. Pauses. And glances back at the dragon, chest heaving. Hiccup GRUMBLES. He checks over his shoulder to ensure that no one is watching... then hurries back to cut the ropes. The Night Fury's eye shoots open. With the dragon watching his every move, Hiccup hurriedly saws through the bola ropes. As the last rope falls free, the Night Fury suddenly POUNCES! In a blur, the dragon is upon him, pinning Hiccup down, grazing his neck. Looking like it's about to kill him. Hiccup is paralyzed. The dragon's breath ruffles his hair. Hiccup opens his eyes to find the Night Fury's wolf-like stare boring into him. The exchange is intense, profound. The dragon draws a deep breath, as though it's about to torch him, then lets out an ear-piercing scream instead. It turns and takes flight, flapping violently through the canopy of trees. It bashes against a nearby mountain side, recovers, and drops out of view some distance away. Winded, Hiccup struggles to his feet, staggers a few steps, collapses to his knees, and faints.

INT. STOICK'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Hiccup enters to see...

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 20.  
STOICK, seated on a thick slice of tree-trunk. He is slouched over the fire-pit, stirring the coals with his axe. Embers waft around his beard. Hiccup tries to sneak past, up the stairs to his room. Stoick seems none the wiser, when...

STOICK

Hiccup.

HICCUP

(CAUGHT)

Dad. Uh... Stoick stands, takes a deep breath.

HICCUP

I, uh... I have to talk to you, Dad.

STOICK

I need to speak with you too, son.  
Hiccup and Stoick STRAIGHTEN at the same moment.

HICCUP STOICK

I've decided I don't want to I think it's time you learn fight dragons. to fight dragons.

(BEAT) (BEAT)

What? What?

STOICK

You go first.

HICCUP

No, you go first.

STOICK

Alright. You get your wish. Dragon training. You start in the morning.

HICCUP

(SCRAMBLING)

Oh man, I should've gone first. Uh, 'cause I was thinking, you know we have a surplus of dragon-fighting Vikings, but do we have enough bread-making Vikings, or small home

REPAIR VIKINGS--

STOICK  
--You'll need this. Stoick hands  
Hiccup his axe. Hiccup avoids  
taking it.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 21.

HICCUP  
I don't want to fight dragons.

STOICK  
Come on. Yes, you do.

HICCUP  
Rephrase. Dad I can't kill dragons.

STOICK  
But you will kill dragons.

HICCUP  
No, I'm really very extra sure that  
I won't.

STOICK  
It's time Hiccup.

HICCUP  
Can you not hear me?

STOICK  
This is serious son! Stoick forces  
the axe into Hiccup's hands. Its  
weight drags him down. He looks up  
to see Stoick under-lit with  
firelight.

STOICK  
When you carry this axe... you  
carry all of us with you. Which  
means you walk like us. You talk  
like us. You think like us. No more  
of...

(GESTURING NON-  
specifically at Hiccup)  
... this.

HICCUP  
You just gestured to all of me.

STOICK  
Deal?

HICCUP  
This conversation is feeling very  
one-sided.

STOICK

DEAL?! Hiccup glances at the axe in his hands. It's a no-win  
argument.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 22.

HICCUP

(RESIGNED)  
Deal. Satisfied, Stoick grabs his  
helmet and duffel bag... and heads  
for the door.

STOICK  
Good. Train hard. I'll be back.  
Probably.

HICCUP  
And I'll be here. Maybe. Stoick  
heads out the door, leaving Hiccup  
holding the axe.

EXT. TRAINING GROUNDS - DAY

Gobber raises a massive iron gate at the entrance of a vast  
stone arena.

GOBBER  
Welcome to dragon training! The  
recruits file through the gate, and  
out onto the arena floor. They take  
it in like gladiators entering the  
colosseum. The walls are covered in  
scorched silhouettes of blasted  
Vikings. It's a grim yet awe-  
inspiring place.

ASTRID  
No turning back.

TUFFNUT  
I hope I get some serious burns.

RUFFNUT  
I'm hoping for some mauling, like  
on my shoulder or lower back.



ASTRID

Yeah, it's only fun if you get a scar out of it.

HICCUP (O.S.)

Yeah, no kidding, right? Pain. Love it. The recruits turn to see Hiccup behind them. Groans all around.

TUFFNUT

Oh great. Who let him in?

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 23.

GOBBER

Let's get started! The recruit who does best will win the honor of killing his first dragon in front of the entire village.

SNOTLOUT

Hiccup already killed a Night Fury, so does that disqualify him or...? The recruits LAUGH and chatter in the background.

TUFFNUT

Can I transfer to the class with the cool Vikings? Gobber throws a supportive arm around Hiccup and ushers him along.

GOBBER

(cheery, in confidence)  
Don't worry. You're small and you're weak. That'll make you less of a target. They'll see you as sick or insane and go after the more Viking-like teens instead. GOBBER stick him in line with the others and continues on toward five massive reinforced doors. Terrible ROARS and BELLOWS issue from within.

GOBBER

Behind these doors are just a few of the many species you will learn to fight. Fishlegs bounces and giggles with excitement, barely able to contain himself.

GOBBER

The Deadly Nadder.

FISHLEGS  
(under his breath)  
Speed eight. Armor sixteen.

GOBBER  
The Hideous Zippleback.

FISHLEGS  
Plus eleven stealth. Times two.

GOBBER  
The Monstrous Nightmare.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 24.

FISHLEGS  
Firepower fifteen.

GOBBER  
The Terrible Terror.

FISHLEGS  
Attack eight. Venom twelve.

GOBBER

CAN YOU STOP THAT?!

(BEAT)  
And...the Gronckle.

FISHLEGS  
(quietly; to himself)  
Jaw strength, eight. Gobber pulls a  
lever, raising the cross beam on  
the last of the doors.

SNOTLOUT  
Whoa, wait! Aren't you gonna teach  
us first!?

GOBBER  
I believe in learning on the job.  
BAM! A GRONCKLE thunders out of its  
cave, charging into the ring like  
an irate rhino. The recruits  
scramble in every direction. Except  
for Ruffnut and Tuffnut who rush  
toward it, like pumped-up rodeo  
clowns.

GOBBER  
Today is about survival. If you get  
blasted, you're dead.

Quick, what's the first thing  
you're going to need?

HICCUP

A doctor?

FISHLEGS

Plus five speed?

ASTRID

A shield.

GOBBER

Shields. Go. The recruits scramble  
for shields, finding them scattered  
around the ring.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 25.

GOBBER

Your most important piece of  
equipment is your shield. If you  
must make a choice between a sword  
or a shield, take the shield.  
Hiccup STRUGGLES to lift his.  
Gobber helps him and sends him  
running. Ruff and Tuff stand amidst  
a dozen shields. But only one has a  
skull painted on it. They both grab  
it.

TUFFNUT

Get your hands off my shield!

RUFFNUT

There are like a million shields!

TUFFNUT

Take that one, it has a flower on  
it. Girls like flowers. Ruffnut  
uses the shield to BASH Tuffnut in  
the face. He doesn't let go.

RUFFNUT

Ooops, now this one has blood on  
it. The Gronckle takes aim at the  
distracted twins. Blam! The shield  
is blasted out of both of their  
hands. Tuff and Ruff SPIN like tops  
and go down.

GOBBER

Tuffnut, Ruffnut, you're out!

TUFFNUT

(DAZED)

What?!

RUFFNUT

(CONFUSED)

What?! The Gronckle scoops up a pile of rocks and SWALLOWS them back. The teens gather on the far side of the ring.

GOBBER

Those shields are good for another thing. Noise. Make lots of it to throw off a dragon's aim. The kids scoop up weapons and begin hammering on their shields. The Gronckle shakes its head at the clatter.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 26.  
GRONCKLE'S POV - the teens targets become blurry and scrambled. It's working.

GOBBER

All dragons have a limited number of shots. How many does a Gronckle have?

SNOTLOUT

Five!

FISHLEGS

No, six.

GOBBER

Correct, six. That's one for each of you!

FISHLEGS

I really don't think my parents

WOULD--

BAM! Fishlegs has his shield blasted away.

GOBBER

Fishlegs, out. Gobber spots Hiccup hiding from the Gronckle's molten slugs.

GOBBER  
Hiccup, get in there! ON ASTRID  
bouncing on her heels, ready to  
dodge a blast. Snotlout appears,  
trying to hit on her.

SNOTLOUT  
So anyway I'm moving into my  
parents' basement. You should come  
by sometime to work out. You look  
like you work out--She cartwheels  
out of the way, allowing a shot to  
shoot past her and hit Snotlout's  
shield. He's blasted onto his back.

GOBBER  
Snotlout! You're done! Astrid ROLLS  
to a stop beside Hiccup, who stirs  
awkwardly, trying to look cool.

HICCUP

(VOICE BREAKING)  
So, I guess it's just you and me  
huh?

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 27.

ASTRID  
No. Just you. Astrid ROLLS away. A  
split-second later a lava slug  
knocks Hiccup's shield clear off of  
his arm. Hiccup is exposed.

GOBBER  
One shot left! Hiccup panics and  
chases after his shield as it rolls  
across the ring. The sudden  
movement sends the Gronckle chasing  
after him, leaving Astrid in the  
clear.

GOBBER (CONT'D)

(WORRIED)  
Hiccup! The Gronckle drives  
straight toward Hiccup, pinning him  
against the wall. It opens its  
mouth and cocks its tail, ready to  
fire point-blank. Gobber lunges in  
and hooks the Gronckle's mouth at  
the last second, causing its head  
to jerk back and fire against the  
stone wall above Hiccup's head.

GOBBER  
(rattled, but masking it)  
And that's six! Gobber wrestles the  
irate Gronckle back into his pen.

GOBBER  
Go back to bed, ya overgrown  
sausage! You'll get another chance,  
don't you worry. Slam! Lock. Gobber  
turns to the recruits.

GOBBER  
Remember... a dragon will always,  
(with a stern look to

HICCUP)  
always go for the kill. He hoists  
Hiccup to his feet and walks off.  
Hiccup looks overhead to see a  
steaming pit in the solid stone  
wall.

EXT. WOODS/HIDDEN COVE - DUSK

HICCUP, battered after another disastrous day in the ring.  
He studies the remnants of the discarded bola... revealing  
that he's back at the scene of the crime.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 28.

HICCUP

(MUTTERED)  
So...why didn't you? He drops the  
bola and presses on in the  
direction it flew off. He drops  
into a rocky crevice and follows it  
to an... ISOLATED COVE complete  
with a pristine spring pool. He  
scans the high stone walls... then  
notices a single black SCALE on the  
ground. He crouches and picks it  
up, studying it.

HICCUP  
Well this was stupid. SUDDENLY, the  
NIGHT FURY blasts past him. Hiccup  
recoils, watching the massive beast  
struggle to climb the walls. It  
flaps violently, then peels away to  
a rough landing. The dragon is  
trapped. Hiccup grins, excited to  
see it again, and slips closer.

He watches as the dragon, exhausted and frustrated, leaps into the air, beating its wings furiously. Again and again, it rolls uncontrolled and CRASHES heavily. As if remembering to snap a photo, Hiccup pulls a leather-bound book and flips past drawings of weapons to a blank page. He sketches the dragon quickly, desperate to record the image. The Fury claws at the steep rock walls, trying climb out of the cove. It SLIPS and falls hard, crushing several saplings. The Fury rolls back to his feet and slowly crawls to the water's edge. He spots fish in the shallow water and snaps at them... but comes up empty. He lowers his head, looking weakened.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

(MUTTERED)

Why don't you just...fly away? ON HICCUP as he spots the problem. He adjusts his drawing, carefully erasing one half of the dragon's tail. He accidentally drops the charcoal stick. It rolls off of the rock outcropping that hides him from view and bounces into the cove. TINK. TINK. TINK. The Night Fury raises his head, spotting Hiccup. They exchange a profound, unflinching stare.

DISSOLVE TO:

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 29.

INT. GREAT HALL - NIGHT

A storm is brewing outside. The great doors rattle on their hinges.

GOBBER (O.S.)

Alright. Where did Astrid go wrong in the ring today? The recruits are seated at a table, eating dinner by the glow of the fire pit.

ASTRID

I mistimed my summersault dive. It was sloppy. It threw off my reverse tumble. Eye rolls from the group.

RUFFNUT

(SARCASTIC)

Yeah. We noticed.

SNOTLOUT

(grabbing Astrid's hand)

No, no, you were great. That was so 'Astrid'.

GOBBER

She's right, you have to be tough on yourselves. CREAK. All eyes turn to Hiccup, entering the hall, sheepishly. Gobber glares at him.

GOBBER

(glaring at Hiccup)

Where did Hiccup go wrong? He tries to take a seat at the table...

RUFFNUT

He showed up.

TUFFNUT

He didn't get eaten. ... but the recruits keep closing the gaps. Rolling his eyes, Hiccup sits at the vacant table next to them.

ASTRID

He's never where he should be.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 30.

GOBBER

Thank you, Astrid. Gobber stands.

GOBBER

You need to live and breathe this stuff. Gobber lays a giant book in the center of the table.

GOBBER

The dragon manual. Everything we know about every dragon we know of. A RUMBLE of thunder shakes the hall. Rain pours down outside.



GOBBER

No attacks tonight. Study up.  
Gobber EXITS into the storm,  
leaving the teens staring at the  
book.

TUFFNUT

(you've got to be  
kidding)  
Wait, you mean read?

RUFFNUT

While we're still alive?

SNOTLOUT

Why read words when you can just  
kill the stuff the words tell you  
stuff about?

FISHLEGS

Oh! I've read it like, seven times.  
There's this water dragon that  
sprays boiling water at your face.  
And there's this other one that  
buries itself for like a week...  
The teens stare as Fishlegs goes on  
too long.

TUFFNUT

Yeah, that sounds great. There was  
a chance I was going to read  
that...

RUFFNUT

...but now... Snotlout gets up to  
go.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 31.

SNOTLOUT

You guys read, I'll go kill stuff.  
The others follow, with Fishlegs in  
tow.

FISHLEGS

Oh and there's this other one that  
has these spines that look like  
trees... Astrid is the last to go.

HICCUP

So I guess we'll share--

ASTRID  
Read it. She pushes it toward him  
and leaves.

HICCUP  
All mine then. Wow, so okay. I'll

SEE YOU--  
Slam.

HICCUP  
Tomorrow.

SIGH.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GREAT HALL - LATE NIGHT

ON HICCUP'S HAND  
OPENING the massive book. Thunder  
BOOMS outside. The hall is vacant  
and dark, but for the few candles  
he's pulled together. Hiccup pours  
through page after page of strange  
and frightening dragons.

HICCUP (V.O.)  
Dragon classifications. Strike  
class. Fear class. Mystery class.  
Hiccup turns the page.

HICCUP (V.O.)  
Thunderdrum. This reclusive dragon  
inhabits sea caves and dark tide  
pools.

(MORE)

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 32.

HICCUP (V.O.)  
When startled, the Thunderdrum  
produces a concussive sound that  
can kill a man at close range.  
Extremely dangerous. Kill on sight.  
Hiccup's eyes drift to a lurid  
illustration of decapitated  
Vikings. Another page, another  
dragon.

HICCUP (V.O.)  
Timberjack. This gigantic creature  
has razor sharp wings that can  
slice through full grown  
trees...extremely dangerous. Kill  
on sight. The illustrations seem to  
take on a life of their own,  
shifting and squirming in the  
candlelight.

HICCUP (V.O.)  
Scauldron. Sprays scalding water at  
its victim. Extremely dangerous.  
The storm outside rages against the  
shuttered windows. Hiccup is  
startled, but presses on.

HICCUP  
Changewing. Even newly hatched  
dragons can spray acid. Kill on  
sight. He begins flipping through  
the pages. A blur of dragons...

HICCUP  
Gronckle. Zippleback. The Skrill.  
Bone Knapper. Whispering Death.  
Burns its victims. Buries its  
victims. Chokes its victims. Turns  
its victims inside-out. Extremely  
dangerous. Extremely dangerous.  
Kill on sight. Kill on sight. Kill  
on sight... Hiccup finally lands  
upon the page he's been looking  
for.

HICCUP (V.O.)  
Night Fury. It's BLANK -- no image,  
save for a few, sparse details.

HICCUP  
Speed unknown. Size unknown. The  
unholy offspring of lightning and  
death itself.

(MORE)

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 33.

HICCUP  
Never engage this dragon. Your only  
chance, hide and pray it does not  
find you.

Hiccup pulls his sketchbook out of his vest and opens it to his drawing of Toothless. He lays it over the book's blank page and considers it. CLOSE ON the drawing of Toothless...

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. HIGH SEAS - DAWN

A painted DRAGON, with a sword run through it. It's the billowing sail of Stoick's ship. Stoick hovers over the familiar nautical map -- his eyes on the uncharted corner, swirling in mist and illustrations of dragons.

STOICK

I can almost smell them. They're close. Steady. Stoick raises his gaze to... AN EPIC FOG BANK, towering from sky to sea like a bruised, daunting curtain, beyond which nothing is visible. The three ships drift alongside it, skirting its solid edge, looking for an opening. ON DECK the crewmen mill nervously, all too aware of what Stoick is considering.

STOICK

Take us in. The helmsman steers Stoick's ship into the fog. The men draw their weapons, prepping for the worst.

VIKING

Hard to port... for Helheim's gate. The first ship disappears into the whiteout, followed by the other two.

A BEAT

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 34.  
Suddenly a flash of light. A silhouette of a dragon. Hollers. Sounds of splitting and shattering wood. Plunges into the water. Another bright flash.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. TRAINING GROUNDS - RING - DAY

CLOSE ON a DRAGON painted onto a shield. Hiccup runs his finger over its outline.

HICCUP

You know, I just happened to notice the book had nothing on Night Furies. Is there another book? Or a sequel? Maybe a little Night Fury pamphlet? KABLAM! A blast takes the axe head off of Hiccup's hilt, leaving a smoking hole behind him. Hiccup YELPS and RUNS.

GOBBER (O.S.)

FOCUS Hiccup! You're not even trying. CUT BACK to reveal a Deadly Nadder, loose in a maze-like arrangement of moveable walls. Gobber calls orders from above.

GOBBER

Today... is all about attack. The Nadder hops from wall to wall, sending the recruits scurrying.

GOBBER

Nadders are quick and light on their feet. Your job is to be quicker and lighter. The teens move in, stumbling over Hiccup and his unwieldy shield. The Nadder spots Fishlegs' ample rear hiding behind a wall. It whips its tail of spikes. Fishlegs SCREAMS and lifts an entire wall to shield himself from the spray.

FISHLEGS

I'm really beginning to question your teaching methods.

GOBBER

Look for its blind spot. Every dragon has one. Find it, hide in it, and strike.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 35.  
Ruff and Tuff rush in, diving and rolling up to the Nadder's nose. The Nadder sniffs the air -- it can't see them. Tuff and Ruff are smashed together - too close for comfort.

RUFFNUT

(WHISPERED)

Do you ever bathe?

TUFFNUT

If you don't like it, then just get your own blind spot.

RUFFNUT

How about I give you one! Ruff and Tuff SHOVE each other, till their movement and noise gives them away. The Nadder ATTACKS, SNAPPING at both of them.

GOBBER

Blind spot? Yes. Deaf spot? Not so much. Hiccup wanders up to Gobber, while the others dart past.

HICCUP

Hey, so how would one sneak up on a Night Fury?

GOBBER

None one's ever met one and lived to tell the tale. Now get in there.

HICCUP

I know, I know, but hypothetically...

ASTRID

(WHISPERED)

Hiccup! She puts her finger to her lips and gestures for him to hide. A moment later, the Nadder leaps over the walls, surprising them by landing in front of her. Astrid somersaults into its blind spot, confusing it. She rears back to strike -- just as Snotlout LEAPS IN, protectively SWEEPING Astrid behind him.

SNOTLOUT

Watch out babe. I'll take care of this.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 36.

ASTRID

Hey! Snotlout MISSES. Astrid glares at him.

SNOTLOUT

(DEFENSIVE)

The sun was in my eyes, Astrid.  
What do you want me to do, block  
out the sun? I could do that, but I  
don't have time right now! The  
Nadder tears off after her,  
knocking down walls in pursuit. She  
leaps and dives like a highly  
trained gymnast. Hiccup wanders up  
to Gobber again.

HICCUP

They probably take the daytime off.  
You know, like a cat. Has anyone  
ever seen one napping?

GOBBER

Hiccup!

ASTRID

--Hiccup! Hiccup spins around to  
see the maze walls collapsing like  
dominos toward him. Astrid comes  
flying through the dust and crash-  
lands on top of him, laying him out  
in a limb-tangled mess.

TUFFNUT

Oooh! Love on the battlefield!

RUFFNUT

She could do better. The Nadder  
closes in, emerging through the  
cloud of dust.

HICCUP

(struggling to untangle)  
Just... let me... why don't you...  
The Nadder spins around and races  
back toward them like a Raptor.  
Astrid untangles herself and tries  
to pull her axe from Hiccup's  
shield... which is attached to his  
limp, gangly arm. She PLANTS her  
foot on his torso and YANKS the axe  
free, still burrowed into the  
shield.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 37.  
She SPINS and SWINGS the axe and shield, scoring a DIRECT  
HIT on the oncoming Nadder's NOSE. It yelps and scurries  
off.

GOBBER

Well done, Astrid. Gobber hobbles off to wrestle the Nadder back into his cave. Hiccup gets to his feet -- all eyes are upon him. He turns to find Astrid glaring at him, winded.

ASTRID

Is this some kind of a joke to you? Our parents' war is about to become ours. Figure out which side you're on. She grabs her axe and stomps off. Hiccup watches, stung.

CUT TO:

EXT. COVE - MAGIC HOUR

CLOSE ON

A fish... being thrown into the cove. It hits the ground and slides. A moment later, Hiccup peeks through a gap in the rock, looking around cautiously. Nothing. Hiccup squeezes through and enters the cove. A BEAT, then Hiccup hears a SNORT from behind him. Hiccup turns to see the Night Fury, crouched on a rock like a stealthy panther. It descends, approaching him... ready to pounce. Hiccup swallows his fear and offers the fish. Doing so reveals the dagger at his waist. The dragon sees it and hisses. Hiccup reaches for it, eliciting a growl. He pauses, carefully lifts it by the handle, and tosses it away. The dragon calms. As it approaches the fish, Hiccup notices that it's missing teeth.

HICCUP

Huh. Toothless. I could've sworn you had... A set of razor sharp teeth emerge from its gums to grab the fish. Toothless snatches and gnashes it up, swallowing it.



HICCUP

... teeth. The teeth retract again. Toothless presses closer with an expectant look. Hiccup retreats nervously.

HICCUP

Uh, no. No, I don't have any more. The Fury backs Hiccup against a rock, placing himself the same position as before. The dragon closes in over him, staring blankly. A tense moment passes... then Toothless regurgitates a chunk of fish onto Hiccup's lap. They exchange stares. Hiccup realizes what Toothless wants him to do. Hiccup crouches slowly and squeamishly picks it up. The dragon waits expectantly. Hiccup gags and gnaws off a bite of the slimy fish. He forces a smile. Toothless mimics him. Amazed, Hiccup sits up and tries to touch him. Toothless HISSES and flaps off to a crash on the other side of the cove. He BLASTS the mossy ground to a red-hot temperature... and curls up on it like a giant dog. He turns to find Hiccup seated beside him. Toothless tolerates his persistent presence... until Hiccup tries to touch his damaged tail. Toothless SNAPS at him. Hiccup takes the hint and leaves.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. COVE - LATER

It's MAGIC HOUR. Toothless wakes, hanging upside down from a tree. He spots Hiccup sitting on the other side of the cove. Sketching in the sand. CLOSE ON a sketch of Toothless. Hiccup draws with a stick, minding his own business. Toothless appears behind him, watching carefully. Aware of his presence, Hiccup continues, trying not to scare him off. Toothless walks off. A moment later, he reappears with an entire sapling, drawing lines in the sand. He rushes here and there, making haphazard lines in every direction. Finally, Toothless drops the tree and inspects his work. He seems pleased.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 39.  
Hiccup stands and takes in the sprawling scribble, amazed by it. He accidentally steps onto one of the lines, eliciting an instant growl from Toothless. He steps on it again. Toothless growls again. Realizing how sensitive he is, Hiccup steps carefully between each line, turning round and round until he unwittingly bumps into Toothless. Toothless snorts. Once again, they're face to face. Hiccup slowly extends his hand. Toothless hesitates. Hiccup turns his head away and closes his eyes. To his amazement, Toothless bridges the gap and presses his muzzle against Hiccup's hand. In a flash, the dragon is gone, leaving Hiccup astounded.

EXT. VILLAGE - NIGHT

Gobber and the recruits are seated at the top of an abandoned catapult tower, toasting campfire food around a roaring bonfire.

GOBBER

...and with one twist he took my hand and swallowed it whole. And I saw the look on his face.

(can't deny it)

I was delicious. He must have passed the word, because it wasn't a month before another one of them took my leg.

FISHLEGS

Isn't it weird to think that your hand was inside a dragon. Like if your mind was still in control of it you could have killed the dragon from the inside by crushing his heart or something.

SNOTLOUT

I swear I'm so angry right now. I'll avenge your beautiful hand and your beautiful foot. I'll chop off the legs of every dragon I fight, with my face. He postures to Astrid. She rolls her eyes.

GOBBER

(with a mouthful)

Un-unh. It's the wings and the tails you really want. If it can't fly, it can't get away. A downed dragon is a dead dragon.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 40.  
ON HICCUP hiding his horrified look from the others. Gobber  
stands and stretches.

GOBBER

Alright. I'm off to bed. You should  
be too. Tomorrow we get into the  
big boys. Slowly but surely making  
our way up to the Monstrous  
Nightmare.

(playful, taunting)

But who'll win the honor of killing  
it? He hobbles off. The teens  
reflect.

TUFFNUT

(very matter of fact)

It's gonna be me.

(BEAT)

It's my destiny. See? Tuffnut rolls  
up his sleeve to reveal a red  
dragon on his arm.

FISHLEGS

(GASPS)

Your mom let you get a tattoo?

TUFFNUT

It's not a tattoo. It's a  
birthmark.

RUFFNUT

Okay, I've been stuck with you  
since birth, and that was never  
there before.

TUFFNUT

Yes it was. You've just never seen  
me from the left side until now.

SNOTLOUT

It wasn't there yesterday. Is it a  
birthmark or a today-mark? Hiccup  
gets up and walks away from the  
group. Astrid watches him as he  
leaves the bonfire.

DISSOLVE TO:

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 41.

INT. BLACKSMITH STALL - MOMENTS LATER

Hiccup enters a small room at the back of the stall. It's covered in drawings of weaponry and scale models. He lights a candle and lays his sketchbook out on the desk, opening it to the drawing of Toothless. With a look of determination. Hiccup picks up a charcoal stick and re-draws the missing tail.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BLACKSMITH STALL - LATER

CLOSE ON

... a creaking leather bellows. The stone forge glows with every pump. Tongs pull intricate iron pieces from the coals. They're dropped onto the anvil, twisted, lightly hammered, and dunked in a barrel. The pieces are carried to Hiccup's workbench and laid out in place on a one-to-one schematic. It's a sketch of a mechanical fin.

EXT. HIDDEN COVE - DAWN

Hiccup arrives, winded, straining under the weight of a full basket. He clicks the scale he found (like a jar top). Toothless approaches, sniffing him.

HICCUP

Hey Toothless. I brought breakfast. I hope you're hungry. Hiccup drops the basket and kicks it over. Fish spill out.

HICCUP

Okay, that's disgusting. Toothless approaches, settling in to devour the feast.

HICCUP

Uh..we've got some salmon...  
Toothless swallows it.

HICCUP

... some nice Icelandic cod...  
Swallows those too.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 42.

HICCUP

... and a whole smoked eel.  
Toothless nabs it, chews a few  
times, then spits it out. He shakes  
his head violently, snorts and  
scrubs his massive tongue on the  
sand. Hiccup takes note.

HICCUP

No, no, no! It's okay. Yeah, I  
don't like eel much either.  
Toothless focuses on the remainder.  
With the dragon distracted, Hiccup  
unwraps his prosthetic fin and  
opens it like a fan.

HICCUP

Okay. That's it. That's it, just  
stick with good stuff. And don't  
you mind me. I'll just be  
back...here. Minding my own  
business. Hiccup cautiously  
approaches the injured tail, but  
every time he gets near it,  
Toothless sweeps it away like a  
cat.

HICCUP

It's okay. Hiccup drops a knee on  
top of the tail. Toothless' head  
juts up, slows its chewing to a  
halt.

HICCUP

Okay...okay.. The dragon tenses,  
slowly spreading his wings. Hiccup  
straps the prosthetic fin in place.  
He cinches the straps.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

(PLEASED)

There. Not too bad. It works.  
Toothless BOLTS! He snaps his  
massive wings and takes to the air,  
carrying Hiccup with him.

HICCUP

Woah! No! No! No! Hiccup struggles  
to hold on to the tail. As the  
ground speeds away, Toothless  
immediately TIPS into a  
uncontrolled bank and dive.

Hiccup sees the folded fin rattling uselessly in opposition to its flared counterpart. Flap as he may, Toothless can't correct his trajectory.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 43.  
Hiccup swallows his fear and crawls toward the folded prosthetic. He reaches it and YANKS it open. The flared, fan-like appendage catches the air, stabilizing the twisting tail.

HICCUP  
(excited, terrified)  
It's working! Toothless arcs just short of the water and climbs... high into the air.

HICCUP  
Yes! Yes, I did it. He glances back at Hiccup, busily holding the tail open while trying to hold on. They're going to crash. Whoomp! Hiccup is suddenly thrown from the tail in the intense force of a turn.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

AAAAAGGGGHHHHH! He bounces across the water's surface and takes a dive. Without Hiccup to operate the tail, Toothless does the same, plunging in a massive cannonball. Hiccup resurfaces, roughed up, but beaming. Toothless appears seconds later.

HICCUP  
Yeah!

EXT. TRAINING GROUNDS - MORNING

GOBBER (O.S.)  
Today is about teamwork. Work together and you might survive. ON A DOUBLE-WIDE DOOR. Gas seeps through the cracks. It BLASTS OPEN. A cloud of smoke engulfs the ring, swirling around the paired-up teens. Astrid with Ruffnut. Snotlout with Tuffnut. Fishlegs with Hiccup. All carry buckets of water, poised to throw them.

GOBBER

Now, a wet dragon head can't light its fire. The Hideous Zippleback is extra tricky. One head breathes gas, the other head lights it. Your job is to know which is which.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 44.  
The smoke encircles them, cutting them off from each other.  
The teens LISTEN and WATCH for any sign of the dragon.

FISHLEGS

(muttering to himself)  
Razor sharp, serrated teeth that inject venom for pre-digestion. Prefers ambush attack, crushing its victims in its...

HICCUP

(TENSE)

Will you please stop that?

ON SNOTLOUT AND TUFFNUT

Moving nervously through the fog, back to back. Snotlout is singing to himself to calm his nerves.

SNOTLOUT

If that dragon shows either of his faces, I'm gonna--

(spotting an approaching shape, terrified)

--There! Snotlout and Tuffnut HURL their water into the fog.

ASTRID

Hey!

RUFFNUT

It's us, idiots. Astrid and Ruffnut are soaked.

TUFFNUT

Your butts are getting bigger. We thought you were a dragon.

SNOTLOUT

(TO ASTRID)

Not that there's anything wrong with a dragon-esque figure. Astrid ELBOWS Snotlout in the face.

Ruffnut DROPS Tuffnut with a PUNCH  
to the throat.

ASTRID  
Wait. They FREEZE. A tail SWEEPS  
out of the fog, taking them down.  
Their buckets spill.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 45.  
ON FISHLEGS AND HICCUP coming across them. They see the  
puddles of spilled water.

TUFFNUT  
Oh, I'm hurt. I am very much hurt.

FISHLEGS  
Chances of survival are dwindling  
into single digits now...

HICCUP  
Look out! A Zippleback head emerges  
out of the smoke. Fishlegs hurls  
his water at it, completely dousing  
the head. It leers and opens its  
mouth, spewing gas into the area.

FISHLEGS  
Oh. Wrong head. GAS FLOWS around  
their legs. Fishlegs flees in a  
panic.

GOBBER  
Fishlegs! Beat. A clicking sound  
comes from behind them. Sparks  
flash in the smoke.

GOBBER  
Now, Hiccup! The other head sweeps  
out of the smoke. Hiccup hurls his  
water with all his might. It arcs  
and drops short of the dragon's  
sparking mouth. The dragon grins,  
savoring the kill.

HICCUP  
Oh, come on!

GOBBER

RUN, HICCUP! Gobber COVERS his eyes.

GOBBER  
Hiccup! Beat. The Zippleback  
hesitates. SNIFFS. Then retreats.



The teens get to their feet,  
watching transfixed. Gobber peeks  
through his fingers to see...

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 46.  
The Zippleback backing away from Hiccup. He stands and holds  
his hands out, as if controlling it.

HICCUP

BACK! BACK! BACK! Now don't you  
make me tell you again! The  
Zippleback retreats through its  
door and into its cave, hissing.

HICCUP

Yes, that's right. Back into your  
cage. Hiccup slyly OPENS his vest,  
revealing the spotted smoked EEL  
from earlier. He TOSSES it inside  
the door, then SLAMS it shut.

HICCUP

Now think about what you've done.  
Hiccup turns to the teens and  
Gobber. They stare, slack-jawed

HICCUP

Okay! So are we done? Because I've  
got some things I need to... Hiccup  
jogs out of the ring, past the  
speechless group.

HICCUP

Yep...see you tomorrow. Astrid  
SNEERS. Something's going on.

EXT. WOODS/COVE - SUNSET

BEGIN MUSIC MONTAGE

INT. BLACKSMITH STALL - HICCUP'S CLOSET - CONTINUOUS

Hiccup cuts and stitches leather, draws and shapes steel. He  
works by candlelight. An overhead shot reveals what he's  
building: a harness, complete with handles and foot pedals.

EXT. COVE - DAY

Hiccup appears before Toothless, holding the new prosthetic.  
Toothless runs off as Hiccup chases him down.

HICCUP

Hey!

EXT. COVE - DAY

Toothless and Hiccup are zooming over the ocean. The tail breaks free sending Hiccup flying.

HICCUP  
Yeah! Whoa!

INT. BLAKCSMITH STALL - LATER

Hiccup adjusts the harness and uses a metal clamp to affix himself to Toothless' saddle.

EXT. SKY/FIELD - DAWN

Hiccup and Toothless zip through the air -- his rudimentary harness and tail controls are working, barely. They crash-land in an open field. Hiccup recovers to find Toothless still rolling around in the tall grass. Hiccup discovers that it's a patch of 'dragon-nip.' Toothless writhes on his back, tongue wagging, in complete bliss.

EXT. TRAINING GROUNDS - MORNING

Hiccup grabs the head as instructed, then discreetly pulls a fistful of 'dragon-nip' and presses it up to the Gronkle's nose. It immediately stops struggling and goes weak in the knees. Hiccup drops the handful of dragon-nip to the ground. The Gronkle goes down with it, whimpering and blissful. From Gobber and the recruits' point of view, Hiccup is controlling the Gronkle with no more than a limp arm.

EXT. WOODS - AFTERNOON

The recruits walk home together, surrounding Hiccup and BOMBARDING HIM WITH QUESTIONS.

FISHLEGS  
Hey Hiccup, I've never seen a Gronkle to that before.

TUFFNUT  
How'd you do that?

RUFFNUT  
It was really cool. He squirms and invents an excuse.

HICCUP

I left my axe back in the ring. He turns and hurries back.

HICCUP

You guys go on ahead and I'll catch up with you. Astrid watches, suspicious.

EXT. COVE - LATER

Hiccup rubs Toothless behind the ear, causing him to relax and fall over.

EXT. TRAINING GROUNDS - LATER

An angry Deadly Nadder approaches Hiccup. Just as Astrid moves in to strike, Hiccup performs his special rubbing technique, which sends the Nadder down. Astrid and the other kids look on from the sideline in amazement.

INT. MEADE HALL - CONTINUOUS

Hiccup sits down at a table to eat. The other recruits notice him and move over to his table to talk to him -- leaving Astrid alone.

FISHLEGS

Hey Hiccup!

SNOTLOUT

What was that? Some kind of trick? What did you do?

TUFFNUT

Hiccup, you're totally going to come in first, there's no question.

EXT. COVE - LATER

Hiccup is using a mirror-like object to create a patch of light on the ground. Toothless claws and chases the light patch like a cat chasing a laser pointer.

EXT. TRAINING GROUNDS - DAY

A beam lifts from the door of another dragon pen.

GOBBER

Meet the Terrible Terror.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 49.  
A tiny, pint-sized dragon steps out and moves toward the recruits.

TUFFNUT  
Ha. It's like the size of my--  
Tuffnut is taken down in a blur.

TUFFNUT  
Get it off! Get it off! Oh! I'm  
hurt, I am very much hurt! Hiccup  
stops the Terrible Terror with the  
same light-patch trick he used  
earlier with Toothless. The tiny  
dragon retreats back to it's cage.  
The teens approach him yet again as  
Astrid looks on with suspicion.

TUFFNUT (CONT'D)

(TO ASTRID)  
Wow, he's better than you ever  
were.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - MOMENTS LATER

Astrid furiously hurls her axe at a nearby tree. She notices Hiccup walking by in the distance, carrying one of his trademark harnesses. She quickly tries to follow, but he loses her in the woods. She HUFFS, frustrated.

EXT. COVE - LATER

Hiccup straps a newly designed harness onto Toothless. With Toothless tied to a nearby post with a rope. Hiccup rides him in the air -- while stationary. Toothless looks like a giant kite tied to a tree stump. This harness seems to work.

EXT. SKY - MOMENTS LATER

The rope breaks and the pair CRASH into a tree. Hiccup's face is red.

HICCUP  
Oh, great.

EXT. BERK - NIGHT

The streets are empty save for a lone Viking who crosses Hiccup's path.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 50.

VIKING  
Hiccup. Hiccup nods, trying to look  
casual.

Once the coast is clear, he covertly steers Toothless into the Blacksmith's stall. Toothless PRESSES himself inside, rooting through stuff and making a racket. Astrid, walking nearby, is alerted.

ASTRID (O.S.)  
Hiccup? Hiccup FREEZES. Then frantically tries to pry the ring off the saddle hook. It won't budge.

ASTRID  
Are you in there? Too late - she's right outside. ON ASTRID walking along the outside of the Blacksmith's. Hiccup JUMPS OUT the window and CLOSES the shutters behind him. Hiccup's harness line is stretched through the window, still attached to Toothless' saddle.

HICCUP  
Astrid. Hey! Hi Astrid. Hi Astrid. Hi Astrid.

ASTRID  
I normally don't care what people do, but you're acting weird. Well, weirder. Toothless spots a nearby sheep and makes a move toward it. As a result, Hiccup is suddenly PULLED TIGHT against the window shutters. He STRIKES A POSE to compensate... then gets PULLED THROUGH the shutters. They snap back in Astrid's face. Astrid reopens them and finds nothing but an empty stall. In the distance, Toothless and Hiccup slip off unseen.

EXT. DOCKS - DAWN

A lone, battered ship is pulled into a slip, overloaded with equally battered-looking men. They disembark to a crowd of onlookers, looking like a team of hometown heroes who just had their butts kicked. Gobber hobbles through the MUMBLING crowd to find Stoick -- last to disembark and glowering with battered pride.

VIKING  
Where are the other ships?

SPITELOUT  
You don't want to know. Stoick  
lumbers past Gobber, leaving him  
staring at the trashed ship.

GOBBER  
Well, I trust you found the nest at  
least?

STOICK  
Not even close.

GOBBER  
Ah. Excellent. Gobber follows  
Stoick up the ramp and snags his  
duffle bag with his hook appendage,  
sharing the burden.

STOICK  
I hope you had a little more  
success than me.

GOBBER  
Well, if by success, you mean that  
your parenting troubles are over  
with, then... yes. Stoick stops.  
What does that mean? A group of  
merry villagers rush past.

VIKING #1 Congratulations Stoick! Everyone is so relieved.

VIKING #2 Out with the old and in with the new, right?!

VIKING #3 No one will miss that old nuisance!

VIKING #4 The village is throwing a party to celebrate!  
Stoick is stunned, overwhelmed by the insensitivity. He  
turns to Gobber.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 52.

STOICK  
He's... gone?

GOBBER  
Yeah...most afternoons. But who can  
blame him? I mean the life of a  
celebrity is very rough. He can  
barely walk through the village  
without being swarmed by his new  
fans. Stoick is doubly confused.

STOICK  
Hiccup?

GOBBER

(BEAMING)  
Who would've thought, eh? He has  
this...way with the beasts.

CUT TO:

EXT. SKY - AFTERNOON

Toothless and Hiccup soar through a perfect blue sky.  
Billowing clouds rise like mountains. The ground seems miles  
below them.

HICCUP  
Okay there bud, we're gonna take  
this nice and slow. Hiccup checks a  
leather cheat sheet, clipped onto  
his harness. Inscribed upon it are  
several tail positions and their  
pedal position equivalents.

HICCUP  
Here we go. Here we go...position  
three, no four. He presses the  
pedal, causing the tail to flare.  
They roll off into an arcing bank,  
gloriously lit by the late  
afternoon sun. Hiccup tucks tight  
against his neck, thrilled that his  
new harness and vest are holding.  
The foot controls make the tail  
appendage quick and responsive. He  
watches Toothless' every  
fluctuation, trying to match it  
with the prosthetic. Hiccup sizes  
up a target -- a towering arch of  
stone, rising from the sea.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 53.

HICCUP  
Alright, it's go time. It's go  
time. They dive toward it, lining  
up to pass through the arch.

HICCUP  
Come on. Come on buddy. Come on  
buddy! They zip through the arch. A  
perfect maneuver.

HICCUP

Yeah! Yes, it worked! The triumph is short-lived. They smack into one of several sea stacks as Hiccup tries to keep up with the turns.

HICCUP

Sorry. They hurtle into another rock pillar. Toothless grumbles.

HICCUP

My fault. Toothless swats him with his 'ear' plate.

HICCUP

Yeah, yeah, I'm on it.  
(referring to the cheat

SHEET)

Position four, no three. They pierce the clouds. For the first time, Hiccup can see the whole of the island below them. It shrinks with every passing second. He SWALLOWS hard and tightens his grip on the handles.

HICCUP

Yeah! Go baby! Yes! Oh, this is amazing! The wind in my... He spots the leather guide tearing free in the turbulence.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

(PANICKED)

... CHEAT SHEET! STOP!! Hiccup grabs frantically for the airborne sheet...

HICCUP

No!

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 54.  
... and NABS IT before it's carried out of reach. Toothless, however, obeys the command and suddenly STOPS beating his wings. As they slow to a stop, Hiccup goes weightless. The rings of his vest float off of the harness hooks. Hiccup suddenly finds himself detached, free-falling.

HICCUP

Oh gods! Oh no! Without Hiccup, the tail loses control. Hiccup and Toothless spiral downward.



Toothless FIGHTS to get back under Hiccup.

HICCUP

(trying to calm  
Toothless)

Alright, okay. You just gotta kinda angle yourself. No, no...come back down towards me. Come back down-- Hiccup extends his arms and legs, giving himself as much surface area as he can. He angles back towards Toothless as the tumbling dragon WHACKS Hiccup with his wing. After a few more misses, Hiccup finally GRABS HOLD of the harness and manages to lock in -- just in time to pull Toothless out of his dive... barely shy of the tree tops. They careen past the wooded cliff and directly into a treacherous slalom course of jutting sea stacks. Hiccup pulls the cheat sheet from his teeth and attempts to check positions. It flaps violently in the turbulence, making it impossible. With no time to think, Hiccup throws it away and steers Toothless' tail on instinct... with perfect intuition. Together, they manage a tight, hair-raising series of split-second turns, making it to the open water, unscathed. Hiccup takes a breath and glances back at the death-defying obstacle course, now safely behind them. He beams, relieved. He sits back and throws his arms up in victory.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

YEEAHHH! Toothless concurs with a happy SQUEAL and a fireball. Hiccup's glee turn to dread as they fly directly into it.

ON HICCUP'S FACE

HICCUP

Ah, come on.

EXT. BLACK SAND BEACH - SUNSET

Hiccup and Toothless lounge on a sprawling, deserted beach, snacking of freshly caught fish. As Hiccup cooks his over a fire, Toothless suddenly regurgitates a fish head. Hiccup smirks with forced politeness.

HICCUP

Uh..no thanks.

(gesturing to his fish on

A STICK)

I'm good. Several Terrible Terrors land like seagulls, hissing and nipping at each other as they approach Toothless' pile of fish. One grabs the regurgitated fish head and drags it away. Another attempts to steal it from him. They face off and last fire balls at each other to settle the fight. Hiccup and Toothless watch, amused. That is until... Toothless spots one of his fish leaving the pile. A stealthy Terrible Terror is exposed as the thief. They tug on the fish, and it snaps back into Toothless' mouth. He swallows it back tauntingly.irate, the little dragon paws at the ground and blast Toothless. He opens his mouth, the gas hiss comes, and Toothless fires a tiny flame straight into its mouth, causing the gas to backfire into the little dragon. It coughs up smoke and staggers away, looking ill. Hiccup laughs.

HICCUP

Not so fireproof on the inside, are you? Hiccup throws the hapless Terror his freshly cooked fish.

HICCUP

Here you go. The appreciative little dragon gulps down the meal and approaches Hiccup cautiously. He curls up next to him. Hiccup is amazed.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

(PENSIVE)  
Everything we know about you guys  
is wrong.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 56.  
Hiccup carefully pets him... sending the Terror into an  
immediate, blissful sleep.

INT. BLACKSMITH STALL - HICCUP'S CLOSET - NIGHT

HICCUP is lost in thought, his head laid of a desk full of  
Toothless drawings. Burdened with the weight of the world.  
Suddenly, STOICK appears in the doorway. Hiccup jumps and  
quickly covers up his desk.

HICCUP  
Dad! You're back! He skirts the  
bench, blocking Stoick's view of  
Toothless, the prosthetic fin, and  
other drawings.

HICCUP  
Gobber's not here, so... He strikes  
an awkwardly casual pose, trying to  
cover up as much as possible.

STOICK  
I know. I came looking for you.

HICCUP

(CAUGHT)  
You did?

STOICK

(STERN)  
You've been keeping secrets.  
Hiccup's legs give out. He slides,  
dragging the table's contents with  
him.

HICCUP  
I...have?

STOICK  
Just how long did you think you  
could hide it from me?

HICCUP

(IN VAIN)  
I don't know what you're...

STOICK  
Nothing happens on this island  
without me hearing about it.

HICCUP  
Oh?

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 57.

STOICK  
So.

(BEAT)  
Let's talk about that dragon. Blood  
drains from Hiccup's face.

HICCUP  
Oh gods. Dad I'm so sorry. I was  
going to tell you. I just didn't  
know how to--  
Stoick starts laughing. Big,  
booming. Hiccup stares, baffled.

HICCUP  
You're not...upset?

STOICK  
What?! I was hoping for this!

HICCUP  
Uh...you were?

STOICK  
And believe me, it only gets  
better! Just wait til you spill a  
Nadder's guts for the first time.  
Hiccup's elated expression sinks.

STOICK  
And mount your first Gronckle head  
on a spear. What a feeling! Stoick  
laughs and smacks Hiccup on the  
shoulder, sending him into the  
wall.

STOICK  
You really had me going there, son.  
All those years of the worst Viking  
Berk has ever seen! Odin, it was  
rough. I almost gave up on you!  
Hiccup gets back up, grimacing in  
the irony of it all.

STOICK  
And all the while, you were holding  
out on me! Thor almighty! Stoick  
grabs a stool and sits. His massive  
frame nearly fills the tiny room.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 58.

STOICK (CONT'D)

(RELIEVED)  
Ahhhhh. With you doing so well in  
the ring, we finally have something  
to talk about. Pregnant pause.  
Hiccup averts his eyes nervously.  
Stoick adjusts, awkwardly clearing  
his throat. After a long,  
uncomfortable silence...

STOICK  
Oh, I... brought you something. He  
presents a horned helmet.

STOICK  
To keep you safe in the ring.

HICCUP

(SINCERE)  
Wow. Thanks. Hiccup accepts it,  
looking it over.

STOICK  
Your mother would've wanted you to  
have it.

(HEARTFELT)  
It's half of her breast plate.  
Stoick taps his own helmet and  
smiles.

STOICK  
Matching set. Keeps her close,  
y'know? Hiccup eyes the mismatched  
helmets, grimacing.

STOICK  
Wear it proudly. You deserve it.  
You've held up your end of the  
deal. Stoick beams with pride.  
Hiccup squirms. He forces a YAWN.

HICCUP  
I should really get to bed.

STOICK HICCUP  
(talking over each  
(talking over each

OTHER) OTHER)  
Yes! Good! Okay. Good talk. See you  
back at the house. We should do  
this again. I'm Great. Thanks for  
stopping glad I stopped by, I hope  
you by. And for the... the uh, like  
the hat. breast hat.

STOICK  
Well..uh..good night. Stoick leaves  
the room awkwardly, leaving Hiccup  
looking more burdened than ever.

EXT. TRAINING GROUNDS - AFTERNOON

A Gronckle hovers above the ring, hunting victims as the  
teen recruits scramble. Astrid ducks behind a barrier to  
find Hiccup already there. She forces her axe at his throat.

ASTRID  
Stay out of my way! I'm winning  
this thing.

HICCUP  
Please, by all means. She darts  
off, CLOSING FAST on the dragon.  
The crowd above cheers her on.

VIKING IN CROWD  
You got it Astrid! Hiccup stands  
and looks around. Amidst the crowd  
of onlookers, Stoick watches  
keenly, beaming with pride. He  
locks eyes with Hiccup, giving him  
a nod of encouragement. Hiccup  
adjusts his new helmet and forces a  
half-hearted smile. Unbeknownst to  
Hiccup, the Gronckle spots him and  
makes a bee-  
line toward him.

BACK TO ASTRID  
... as she catches her breath  
behind a barrier. She scowls,  
focused, determined.

ASTRID  
This time. This time for sure.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 60.  
With a FIERCE BATTLE-CRY she LEAPS from cover, axe cocked to throw.

ASTRID  
Aaaaaaaaaa... And as she clears the barriers, she sees that Hiccup has already laid the Gronckle out.

ASTRID  
...aaaaaaauGGGGGHHHHHHH! No! No!  
Hiccup shrugs, as unhappy with the situation as she is.

ASTRID (CONT'D)

NO! NO! SON OF HALFTROLL RAT EATING

MUNGE BUCKET! A loud CLACK ring out. From the crowd above, Gothi, the village elder, steps forward, tapping her staff. Everyone lights up excitedly.

STOICK  
Wait! Wait!

HICCUP  
So, later. Gobber snags Hiccup as he attempts to leave.

GOBBER  
Not so fast.

HICCUP  
I'm kinda late for--

ASTRID

(LIVID)  
What? Late for what exactly? Stoick holds out his hands to silence the jabbering crowd.

STOICK  
Okay quiet down. The elder has decided. Thrilled, Gobber stands behind Hiccup and Astrid. He points to Astrid as the crowd waits in silent anticipation. Gothi shakes her head 'no.' The crowd 'Oooohs.' Gobber then points to Hiccup. The elder nods an affirmative 'yes.' The crowd erupts in cheers. Astrid turns a seething, deadly glare on Hiccup.

GOBBER

You've done it! You've done it,  
Hiccup! You get to kill the dragon!

STOICK

Ha, ha! That's my boy! Hiccup is  
hoisted onto the recruits'  
shoulders and carried out to the  
cheering spectators...

HICCUP

(MASKING PANIC)

Heh, heh. Oh yeah! Yes! I can't  
wait. I am so...

EXT. HIDDEN COVE - DUSK

HICCUP

... leaving. We're leaving. Let's  
pack up. Looks like you and me are  
taking a little vacation, forever.  
Toothless is nowhere in sight.  
Hiccup sets down his basket and  
opens it up, his head clouded with  
troubles.

HICCUP

Oh..man... SHINK! Hiccup looks up  
to the sound of... ASTRID, sitting  
on the rock right in front of him,  
sharpening her axe.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

(SHOCKED)

Aggh! What the--

(RECOMPOSING)

What are you doing here? She hops  
off the rock and back him down,  
spinning her axe threateningly.  
Hiccup's eyes dart around  
nervously, searching for Toothless.

ASTRID

I want to know what's going on. No  
one just gets as good as you do.  
Especially you. Start talking! Are  
you training with someone?



HICCUP  
Uh...training? She grabs him by his  
odd-looking harness.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 62.

ASTRID  
It better not involve... this.

HICCUP  
I know this looks really bad, but  
you see...this is, uh... They hear  
a RUSTLE coming from the other side  
of the cove. Astrid DROPS Hiccup to  
the ground and sets off to  
investigate.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

(PANICKED)  
You're right! You're right. I'm  
through with the lies. I've been  
making... outfits. So you got me.  
It's time everyone knew. Drag me  
back. Go ahead. Here we go. He puts  
her hand back on his harness,  
getting her to 'drag him back.'  
Astrid BENDS Hiccups hand  
backwards, driving him down.

HICCUP  
AAAAUUGGGHHH! Why would you do  
that?!

ASTRID  
That's for the lies. Astrid pounces  
the hilt of her axe off of Hiccup's  
laid-out body.

ASTRID  
And THAT'S for everything else.  
Hiccup's YELP is answered with A  
GROWL, coming from the other side  
of the cove. Astrid looks up to  
see... A NIGHT FURY. Toothless  
pounces toward them, snarling.

HICCUP

(FEEBLE)  
Oh man. She dives onto Hiccup.

ASTRID  
Get down! Run! Run! Astrid pulls  
her axe, ready to take on  
Toothless.

HICCUP  
No!

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 63.  
Hiccup knocks Astrid's cocked axe to the ground, out of  
reach, then stops Toothless short of crushing her.

HICCUP  
No. It's okay! It's okay...  
Toothless pulls up short and lands  
hard, SPRAYING Astrid with sand.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

(CALMING)  
She's a friend. Toothless snorts in  
disagreement. Astrid is frozen.  
Toothless looks from her to Hiccup  
and back to her, confused.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

(TO ASTRID)  
You just scared him.

ASTRID  
I scared him!? Hiccup makes a "be  
quiet" motion.

ASTRID (CONT'D)

(INTENSE WHISPER)  
Who is him?

HICCUP. Astrid, Toothless. Toothless, Astrid. Astrid backs  
away, eyeing Hiccup and Toothless together with pure  
disgust. She turns and RUNS for the village.

HICCUP  
We're dead. Satisfied with Astrid's  
departure, Toothless turns away.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

(TO TOOTHLESS)  
Where do you think you're going?

EXT. WOODS - MOMENTS LATER

ASTRID races through the trees. A large shadow overtakes her. She is suddenly SNATCHED into the air. Astrid SCREAMS.

ASTRID

Oh great Odin's ghost, this is it!

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 64.  
Hiccup and Toothless fly Astrid to the top of a towering pine. It bows and creaks under their weight as Astrid dangles a hundred feet in the air.

ASTRID

Hiccup! Get me down from here!

HICCUP

You have to give me a chance to explain.

ASTRID

I'm not listening to ANYTHING you have to say!

HICCUP

Then I won't speak. Just let me show you. Hiccup extends a hand.

HICCUP

Please, Astrid. She eyes him and the dragon, then the ground far, far below. After a moment, she swats Hiccup's outstretched hand away and reluctantly climbs over the pedal, lines, and harness. She settles behind Hiccup, avoiding as much contact as possible.

ASTRID

Now get me down.

HICCUP

Toothless? Down. Gently. Toothless leers mischievously. He spreads his wings slowly. With a WHOP, they fill with the updraft. Toothless releases the tree, tucks in his legs, and HOVERS in place.

HICCUP

See? Nothing to be afraid of. Toothless suddenly LAUNCHES straight upward. Astrid SCREAMS. The acceleration is tremendous.

Every downbeat bucks the saddle,  
heaving them into the sky, doubling  
their speed like a rocket. Astrid  
is thrown backward. She SCREAMS and  
hugs Hiccup for dear life,  
squeezing the breath out of him.

HICCUP

Toothless! What is wrong with you?!  
Bad dragon!  
(mortified; to Astrid)  
He's not usually like this. Oh  
no...

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 65.  
Toothless ROLLS and PLUMMETS toward the coastline far below.  
Astrid SCREAMS. Toothless rockets over the ocean waves,  
deliberately dipping them in the froth.

HICCUP

Toothless, what are you doing?! We  
need her to like us! Toothless  
rockets skyward and begins tumbling  
head over tail.

HICCUP

And now the spinning. Thank you for  
nothing you useless reptile. Astrid  
clamps her hand over her eyes.

ASTRID

Okay! I'm sorry! I'm sorry! Just  
get me off of this thing. Astrid is  
defeated, her aggressive energy  
gone. Satisfied, Toothless relents.  
They level off and head up into the  
clouds. Astrid opens her eyes  
again, and looks out over a world  
she'd never dreamed of. She reaches  
out and touches clouds, pierces  
columns ablaze in golden hues, and  
floats over a vast, alien sky-  
scape. Her terror is replaced by  
wonder. She grins, despite herself.  
Toothless rises above a blanket of  
clouds...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SKY - NIGHT

...and levels off under a starry sky. They emerge from a  
blanket of clouds under the dancing Northern Lights,  
shimmering in ribbons across the vast sky.

Below them, Berk's torches flicker in the inky darkness. The new perspective is breathtaking. Astrid tucks her arms into Hiccup's vest, burying her chin into his shoulder. The moment is not lost on either of them. Hiccup smiles nervously. Toothless climbs past Berk's tallest peaks and heads out over open water, leaving the village lights behind them.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 66.

ASTRID

Alright I admit it. This is pretty cool. It's... amazing.

(BEAT)

He's amazing. Astrid carefully reaches down and pats Toothless' side.

ASTRID

So what now? Hiccup groans. It's a problem without an answer.

ASTRID

Hiccup, your final exam is tomorrow. You know you're going to have to kill...

(WHISPERED)

... kill a dragon.

HICCUP

Don't remind me. A strange, unearthly din approaches. Toothless' ear plates suddenly stand on end. Panicked, he abruptly dives, dipping into cloud cover.

HICCUP

Toothless! What's happening? What is it? Toothless BARKS at him. 'Quiet!' Suddenly, out of the dense cloud, a Monstrous Nightmare emerges.

HICCUP

Get down! Hiccup and Astrid duck. The Nightmare calls out. A Zippleback appears to the other side of Toothless, boxing him in.

ASTRID

What's going on?

HICCUP

I don't know.

(BEAT)

Toothless. You've got to get us out of here, bud. Toothless HISSES.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 67.  
Other dragons, previously invisible in the thick clouds, appear all around them. HUNDREDS of them, all carrying fish and game in their talons.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

(WHISPERED)

It looks like they're hauling in their kill. The Zippleback eyes them ravenously.

ASTRID

What does that make us? The dragons BANK and dive in formation, plummeting through the thickening fog and weaving between towering, craggy sea stacks. They emerge at the base of a massive volcanic caldera, glowing with rivulets of lava. The flock of dragons fall into rank, funneling through a crack, and zipping through a winding tunnel. It gives way to a vast, steamy inner chamber, tiered with pocky shelves. Dragons of all breeds lay about, nested in hordes. The arriving dragons fly in, dropping the fish and game into a central pit, glowing red and shrouded in mist. Hiccup is amazed.

HICCUP

What my dad wouldn't give to find this. Toothless peels away from the procession, landing on a small shadowy shelf to keep a low-profile. Hiccup and Astrid peek around, taking in the busy hive of sorts. They watch as the food continues to be dropped into the pit.

HICCUP

It's satisfying to know that all of our food has been dumped down a hole.

ASTRID

They're not eating any of it.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 68.  
Last to arrive is a dim-witted Gronckle. It hovers over the pit and regurgitates his paltry contribution -- a pathetic little fish. As it falls into the steamy pit, a terrible ROAR rings out. The Gronckle tries to flee, but before it can, a gargantuan dragon head juts from the steamy pit and SNAPS it out of the air. Swallowing it back whole. Hiccup and Astrid recoil, terrified.

ASTRID

What is that? The monstrous beast  
SNIFFS the air, seemingly aware of  
them. It nears the ledge where  
Toothless is hiding... and ROARS.  
Several dragons take flight in  
fear.

HICCUP

Alright buddy, we gotta get out of  
here. Now! Toothless takes flight,  
barely evading the monster's  
snapping jaws. The behemoth dragon  
lunges for them, snatching a  
Zippleback out of the air instead.  
Toothless disappears into the  
winged exodus as thousands of  
dragons flee the caldera in fear.

EXT. HIDDEN COVE - NIGHT - LATER

Toothless glides into the cove and touches down on the  
moonlit beach.

ASTRID

(her mind reeling,  
talking Hiccup's ear off)  
No, no, it totally makes sense.  
It's like a giant beehive. They're  
the workers... and that's their  
queen. It controls them. She leaps  
off of Toothless and runs toward  
the village.

ASTRID

Let's find your dad.

HICCUP

No, no! Not yet. They'll... kill  
Toothless.

(BEAT)

(MORE)

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 69.

HICCUP

Astrid, we have to think this through carefully. Astrid eyes him, incredulous.

ASTRID

Hiccup, we just discovered the dragons' nest...the thing we've been after since Vikings first sailed here. And you want to keep it a secret? To protect your pet dragon? Are you serious? Hiccup stands firm, resolute.

HICCUP

Yes. Astrid's taken aback.

ASTRID

Okay.

(BEAT)

Then what do we do?

HICCUP

Just give me until tomorrow. I'll figure something out.

ASTRID

Okay. Astrid PUNCHES Hiccup in the arm.

ASTRID

That's for kidnapping me. Hiccup looks to Toothless for support. Toothless SNORTS, dismissive. Astrid grabs him. He braces for another hit. She KISSES Hiccup on the cheek.

ASTRID

That's for, everything else. In the awkward wake of the moment, Astrid hurries off... leaving Hiccup RUBBING his cheek, stunned. Toothless hobbles up, eyeing him.

HICCUP

What are you looking at?

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 70.



EXT. TRAINING GROUNDS - DAY

The grounds have been transformed. Banners and flags flap in the morning sun. Surrounding the ring, a festive crowd had gathered. All of Berk has turned out for the event.

STOICK  
(aloud to the crowd)  
Well, I can show my face in public again.

LAUGHTER AND APPLAUSE

STOICK (CONT'D)

(PLAYFUL)  
If someone had told me that in a few short weeks, Hiccup would go from being, well... Hiccup, to placing first in dragon training... I would've tied him to a mast and shipped him off for fear he'd gone mad. Yes! And you know it!

(BEAT)  
But here we are. And no one's more surprised... ON HICCUP standing at the entrance to the ring, listening, looking burdened.

STOICK  
... or more proud than I am. Today, my boy becomes a Viking. TODAY, HE

BECOMES ONE OF US! CHEERS and ROARS. Astrid approaches Hiccup.

ASTRID  
Be careful with that dragon.

HICCUP  
(re: the roaring crowd)  
It's not the dragon I'm worried about.

ASTRID

(WORRIED)  
What are you going to do?

HICCUP  
Put an end to this. She eyes him, dubious.

HICCUP

I have to try.

(BEAT)

Astrid. If something goes wrong...  
just make sure they don't find  
Toothless.

ASTRID

(GRIM)

I will. Just promise me it won't go  
wrong. Hiccup can't. Gobber  
approaches.

GOBBER

It's time, Hiccup. Knock him dead.  
Hiccup puts his helmet on and  
enters the ring.

ON THE TEENS

HOOTING and HOLLERING from the  
stands.

TUFFNUT

Show 'em how it's done, my man!  
Hiccup locks eyes with Stoick.  
Stoick nods with a smile. Hiccup  
returns a half-smile. Takes a deep  
breath. He hoists a shield onto his  
forearm and selects his weapon from  
a rack of many -- a small dagger.

STOICK

(MUTTERED)

Hrmph. I would've gone for the  
hammer. Hiccup turns to face a  
bolted, heavy door. Takes a deep  
breath.

HICCUP

I'm ready. The door bolt is raised.  
The crowd grows quiet... Beat.  
BOOM! The doors blast open with a  
stream of sticky fire. Followed by  
a Monstrous Nightmare, coated in  
flames. It tears out of its cave  
like an irate bull -- as the crowd  
roars and jeers.

It climbs the walls and chain enclosure like a bat, hissing at the provoking crowd and blasting fire.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 72.  
It spots Hiccup and descends, leering and licking the flaming drool from its lips. The crowd grows silent, bracing for the big fight. With the Monstrous Nightmare's eyes locked upon him, Hiccup deliberately drops his shield and dagger stepping away from them. The dragon pauses, confused. ON STOICK, also confused.

STOICK  
What is he doing? The dragon presses closer, snorting. Hiccup extends his open hand. It snarls.

HICCUP

(WHISPERED)  
It's okay. It's okay. The dragon continues to pace, focused on... HICCUP'S HELMET. Hiccup realizes, then reaches up and removes it. Taking a breath to acknowledge the point of no return, he tosses the helmet aside. It hits the ground.

HICCUP  
I'm not one of them. GASPS and MURMURS race through the crowd. ON STOICK, as all eyes turn to him. He's welling with upset. Hiccup avoids Stoick's glare and remains focused on the Nightmare, holding his hand out. It paces around him, calming down.

STOICK  
Stop the fight.

HICCUP  
No. I need you all to see this. The crowd gets restless.

HICCUP  
They're not what we think they are. We don't have to kill them.

STOICK

I SAID STOP THE FIGHT!

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 73.  
Stoick whacks his hammer against the iron enclosure,  
rattling the arena with a terrible reverberating clatter.  
Spooked, the Nightmare snaps at Hiccup's outstretched hand.  
Hiccup YELPS and springs backward. The spell is broken. The  
Nightmare reacts to Hiccup's sudden movements and blasts  
another stream of fire. Hiccup SCREAMS  
and barely dives out of reach.

EXT. COVE - CONTINUOUS

ON TOOTHLESS  
His ear plates shoot up. Panic  
flares in his eyes.

EXT. TRAINING GROUNDS - CONTINUOUS

Hiccup scrambles around the ring. The Nightmare pursues,  
snapping and springing from ground to wall. Stoick pushes  
through the crowd, rushing to the doorway.

STOICK  
Out of my way!

ASTRID  
Hiccup! Astrid wedges her axe under  
the arena gate and squeezes  
through.

EXT. COVE - CONTINUOUS

Toothless bounds to the cove walls, clawing them in  
desperation. It seems he's as trapped as before, but with an  
incredible BURST of effort he HOOKS a claw over the upper  
lip of the stone wall.

EXT. TRAINING GROUNDS - CONTINUOUS

A narrow stream of fire narrowly avoids Hiccup as he  
continues to dash around the ring, evading the Monstrous  
Nightmare. Desperate, he goes to the weapon rack in an  
attempt to arm himself, but the Nightmare quickly destroys  
the rack and closes in on him.

EXT. COVE - CONTINUOUS

Toothless tears through the woods, bounding like panther and  
taking to the air in short bursts.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 74.

EXT. TRAINING GROUNDS - CONTINUOUS

Stoick wrenches the grated door to the arena and jumps through. The Monstrous Nightmare is only a few feet behind Hiccup. Astrid is now in the ring.

ASTRID

Hiccup! She picks up a hammer and hurls it at the Monstrous Nightmare, hitting it in the head. It turns its attention to Astrid, and begins chasing her. Stoick raises the arena gate, waving her toward it.

STOICK

This way! Astrid makes it through, but the Nightmare BLASTS the doorway, cutting Hiccup off. It pounces on him and prepares to finish him off. Suddenly, a terrible roar pierces the din.

GOBBER

Night Fury! Get down! Toothless bounds over the crowd and BLASTS a hole through the chain enclosure. He flies through it and disappears in the boiling smoke. The Vikings rush to railings... in time to see a flurry of wings cutting through the dissipating smoke. Toothless and the Nightmare tumble into the clear, locked in a toothy, vicious fight. Toothless kicks the Nightmare off and plants himself between Hiccup and it. The Nightmare snarls, circling them. Toothless lunges and ROARS... causing the Nightmare to relent and back away. To everyone's shock and horror, Hiccup gets to his feet and grabs Toothless protectively.

HICCUP

(PANICKED)

Alright, Toothless, go. Get out of here! The crowd is gob-smacked, growing livid.

VIKINGS

Night Fury!

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 75.  
Hiccup tries to shoo Toothless away in vain. Vikings begin pouring clambering through the enclosure and dropping into the ring.

HICCUP

Go! GO!

VIKING

Take it alive! Stoick grabs an axe and charges into the arena. Astrid calls out to him, panicked.

ASTRID

Stoick no!

HICCUP

Dad! No! He won't hurt you! The other Vikings surround and attack Toothless. He tosses them aside like rag dolls, his eyes focused on Stoick.

HICCUP

No, don't! You're only making it worse! Stoick raises his hammer as he charges for Toothless. Toothless ducks and pounces on him. They tumble end over end.

HICCUP

Toothless! STOP! He pins Stoick and inhales. The familiar hiss of gas builds. Everyone braces...

HICCUP (CONT'D)

NO! Toothless swallows back the blast and turns to Hiccup, not understanding.

VIKING

Get him! The crowd rushes him, piling on, and taking Toothless down. Astrid holds Hiccup back.

HICCUP

(DESPERATE)

No! Please...just don't hurt him.  
Please don't hurt him.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 76.  
Stoick gets to his feet, fuming, shaken.

A Viking presents Stoick with an axe. He eyes Toothless a moment, then pushes the axe back into the Viking's hands.

STOICK

Put it with the others! His burning glare turn to Hiccup.

INT. GREAT HALL - DAY

ON HICCUP

Being shoved into the dank, dimmed hall. SLAM! The massive doors rattle and echo. Stoick pushes past him. He paces against a backdrop of shadowy tapestries and carved pillars -- a legacy of heroes, all peering down in angered judgement.

STOICK

I should have known. I should have seen the signs.

HICCUP

Dad.

STOICK

We had a deal! Stoick pauses to say something, but stops short. He SNORTS and resumes pacing, repeating the cycle.

HICCUP

(FLUSTERED)

I know we did... but that was before... uhhh, it's all so messed up.

STOICK

So everything in the ring. A trick? A lie? He stomps toward Hiccup. Stops short and points, fighting back words.

HICCUP

I screwed up. I should have told you before now. Take this out on me, be mad at me, but please... just don't hurt Toothless.

STOICK

The dragon? That's what you're worried about? Not the people you almost killed?!

HICCUP

He was just protecting me! He's not dangerous.

STOICK

They've killed HUNDREDS OF US!

HICCUP

And we've killed THOUSANDS OF THEM! They defend themselves, that's all! They raid us because they have to! If they don't bring enough food back, they'll be eaten themselves.

(BEAT)

There's something else on their island dad...it's a dragon like-- Stoick HUFFS.

STOICK

--Their island? He stomps back... pointing an accusing finger.

STOICK

So you've been to the nest.

HICCUP

Did I say nest? Hiccup goes silent -  
- he said too much.

STOICK

How did you find it?!

HICCUP

No... I didn't. Toothless did. Only a dragon can find the island. Stoick GLARES. A moment passes, then an idea takes form on his face. His eyes flare. Hiccup watches, realizing. Stoick stomps toward the doorway.

HICCUP

Oh no. No, Dad. No. Hiccup chases after him, panicked.



HICCUP

Dad. It's not what you think. You don't know what you're up against. It's like nothing you've ever seen. He grabs Stoick by the arm, tugging with all his might. He has no effect whatsoever.

HICCUP

Dad. Please. I promise you that you can't win this one. Nothing.

HICCUP

No. Dad. No. For once in your life,

WOULD YOU PLEASE JUST LISTEN TO

ME?! He throws Hiccup off of him, SWATTING him to the floor. Icy stillness. Hiccup stares back, stunned.

STOICK

You've thrown your lot in with them. You're not a Viking.

(BEAT)

You're not my son. Stoick pushes through the door, leaving Hiccup alone, devastated.

STOICK (CONT'D)

(CALLING OUT)

Ready the ships!

EXT. GREAT HALL - CONTINUOUS

Stoick staggers on the steps, breaking inside.

EXT. DOCKS/OPEN SEA - DAY

Broken-down catapults and trebuchets are bundled up and lowered from the cliffs. Below on the docks, Vikings load the heavy artillery into the hulls of awaiting ships. Children and the elderly gather to on the walkways to wave apprehensive farewells to the departing warriors. Lastly, Toothless is loaded aboard Stoick's ship, chained down to a palette, muzzled, and restrained with a weighty neck ring. He looks exhausted, miserable.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 79.  
Stoick crosses to the bow as the ship pushes off and joins the amassed armada of ships adrift in the harbor. Stoick's brow is furrowed, all warmth drained away. He turns west and glares at the horizon with cold determination.

STOICK  
Set sail! We head for Helheim's  
Gate. He then notices HICCUP  
watching from his familiar cliff-  
side perch beyond the village.  
Their eyes meet, full of hurt and  
regret. Hiccup slowly shakes his  
head in warning. Stoick breaks the  
stare and turns to Toothless,  
fuming.

STOICK  
Lead us home, Devil.

ON HICCUP  
Watching. He's powerless to stop  
what is happening, but won't leave.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CLIFFS - LATER

ON HICCUP  
Still standing there. The ships  
have cleared the horizon. CRANE UP  
to reveal Astrid is standing behind  
him. She approaches cautiously and  
stands beside him in silence.

ASTRID  
It's a mess. Hiccup doesn't  
respond.

ASTRID  
You must feel horrible. You've lost  
everything. Your father, your  
tribe, your best friend.

HICCUP  
Thank you for summing that up.

HICCUP  
Why couldn't I have killed that  
dragon when I found him in the  
woods. It would have been better  
for everyone

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 80.

ASTRID  
Yep. The rest of us would have done  
it.

(BEAT)  
So why didn't you? Hiccup just  
shakes his head - he really doesn't  
know. Astrid's eyes glimmer. She  
wants something.

ASTRID  
Why didn't you?

HICCUP  
I don't know. I couldn't.

ASTRID  
That's not an answer.

HICCUP

(BECOMING IRATE)  
Why is this so important to you all  
of a sudden?

ASTRID  
Because I want to remember what you  
say right now.

HICCUP  
(angry, loud)  
Oh for the love of -- I was a  
coward! I was weak. I wouldn't kill  
a dragon.

ASTRID  
You said 'wouldn't' that time.

HICCUP

(BLOWS UP)  
Whatever! I wouldn't! Three hundred  
years and I'm the first Viking who  
wouldn't kill a dragon!

A BEAT.

ASTRID  
First to ride one, though. Hiccup  
blinks. He never looked at it that  
way before.

ASTRID  
So...

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 81.

HICCUP

(REALIZING)  
...I wouldn't kill him because he  
looked as frightened as I was.

(BEAT)  
I looked at him and I saw myself.  
Astrid turns to face the open sea.

ASTRID  
I bet he's really frightened now.

(PROVOKING)  
What are you going to do about it?  
Beat.

HICCUP  
Probably something stupid.

ASTRID  
Good. But you've already done that.  
Another beat.

HICCUP  
Then something crazy. Astrid  
smiles.

ASTRID  
That's more like it.

EXT. OPEN SEA/DAGON ISLAND - DAY

The armada coasts toward a shroud of heavy fog, hung like  
drapes from a low-hanging, ominous sky. The ships enter, one  
by one. Visibility drops immediately. Flanking ships becomes  
ghosts. The armada disappears, drawn into the blinding mist.  
Complete whiteout. Nothing remains but the eerie creaking of  
wood on water. ON STOICK at the bow of his ship. He taps his  
fingers on the gunwale, then looks back at Toothless  
impatiently. Weighed down with chains, Toothless seems  
unresponsive.

STOICK  
Sound your positions. Stay within  
earshot. Shouts pour in from all  
directions.

VIKING #1 Here.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 82.

VIKING #2 One length to your stern.

VIKING #3 On your starboard flank.

VIKING #4 Three widths to port.

VIKING #5 Ahead, at your bow.

VIKING #6 Haven't a clue. ON STOICK straining into the fog as the calls continue. Massive, jagged sea stacks begin to emerge, threatening to rip the ships to shreds. Gobber approaches him, speaking under his breath.

GOBBER

Listen... Stoick... I was overhearing some of the men just now and, well, some of them are wondering what it is we're up to here -- not me of course, I know you're always the man with the plan -- but some, not me, are wondering if there is in fact a plan at all, what it might be?

STOICK

Find the nest and take it.

GOBBER

Ah. Of course. Send them running. The old Viking fall-back. Nice and simple.

STOICK

Shhh. Stoick notices that Toothless' ear plates are at the alert, quietly reacting to inaudible sounds. Stoick crosses to the stern of the ship and grabs the tiller, moving the helmsman out of the way.

STOICK

Step aside. Stoick pulls the ship into a turn, covertly following Toothless' head movements.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 83.  
The ship barely misses a jagged outcrop that suddenly appears out of the soupy fog.

VIKING

Bear to port. The order is called out from ship to ship. CRUNCH! The bow barely makes it past another sea stack. Stoick continues to follow Toothless' cues, undeterred.

EXT. TRAINING GROUNDS - DAY

Hiccup raises the bolt on the Monstrous Nightmare's pen.

FISHLEGS (O.S.)

If you're planning on getting eaten, I'd definitely go with the Gronckle. Hiccup turns to see his fellow recruits, watching him with folded arms. Tuffnut steps forward with a scowl.

TUFFNUT

You were wise to seek help from the world's most deadly weapon.

(BEAT)

It's me.

HICCUP

Uh...

SNOTLOUT

I love this plan.

HICCUP

I didn't...

RUFFNUT

You're crazy.

(SULTRY)

I like that.

ASTRID

So? What is the plan? Hiccup smiles, glowing in the support of his friends.

EXT. FOGGY SEA - DAY

The ships follow in line through the gauntlet of rocks as orders are whispered from ship to ship.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 84.  
A dragon head looms out of the fog. The men recoil... only to discover that it's a wrecked ship, impaled high on a gnarled sea stack.

GOBBER

Ah. I was wondering where that went. A clicking buzz becomes audible, growing louder.

It fills the sky, converging in one general direction. Stoick sniffs the air.

STOICK

Stay low and ready your weapons. Stoick's ship suddenly JERKS to a halt as the keel burrows into shallow black sand. Stoick hops overboard, landing on a sprawling beach. The BUZZING suddenly STOPS. Above him, a craggy volcano towers into the gloom.

STOICK

We're here. Behind him, several dragon-headed bows pierce the fog.

EXT. TRAINING GROUNDS - RING - DAY

Hiccup steps back from the door, drawing the Monstrous Nightmare out of its cave. It snorts, stepping into the ring, calmed by Hiccup's outstretched hand -- focused on him. ON THE TEENS... bewildered, in awe. Snotlout nervously reaches for a spear laying near his foot. Astrid stops him.

ASTRID

(CORRECTING)

Uh-uh. Hiccup slows to a stop in front of the teens, with the Nightmare inches from his outstretched hand. He reaches over and grabs Snotlout's trembling hand.

SNOTLOUT

Wait! What are you...

HICCUP

Relax. It's okay... it's okay.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 85.  
Hiccup replaces his outstretched hand with Snotlout's, putting him in control of the massive beast. The Nightmare snorts, but remains calm. Snotlout, by contrast, chuckles nervously -- it's at once terrifying and amazing. The others watch, spellbound. Hiccup turns and walks away.

SNOTLOUT

Where are you going?! Hiccup pulls a bundle of rope from a supply box.

HICCUP

You're going to need something to help you hold on. The teens eye each other apprehensively, and look up to reveal... ALL THE DRAGONS standing in the ring, facing the teens expectantly.

EXT. DRAGON ISLAND - DAY

CLOSE ON

Tree trunks, being sharpened and planted into the sand at angled rows. Boulders being loaded into catapult baskets. And a war plan being scratched in the sand. STOICK looms over it, looking determined. His generals are at his sides.

STOICK

When we crack this mountain open, all hell is going to break loose.

GOBBER

In my undies. Good thing I brought extras. Stoick TURNS to face the men.

STOICK

No matter how this ends, it ends today. He walks toward the base of the volcano wall, back by several hundred warriors. He raises his arm and drops it.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 86.  
A line of catapults UNLEASH their two-ton loads into the cliff wall. It cracks and flakes away. Several more hits tear away at the hollow shell of hardened lava. A final boulder shatters the fractured wall, creating a deep, dark opening to the cavern within. Silence. Stock raises his hand, makes a gesture. A flaming bushel is launched into the dark, lighting the wall... CHOKED

WITH DRAGONS. Stoick pulls his hammer and rushes into the cave, brazen.

STOICK

(War cries and slashing efforts)

In a chaotic flurry, the dragons suddenly rush out like bats from a cave.



The take to the air, bypassing the  
axe-swinging Vikings and fleeing  
the island in a mass exodus. The  
battle-ready Vikings drop their  
weapons, confused.

GOBBER

Is that it? Above the island,  
dragons POUR from every crevice,  
fleeing to the sky. The sound of  
screeching dragons fades.

VIKINGS

(Cheering as one)

SPITELOUT

We've done it! Stoick doesn't  
celebrate. Something is not right.  
He HEARS  
something. Stoick turns to peer  
down the dark throat of the cavern.  
A deep, rumbling ROAR echoes from  
the cavern. The ground underfoot  
TREMBLES. The ships rock. Their  
sails fill with a blast of air. The  
cheering stops. Stoick's expression  
sinks.

STOICK

This isn't over. Form your ranks!  
Hold together! The men SCRAMBLE to  
organize themselves.

STOICK

Get clear!

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 87.  
The ground CRACKS. Stone tears away, cascading like an  
avalanche. And through the settling debris, the silhouette  
of a gargantuan dragon emerges -- THE RED DEATH. Stirred and  
furious.

GOBBER

Beard of Thor...what is that?

STOICK

(AGHAST)

Odin help us.

(BEAT)

Catapults! The Vikings score direct  
hits. The burning stones BOUNCE off  
the dragon's skin.

The Red Death focuses on the catapults. It crushes the first one - smashing it and its crew, rattling the beach underfoot. Stoick races toward the second catapult. He LEAPS and pushes a Viking out of the way just before the dragon crushes him under his forepaw. The Vikings scramble in all directions.

VIKING #3 Get to the ships!

STOICK

No! NO! The Red Death BLASTS the ships like a mile-long flamethrower. The sails are torched. Vikings dive overboard and masts come down. Gobber Joins Stoick.

GOBBER

Heh. Smart, that one. Stoick looks up and down the beach for an answer.

STOICK

(GUILT-RIDDEN)

I was a fool. The monster raises its head to the sky and BELLOWS. The sound SHAKES the beach, knocking Vikings off their feet. This island is his. Stoick stops a Viking General.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 88.

STOICK

Lead the men to the far side of the island.

SPITELOUT

Right.

(turns to the others)

Everybody to the far side of the island! The Vikings scatter into the rocks like ants. Satisfied with the ships destruction, The Red Death turns its attention back to the Vikings. They seem to have vanished. It SNIFFS the air, searching for their scent.

Gobber drops in beside Stoick, like two soldiers in a trench. Fire blasts over head, causing them to duck.

STOICK  
Gobber, go with the men.

GOBBER  
I think I'll stay, just in case you're thinking of doing something crazy. Stoick grabs him.

STOICK

(EMPHATIC)  
I can buy them a few minutes if I give that thing someone to hunt. Gobber removes Stoick's hand. Clenches his forearm, determined.

GOBBER  
Then I can double that time. Stoick grins. Friends to the bitter end. They BREAK COVER and dash into the open, SPLITTING UP. Stoick rips a sharpened post from the ground and hurls it into the monster's face.

STOICK

HERE!

GOBBER

NO, HERE! It spots both of them. He fuels up to fire, glancing back and forth between the two men. He focuses on Stoick.

GOBBER  
Come on! Fight me!

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 89.

STOICK  
No, me! The Red Death remains focused on Stoick - this is it. It rears back and inhales. Gas begins to amass, when... KABLAM! A BLAST explodes against the back of The Red Death's head. It turns distracted, as... ... a Nadder punches through the flames, banking across the sky.

Followed by a Monstrous Nightmare,  
a Zippleback, and a Gronckle. They  
roll in unison, revealing the  
recruits riding on their backs.  
Hiccup leads, with Astrid clinging  
to his waist. GOBBER AND STOICK,  
watch slack-jawed, in awe.

HICCUP

Ruff, Tuff, watch your backs! Move  
Fishlegs! The monster shakes off  
the blast and snaps in their wake.  
Hiccup directs his squadron out of  
harm's way. They climb out of reach  
and circle each other.

TUFFNUT

Look at us, we're on a dragon!  
We're on dragons, all of us!

HICCUP

Up, let's move it! The dragons  
climb past the Red Death.

ON THE GROUND

Gobber hobbles over to Stoick.

GOBBER

Every bit the boar-headed, stubborn  
Viking you ever were. Stoick is  
speechless.

IN THE AIR

The group circles over the dragon's  
head.

HICCUP

Fishlegs, break it down.

FISHLEGS

Okay. Heavily armored skull and  
tail made for bashing and crushing.

(MORE)

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 90.

FISHLEGS

Steer clear of both. Small eyes,  
large nostrils. Relies on hearing  
and smell.

HICCUP

Okay. Lout, Legs, hang in its blind spot. Make some noise, keep it confused. Ruff, Tuff, find out if it has a shot limit. Make it mad.

RUFFNUT

That's my specialty.

TUFFNUT

Since when? Everyone knows I'm more irritating. See.

(IRRITATING SOUNDS)

HICCUP

(EXASPERATED)

Just do what I told you. I'll be back as soon as I can.

TUFFNUT

Don't worry, we got it covered!

FISHLEGS

Yeah! Hiccup and Astrid peel away. The teens bank and dive toward the monster, splitting up. The Twins race alongside the monster's head, taunting it.

TUFFNUT

Troll!

RUFFNUT

Butt Elf!

TUFFNUT

Bride of Grendel! The Red Death unloads a spray of fire at the twins. They barely dodge it. Fishlegs and Snotlout hang behind its eyes, banging away at their shields, making a racket. The Red Death opens all SIX of its eyes, spotting them.

FISHLEGS

Uh, this thing doesn't have a blind spot.

ON HICCUP AND ASTRID  
... searching for Toothless. Hiccup  
spots him among the burning ships.

HICCUP  
There! He steers the Nadder over  
the deck and hands Astrid the  
reins. He lines up his jump... and  
hops off, guarding his face from  
the flames. He lands on the burning  
deck.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

(TO ASTRID)  
Go help the others! She and the  
Nadder take off. As Hiccup fights  
his way to Toothless. He unbuckles  
the muzzle. Toothless shrieks.

HICCUP  
Okay, hold on. Hold on. He gets to  
work on the chains.

ON SNOTLOUT AND FISHLEGS  
They clang their weapons against  
their shields, making the monster  
wince.

SNOTLOUT  
It's working. The huge beast starts  
to sway its head dizzily.

FISHLEGS  
Yeah! It's working. PAN DOWN to  
reveal that the noise is also  
confusing the Gronckle and the  
Monstrous Nightmare. Both dragons  
lose their bearings. The Red Death  
thrashes, knocking Snotlout off of  
his dragon and onto the monster's  
gigantic head. Snotlout bounces  
across the top and comes to a stop  
just shy of the hundred foot drop.

SNOTLOUT  
Agghh! Fishlegs' Gronckle goes down  
in a spin of confusion.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 92.

FISHLEGS  
I've lost power on the Gronckle.  
Snotlout! Do something!

He hurls Snotlout his hammer. The Gronkle crashes and skids to a stop...

FISHLEGS

I'm okay! ... then flips over, crushing Fishlegs.

FISHLEGS (CONT'D)

(FEEBLE)

Less okay.

BACK TO SNOTLOUT

... who eyes the Red Death's gigantic, veiny eyes. He raises the hammer...

SNOTLOUT

I can't miss! ... and hammers the monster's eyes, playing whack-a-mole.

SNOTLOUT

What's wrong buddy, got something in your eye? Astrid flies by on her Nadder, catching Snotlout in all his heroics.

ASTRID

Yeah! You're the Viking! Snotlout grins, finally vindicated in her eyes. In his distraction, he gets thrown and lands heavily on one of the Red Death's spines -- clinging precariously. A close call.

SNOTLOUT

Whoa!

ON THE GROUND

The monster's tail sweeps across the burning ships, snapping masts like twigs. We follow one down as it crashes onto a deck, revealing...

HICCUP

Working at the chains. He can't budge them. Fire licks at his clothes. He looks up to see...

The monster's giant foot crashes through frame, smashing the bow under its impressive weight. Hiccup and Toothless are thrown into the water in a maelstrom of burning planks and rigging.

UNDERWATER

Hiccup swims toward Toothless. They're both caught in a mess of rigging, being dragged down. The heavy palette settles into the rocky bottom like an anchor. Toothless has stopped struggling. Hiccup takes one more hopeless tug at the chains - he's almost out of air. Suddenly, a meaty hand grabs Hiccup. STOICK explodes to the surface, pulling Hiccup to the shoreline through flaming debris. He lays him down, under the shelter of an overhanging rock.

HICCUP

(OVERWHELMED)

Dad... Stoick dives back into the water between flaming flotsam.

UNDERWATER

ON TOOTHLESS, drowning. Stoick appears in front of him. Toothless freezes. Stoick tears the chains off of the yoke and lets it float free. Momentary stillness. They eye each other, through the churned up bubbles. Toothless lunges out of the bars -- grabbing Stoick. BOOM! In an explosion of sea water, Toothless lands on the shore, setting Stoick down and releasing him. Hiccup is awed. The ground rumbles underfoot. The monster screeches. Its massive claws stomp around in the smoke. Stoick gives way as Toothless mounts the rock and raises his wings. He turns to Hiccup and SNORTS - "Let's go."

HICCUP

You got it, bud. Hiccup climbs onto Toothless and buckles himself in. Stoick grabs his arm.



STOICK  
Hiccup. I'm sorry...for everything.

HICCUP  
Yeah...me too.

STOICK  
You don't have to go up there.

HICCUP  
We're Vikings. It's an occupational hazard. They exchange smiles.

STOICK  
I'm proud to call you my son.  
Hiccup beams, taken aback.

HICCUP  
Thanks dad. Stoick lets go of Hiccup's arm. Hiccup spurs Toothless on, charged with his father's belief in him. They rocket into the sky as Stoick watches.

IN THE AIR  
Astrid sees Toothless streaking through the sky, gaining altitude.

ASTRID  
He's up! She turns to Ruffnut and Tuffnut, who are ARGUING and THROWING PUNCHES at each other.

ASTRID  
Get Snotlout out of there! IN MID-PUNCH, the twins look over to see Snotlout stranded on the monster's head. They eye each other.

TUFFNUT RUFFNUT  
I'm on it! I'm on it!

TUFFNUT  
I'm on it first! I'm ahead of you. The twins spot Snotlout on the giant dragon and steer their Zippleback in his direction.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 95.

RUFFNUT  
Hey! Let me drive! The twins peel off, ARGUING as they race each other to the monster.

Snotlout sees the Zippleback diving toward him and DASHES down the Red Death's head. He runs up the end of its horn... As the twins sweep past, both missing him... but perfectly snatching him where the necks merge. Ruff and Tuff eye each other, surprised and impressed.

TUFFNUT

I can't believe that worked. The Red Death spots Astrid and INHALES, preparing to blast. She and her Nadder get caught in the suction, pulled toward the monster's gaping mouth.

ON THE GROUND

The Vikings watch with dread. They hear the familiar whir of the...

GOBBER

Night Fury! Get down!

IN THE AIR

A massive BLAST jolts the Red Death's head sideways. Astrid is thrown clear of its mouth... AND her Nadder. She tumbles through the air. The ground races toward her, when... She's suddenly CAUGHT by the leg. She looks up to see Toothless.

HICCUP

Did you get her? Toothless grunts.

ON THE GROUND

They fly over the crowd of Vikings and set Astrid down, mid-run. They circle back to reengage - a black speck against the clouds.

ASTRID

(BREATHLESS)

Go.

IN THE AIR

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 96.  
Hiccup and Toothless rocket past the Red Death's head and climb, higher and higher.

HICCUP

(TO TOOTHLESS)

That thing has wings! Okay, let's see if it can use them! Hiccup pulls Toothless into a turn. They plummet, gaining tremendous speed. The wind buffets them as they target the Red Death at super sonic speed. KABLAM! Toothless unloads a fireball against the Red Death's head. It goes down with a rumble as they climb anew.

ON THE GROUND

The Vikings shield themselves from the dust of the fallen monster... as its wings unfold and extend.

IN THE AIR

Hiccup looks back as they put distance between them.

HICCUP

Do you think that did it? Suddenly, the enraged behemoth RISES into frame... flapping its wings furiously. A daunting sight.

HICCUP

Well, he can fly. Hiccup and Toothless DIVE into the tangled sea stacks - they weave through the rock like rabbits through a briar. The Red Death SNAPS at them, but cannot reach them. Hiccup and Toothless PULL AHEAD. The Red Death SMASHES through the canopy of rock and pulls in behind Toothless. He BURSTS THROUGH fifty-foot formations like they were saplings.

ON THE GROUND

Stoick, Gobber, and the Teens watch as Hiccup and Toothless streak past, weaving through sea stacks.

TEENS

Woohoo! Yeah! A moment later the Red Death SMASHES the sea stacks to dust in hot pursuit. The Vikings' mood is quenched.

IN THE AIR

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 97.  
Hiccup and Toothless can't slow the monster down. Hiccup  
eyes the clouds above. An idea hits him. He locks eyes with  
Toothless.

HICCUP

Okay Toothless, time to disappear.  
Toothless PULLS into a steep climb,  
heading toward the clouds.

HICCUP

Come on bud! The Red Death follows,  
closing in fast.

HICCUP

(hearing the gas)

Here it comes! BLAST! They narrowly  
dodge a column of flame and smoke.  
They reach the low-hanging clouds  
and pierce them. The monster  
follows, immediately losing them in  
the hampered visibility. It roars  
irritably. From out of nowhere,  
Toothless DIVES at the huge dragon,  
BLASTING and PUNCTURING a hole in  
its wing. Toothless and Hiccup are  
gone again before the dragon can  
get a shot at them.

ON THE GROUND

The Vikings stare up at the sky  
listening to the resounding BOOMS  
and watching FLASHES light up the  
clouds. Gobber places a hand on  
Stoick's shoulder.

IN THE AIR

HICCUP and TOOTHLESS dive in again  
and again, using the clouds to hide  
and surprise as they puncture the  
monster's wings. It BELLOWS in  
frustration and WHIRLS around,  
unleashing fire blindly, in all  
directions. Hiccup sees the glow of  
fire cutting towards them.

HICCUP

Watch out! The random blast CLIPS  
Toothless' tail. It's heavily  
damaged.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 98.

HICCUP

Okay, time's up. Let's see if this works. He pulls Toothless into a turn. They fly directly into the Red Death's face, taunting it.

HICCUP

Come on! Is that the best you can do!? Toothless utters an insult too, and they jackknife into a steep dive. The Red Death pursues. Toothless PUMPS his wings, racing faster than he's ever gone before. Hiccup and Toothless stay just ahead of the Red Death -- no longer trying to evade it. Hiccup glances back to check the tail - it's disintegrating.

HICCUP

Stay with me buddy. We're good. Just a little bit longer. The Red Death closes the gap. Hiccup tucks in and holds Toothless steady -- allowing the monster to set its sights on them. It narrows its eyes.

HICCUP

Hold, Toothless. The Red Death OPENS his mouth. The familiar gas HISS emanates from his throat -- ignition is coming.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

NOW! Hiccup HITS the PEDALS HARD as Toothless extends one wing. They PIVOT in place, hurtling directly into the Red Death's mouth. Toothless FIRES point blank down the monster's throat. Its amassing gas is ignited, BACKFIRING into the monster, erupting in a chain of blasts throughout its body. Hiccup and Toothless BURST from the clouds, the Red Death hot on their tail, exploding from within. It glances forward and sees the ground rushing up. It throws open its wings, attempting to put on the brakes, but the punctured, damaged wings can't stop its momentum. As the Red Death chokes on the expanding fireball, he sees Toothless suddenly pull out of the dive, streaking up, past its head.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010 99.  
The Red Death HITS the ground, head-first. It EXPLODES like the Hindenburg. Hiccup and Toothless weave through the monster's massive back plates, wings, and flailing legs -- a high-speed recall of the FREE FALL slalom run.

The expanding fireball races toward them, about to swallow them. They manage to clear the obstacles. Hiccup glances back. They're outrunning the fireball. He looks forward just in time to see the monster's massive club tail careening toward them. He tries to shift their direction. The last shreds of Toothless' tail tear away. Hiccup's pedals go DEAD.

HICCUP

No. No. Hiccup and Toothless can't maneuver - they're dead in the air. The giant club tail CLIPS Toothless, TEARING Hiccup from the harness and sending him tumbling against the backdrop of the fast-approaching fireball. Toothless STRUGGLES with all his might to reach the unconscious Hiccup. But the fireball swallows them both.

ON THE GROUND

The Vikings watch in horror as Hiccup and Toothless disappear into the boiling inferno.

DISSOLVE TO:

A whiteout of ash. And through it comes...

STOICK

Hiccup? Hiccup!? Stoick appears, searching desperately. Everything is scorched. Even the ground is smoking from the terrible heat.

STOICK

Hiccup!? Son!? Through the ash, Stoick the motionless silhouette of Toothless.

STOICK (CONT'D)

(GRAVE)

Hiccup.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010  
100. He hurries to the dragon's side. Toothless is roughed up, but conscious. His scorched saddle, however, is vacant. Stoick looks to the sky in despair. He buckles at the knees, overwhelmed by the loss.

STOICK

Oh son...I did this... Astrid pushes through the crowd, her eyes welling up. Followed by Gobber. They flank Stoick as he kneels, slumped over. Behind them, a ring of Vikings form, keeping a respectful distance. As the dust and smoke clear, a ring of wild dragons can also be seen, gathering just behind and between the Vikings. Toothless stirs and groggily rolls his head toward Stoick. Their eyes meet.

STOICK

I'm so sorry... Toothless unfolds his wings, revealing Hiccup, unconscious, clutched safely against his chest. Stoick's eyes widen.

STOICK

Hiccup. He scoops Hiccup into his arms. Listens to his heart. Bursts into relieved laughter.

STOICK

He's alive!

(TO TOOTHLESS)

You brought him back alive! The crowd roars. Followed by the dragons. The Vikings look around to find themselves surrounded. Stoick leans close to Toothless, meeting him eye to eye.

STOICK (CONT'D)

(PRIVATELY)

Thank you... for saving my son. Gobber looks Hiccup up and down.

GOBBER

Well, you know... most of him. Stoick glances back at him. Gobber shrugs, redirecting his eyes toward...

INT. STOICK'S HOUSE - DAY

CLOSE ON

HICCUP, asleep, his head on a pillow. Healing scars on his face show that maybe a week or two have passed. Toothless hovers over him, WHINING and GRUMBLING impatiently. Hiccup stirs. Opens his eyes.

HICCUP

(GROGGY)

Oh, hey Toothless. Toothless excitedly nuzzles and nudges Hiccup.

HICCUP

Okay, okay! I'm happy to see you too, bud. Now just--  
Toothless steps on his groin, causing Hiccup to sit BOLT UPRIGHT with a YELP. He looks around, confounded. He's in his bed, moved beside the fire pit on the main floor of his house.

HICCUP

I'm in my house.  
(re: Toothless, leaning over him, excited)  
You're in my house. Toothless TEARS around the room, knocking things over, far too big for the space.

HICCUP

Uh...does my dad know you're in here?! Toothless pauses at the foot of the bed, tongue wagging. He eyes the rafters... and LEAPS UP onto them, brimming with 'happy dog' energy.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

(DISTRESSED)

Okay, okay -- no Toothless! Aw, come on... Hiccup shifts to get out of bed... then pauses... sensing that something is wrong. He peels back the covers slowly. What he sees startles, horrifies, and overwhelms him -- all at once.



ON THE BARE FLOOR

His booted foot touches down.  
Followed by a mechanical prosthetic  
in place of his second leg. It's an  
ingenious spring-loaded  
replacement, made of wood and iron.  
Toothless lands by the bed and  
approaches calmly, sniffing the new  
leg. He raises his eyes to meet  
Hiccup's, seemingly aware of what  
Hiccup is going through. Hiccup  
braces himself on the bedpost and  
tries to stand on it. He winces and  
stifles the pain...

HICCUP

Okay...okay... ... but STUMBLES  
with the first step. Toothless  
catches Hiccup's fall with his  
head... and slowly lifts him up,  
stabilizing him.

HICCUP

Thanks bud. Hiccup leans on him  
like a crutch. They take a few  
steps together. Their missing parts  
form a poetic silhouette as they  
make their way toward the door.  
Hiccup pries it open (as he did in  
the opening scene), revealing a  
MONSTROUS NIGHTMARE flapping  
outside the door. Hiccup YELPS and  
slams the door closed. He turns to  
Toothless, alarmed.

HICCUP

Toothless? Stay here, bud. Hiccup  
pauses... and cracks the door open  
again. He peeks outside, his eyes  
widening. He allows the door to  
swing open, revealing... ... the  
Monstrous Nightmare, carrying  
Snotlout on its back.

SNOTLOUT

Come on guys, get ready! Hold on  
tight! Here we go! A class of  
newbie dragon riders follow him  
through frame on a variety of  
dragons, pulling back the curtain  
on an amazing vista in which:

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010  
103. Vikings and dragons mill about by the dozen, basking on the rooftops, weaving along the plaza. No one seems upset, there isn't a sword in sight. Under the framework of a MASSIVE BARN, a Nadder BLASTS fire onto a metal brace. It steps back to let a Viking hammer it into shape. Nearby, a Gronkle lands, carrying a tree trunk in his mouth. He shows a Viking what he's found. The Viking pats his head. Another Viking backs a Zippleback into a stall to check it for size. Hiccup takes a step outside, finding Stoick waiting for him on the step.

HICCUP

I knew it. I'm dead. Stoick laughs.

STOICK

No, but you gave it your best shot.  
He puts his arm around Hiccup,  
steadying him. He gestures to the  
transformed village.

STOICK

So? What do you think? Hiccup just  
shrugs, amazed. Below, the plaza,  
villagers take notice.

VIKING #1 Hey look! It's Hiccup! They rush over, surrounding him with a hero's welcome.

VIKING #2 Hiccup, how you doin' mate?

VIKING #3 It's great to see you up and about.

STOICK

(SWEETLY)

Turns out all we needed was a  
little more of...

(GESTURES NON-SPECIFICALLY

AT HICCUP)

... this.

HICCUP

(PLAYING ALONG)

You just gestured to all of me.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010  
104.

GOBBER (O.S.)  
Well. Most of you. Gobber pushes  
through the crowd, beaming proudly.

GOBBER  
(re: the prosthetic leg)  
That bit's my handiwork. With a  
little Hiccup flare thrown in.  
Think it'll do?

HICCUP  
(bittersweet, coming to

TERMS)  
I might make a few tweaks. Astrid  
appears and jabs Hiccup in the arm.  
Hiccup recoils with a grumble.

ASTRID  
That's for scaring me.

HICCUP

(PROTESTING)  
What, is it always going to be this  
way? Cause I... She grabs him  
aggressively... then kisses him.  
Hoots and hollers follow.

HICCUP  
... could get used to it. Gobber  
presents Hiccup with a rebuilt  
saddle, rigging, and tail.

GOBBER  
Welcome home. Suddenly, Toothless  
pounces on the crowd, crushing  
several unsuspecting Vikings under  
his weight.

VIKING  
Night Fury, get down! Toothless  
eyes the new tail excitedly, tongue  
wagging. Amidst the groans and  
grumbles, Hiccup and Astrid  
exchange a sheepish grin.

CLOSE ON

CLOSE ON  
Hiccup's prosthetic foot, snapping  
into the modified stirrup.

"Dragon" DeBlois/Sanders Final Draft (Rev.19) 02-13-2010  
105. The two pieces click together, forming a single shape. Astride Toothless, he's whole again. He rotates the pedal. The new tail opens. Bright red with a skull and Viking horns emblazoned on it. Hiccup approves.

CUT BACK TO REVEAL... Hiccup and Toothless, saddled up and ready to fly. Astrid backs her Nadder into position.

HICCUP

(TO TOOTHLESS)

You ready? Toothless SNORTS an excited 'yes!' From his mount, Hiccup looks out over the changed world.

HICCUP (V.O.)

This... is Berk.

(BEAT)

It snows nine months of the year... and hails the other three. They LEAP into the bright blue sky, together as one. Astrid follows, giving chase.

HICCUP

Any food that grows here is tough and tasteless. The people that grow here are even more so. Hiccup and Astrid race their dragons through the village -- under eaves, over rooftops, down cliff-sides, and between ship masts. It's a high energy, romantic dance of sorts.

HICCUP (V.O.)

The only upsides are the pets. While other places have...ponies or parrots, we have... Their fellow recruits join them as they take to the open sky, rocketing far above the village. The Northern sky swirls with blazing, multicolored dragons. Hiccup and Toothless break from the pack, spinning into the blinding sun.

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

(PROUDLY)  
... dragons.

FADE TO WHITE