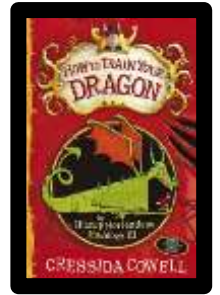


The first person to discover the dragons was Badbreath the Gruff, who set out very early to check how his nets had fared in the storm.



He took one look at the beach, rushed to the chief's house, and woke him up.

'We have a problem,' said Badbreath.

'What do you mean, A PROBLEM?' snapped Stoick the vast.

Stoick had not slept at all. He had lain awake worrying. What kind of father *did* put his precious Laws before the life of his son? But then what kind of son would fail the precious Laws that his father had looked up to and believed in all his life?

By morning Stoick had made the awesome decision that he was going to reverse the solemn pronouncement he had made on the beach, and un-banish Hiccup and the other boys. 'It is WEAK of me. WEAK,' said Stoick to himself gloomily.

All in all, Stoick was not in a state to deal with any more problems.

'There are a couple of humongous dragons on the Long Beach,' said Badbreath.

'Tell them to go away,' said Stoick.

'*You* tell them,' said Badbreath.

Stoick stomped off to the beach. He returned again looking thoughtful.

'Did you tell them?' asked Badbreath.

'Tell IT,' said Stoick. 'The larger dragon has eaten the smaller one. I didn't like to interrupt. I think I shall call a Council of War.'

Questions

1. How can we tell that Badbreath is worried by what he sees on the beach?
2. What word tells us that Stoick is not happy to be bothered by Badbreath?
3. What two worries have kept Stoick awake during the night?

4. *Stoick says that he is weak to decide to un-banish the boys. Do you agree? Explain why.*
5. *What does Stoick discover when he goes to the beach? What does he decide to do?*