

An extract from
Splidge the Cragflinger

(by Richard Vobes)

The crags were kept in 'traps' while they waited to take part. During the games, a small door lifted up to let the creatures out. The cragflingers would then try to catch the animals and fling them at the target.

Splidge stopped at the first trap. He didn't know which crag was hidden in which trap but a small peep hole on the top enabled him to look inside. Splidge moved up the line peeking into each one. One of the crags growled and spun round, snapping its pointed teeth at Splidge the moment he peered in. Splidge jumped back and was relieved the monster couldn't get out.

Splidge's crag had to be in the final trap. He took a deep breath and looked through the spy hole.

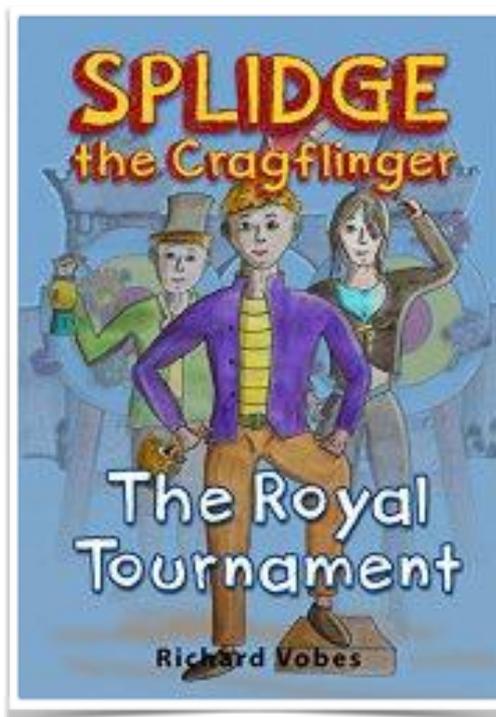
"Any luck?" asked Doreen but the boy looked disappointed.

"It's not there! You know what that means? Without a crag, I can't take part."

"I don't understand." Doreen shook her head in disbelief. "Where can it be?"

"This is the Baron's fault. I am sure of it!"

Trumpets began to play again. The Royal Tournament was about to start.



Splidge the Cragflinger

- 1) Where are the crags kept while they are waiting to take part?
- 2) What does a cragflinger do?
- 3) Complete the missing word from this sentence in the second paragraph:
Splidge moved up the line _____ into each one.
- 4) How did one of the crags react when Splidge looked into its trap?
- 5) Splidge was disappointed when the final trap was empty. Why was this?
- 6) Can you think of a word with a similar meaning to *disappointed*?
- 7) Why did Doreen shake her head when Splidge told her that the crag was missing?
- 8) Who did Splidge think had stolen his crag?
- 9) How do you think Splidge felt when he heard the trumpets begin to play?
- 10) Would you like to read the rest of this story? Explain your answer...

Splidge the Cragflinger

- 1) Where are the crags kept while they are waiting to take part?
In 'traps'.
- 2) What does a cragflinger do?
Try to catch the animal and fling them at the target.
- 3) Complete the missing word from this sentence in the second paragraph:

Splidge moved up the line peeking into each one.

- 4) How did one of the crags react when Splidge looked into its trap?
It growled, spun round and snapped its teeth at Splidge.
- 5) Splidge was disappointed when the final trap was empty. Why was this?
Because his crag wasn't there. It was missing.
- 6) Can you think of a word with a similar meaning to *disappointed*?
Answers may include sad, upset, depressed.
- 7) Why did Doreen shake her head when Splidge told her that the crag was missing?
Because she couldn't believe it. She didn't understand where it had gone.
- 8) Who did Splidge think had stolen his crag?
The Baron.
- 9) How do you think Splidge felt when he heard the trumpets begin to play?
Answers may include angry, furious, upset, worried.
- 10) Would you like to read the rest of this story? Explain your answer...

An extract from
Splidge the Cragflinger
(by Richard Vobes)

The 'traps' housed the crags while they waited to take part. During the games, a small door at the front would lift up to let the creatures out. The cragflingers would then try to catch the scurrying animals and fling them at the crag-target.

Splidge skidded to a halt by the first trap. He noticed that each box had a number painted on the front and he didn't know which crag was hidden in which trap. Fortunately, a small peep hole on the top enabled him to look inside and Splidge moved up the line gingerly, peeking into each one. One of the crags growled and spun round, snapping its pointed teeth at Splidge the moment he peered in. The beast started to howl and Splidge jumped back, relieved the monster couldn't get out.

All the traps had so far housed a crag. That meant the final one had to be where his own crag was waiting. He took a deep breath and looked through the spy hole.

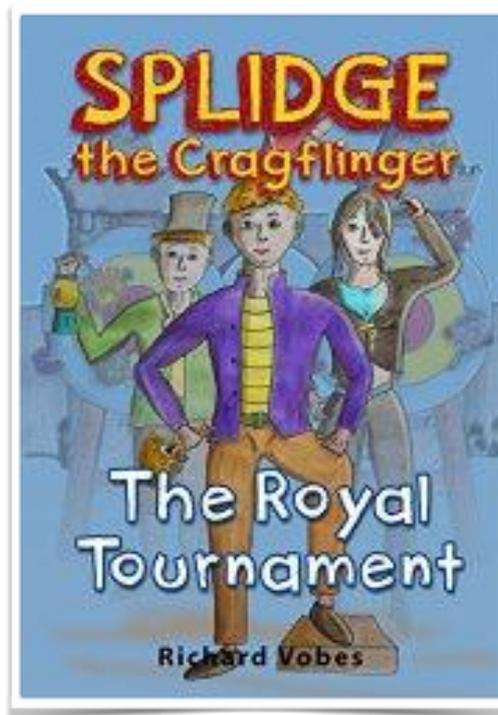
"Any luck?" asked Doreen but she could see the disappointment and confusion on the boy's face.

"It's not there! You know what that means? I'll be disqualified."

"I don't understand." Doreen shook her head in disbelief. "Where can it be?"

"The Baron's responsible. I am sure of it!"

Trumpets began to play. The Royal Tournament was about to start.



Splidge the Cragflinger

- 1) What waited inside the 'traps' before the Royal Tournament began?
- 2) What two tasks did the cragflingers have to complete in the competition?
 - 1)
 - 2)
- 3) *The cragflingers would then try to catch the scurrying animals...*
How do crags move? Tick the correct answer:
 With long slow strides.
 With short quick steps.
- 4) *Splidge moved up the line gingerly, peeking into each one.*
How was Splidge feeling as he tried to find his crag in the traps?
- 5) One of the crags growls at Splidge. Find the adjective that the author used to describe its teeth.
- 6) How was Splidge feeling when Doreen asked him if he had had any luck?
- 7) *"You know what that means? I'll be disqualified."*
What does *disqualified* mean?
- 8) How did Splidge know that the Tournament was about to start?
- 9) Why might the Baron have hidden Splidge's crag?
- 10) What do you think that Splidge and Doreen might do next in the story?

Splidge the Cragflinger

- 1) What waited inside the 'traps' before the Royal Tournament began?
Crags.
- 2) What two tasks did the cragflingers have to complete in the competition?
 - 1) **Catch the crags,**
 - 2) **Fling them at the crag-target.**
- 3) *The cragflingers would then try to catch the scurrying animals...*
How do crags move? Tick the correct answer:
 With long slow strides.
 With short quick steps.
- 4) *Splidge moved up the line gingerly, peeking into each one.*
How was Splidge feeling as he tried to find his crag in the traps?
Nervous / cautious.
- 5) One of the crags growls at Splidge. Find the adjective that the author used to describe its teeth.
Pointed.
- 6) How was Splidge feeling when Doreen asked him if he had had any luck?
Disappointed and confused.
- 7) *"You know what that means? I'll be disqualified."*
What does *disqualified* mean?
Removed from the tournament / unable to take part.
- 8) How did Splidge know that the Tournament was about to start?
They could hear trumpets playing.
- 9) Why might the Baron have hidden Splidge's crag?
Answers vary but might mention that the Baron may want to stop Splidge entering / winning the Royal Tournament.
- 10) What do you think that Splidge and Doreen might do next in the story?
Answers vary but might include:
* **Go to the Baron to ask what he's done with the crag,**
* **Go to the tournament to find the crag.**

An extract from
Splidge the Cragflinger

(by Richard Vobes)

The 'traps' housed the crags while they waited to take part. During the games, a small sliding door at the front would lift up allowing the occupants to rush out. The cragflingers would then try to catch the scurrying creatures and fling them at the crag-target.

Splidge skidded to a halt by the first trap. He noticed that each box had a number painted on the front and it wasn't immediately obvious which crag was hidden in which trap. Fortunately, a small peep hole on the top enabled him to look inside and Splidge hurriedly moved up the line peeking into each one. The colour of the mop-creature's hair revealed the identity of the crag inside. The inhabitant of the second to last trap growled viciously and spun round, snapping its pointed incisors at Splidge the moment he peered in. The tattooed beast started to howl and Splidge quickly recoiled, relieved the monster couldn't get out, at least not until the games started.

All the traps had so far housed a crag. That meant the final one had to be where his own crag was waiting. He took a deep breath and looked through the spy hole.

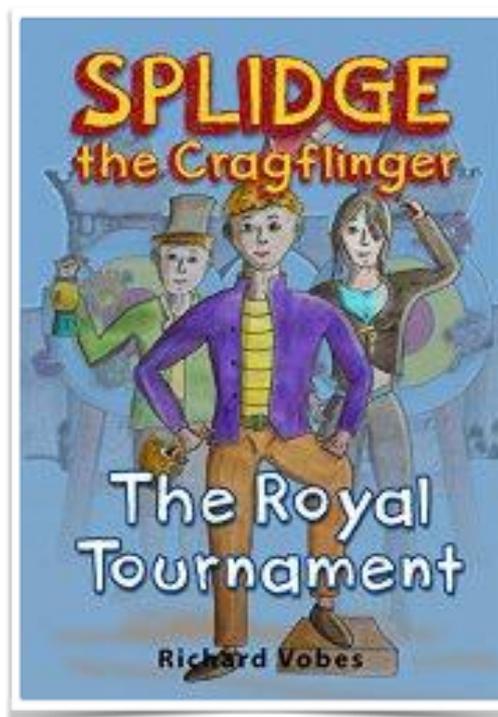
"Any luck?" asked Doreen, but as soon as she had uttered the words she could see the disappointment and confusion on the boy's face.

"It's not there! You know what that means? I'll be disqualified. Without a crag, I can't take part."

"I don't understand." Doreen shook her head in disbelief. "Where can it be?"

"The Baron's responsible. I am sure of it!"

Trumpets began to play again. The Royal Tournament was about to start.



Splidge the Cragflinger

- 1) What allowed the crags to escape the 'traps'?
- 2) Who or what does the word occupants refer to in the first paragraph? Tick the correct answer:
 - Splidge and Doreen,
 - The people watching the Royal Tournament,
 - The crags.
- 3) Why didn't Splidge know which trap his crag was inside when he first saw them all?
- 4) Why does the author describe the crags as mop-creatures?
- 5) How did the crag in the second to last box react when Splidge peered in?
- 6) *Splidge quickly recoiled.*
Write a definition for *recoiled* in this context.
- 7) Why do you think Splidge took a deep breath as he looked through the spy hole in the last trap?
- 8) How did Splidge know that the Tournament was about to start?
- 9) Why do you think the Baron may have hidden Splidge's crag?
- 10) Would you like to read the rest of this story? Explain your answer using references to the text...

Splidge the Cragflinger

- 1) What allowed the crags to escape the 'traps'?
A small sliding door that lifted up at the front.
- 2) Who or what does the word occupants refer to in the first paragraph? Tick the correct answer:
 Splidge and Doreen,
 The people watching the Royal Tournament,
 The crags.
- 3) Why didn't Splidge know which trap his crag was inside when he first saw them all?
Because they only had numbers on them and a small peep hole to see inside.
- 4) Why does the author describe the crags as mop-creatures?
Because their hair looks like the hair / fibres on a mop.
- 5) How did the crag in the second to last box react when Splidge peered in?
It growled viciously, spun round, snapped its pointed incisors and howled.
- 6) *Splidge quickly recoiled.*
Write a definition for *recoiled* in this context.
Turned away, flinched, jumped back.
- 7) Why do you think Splidge took a deep breath as he looked through the spy hole in the last trap?
Answers vary but might include:
* He was relieved that he was at the last trap and hoping that it would contain his crag.
* He was nervous about where his crag had gone.
* He was tired / exhausted.
- 8) How did Splidge know that the Tournament was about to start?
They could hear trumpets playing.
- 9) Why do you think the Baron may have hidden Splidge's crag?
Answers vary but might mention that the Baron may want to stop Splidge entering / winning the Royal Tournament.
- 10) Would you like to read the rest of this story? Explain your answer using references to the text...
Answers will vary.