

The Magic Hammer

When the Vikings first came to Britain they were Pagans, worshipping Norse gods. The king of the gods was Odin, who had a son, Thor, the God of Thunder.

Thor's magic hammer, which could kill an army or bring peace to the world, was missing; the unintelligent frost giant, Thrym, had stolen it! Loki, the giant and god of Mischief, was sent to find Thrym to retrieve the hammer. However, Thrym laughed and gave Loki an ultimatum: "I will return the hammer if I am given Freya, the Goddess of Love, to be my wife." Loki had a mischievous plan - rather than send poor Freya, Thor put on a dress and went to reclaim his hammer.



Quick Questions



1. Who did the Vikings worship originally?



2. Which two words mean the same as 'get back'?



3. Why do you think that Thrym stole the magic hammer?



4. Do you think that Thor managed to recover his hammer? Why do you think this?

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Answers



1. Who did the Vikings worship originally?

Accept: Norse gods.



2. Which two words mean the same as 'get back'?

Accept: 'retrieve' and 'reclaim'.



3. Why do you think that Thrym stole the magic hammer?

Accept reference to it being powerful and so he could use it to get what he wanted (Freya).



4. Do you think that Thor managed to recover his hammer? Why do you think this?

Accept a reasonable explanation e.g. yes, he did because the frost giant was unintelligent so, with the help of mischievous Loki, he would win; or no, because the frost giant was larger and had the magic hammer which was so powerful that Thor could not beat him.