



Go to Scope Online
to listen to these
names and places
pronounced
aloud!

Gods Versus Giants

Pronunciation Guide to Names and Places

Asgard [AZ-gard]

Freya [FRAY-uh]

Heimdall [HAYM-dahl]

Hoenir [HUR-near]

Hymir [HEE-mere]

Idunn [IH-dun]

Jotunheim [YO-ten-haym]

Loki [LOW-key]

Midgard [MID-gawrd]

Odin [OH-din]

Skadi [SKAH-dee]

Thiazi [THEE-ah-zee]

Thor [THAWR]

Thrym [THRIMM]

Thank you to expert Carolyne Larrington from the University of Oxford for her help with these pronunciations.



Gods Versus Giants

Respond to each statement by checking “Agree” or “Disagree.” Be prepared to justify your responses.

	Agree	Disagree
1. It would be great to live forever.		
2. It's possible to correct bad choices you make.		
3. There's a fine line between looking out for yourself and being selfish.		
4. Lying can cause others great harm.		
5. It's never too late to tell the truth.		
6. You have to give loyalty to get it back.		
7. “To see the right and to not do it is cowardice.” —Confucius		

Name: _____ Date: _____

Go to Scope
Online to listen
to the words
and definitions
read aloud!

Vocabulary:

Gods Versus Giants

1. **begrudgingly (bih-GRUHJ-ing-lee)** *adverb*; If you do something begrudgingly, you do it unwillingly. In other words, you'd really rather not do it at all. For example, if you like to sleep in, you might begrudgingly agree to have band practice at 7 a.m. on a Saturday morning. If your mom says you have to clean your room before you can hang out with your friends, you might begrudgingly head to your room, dragging your feet and grumbling along the way.

2. **deception (dih-SEP-shuhn)** *noun*; The verb *deceive* (dih-SEEV) means “to trick or mislead.” If Jake claims to be your friend but says unkind things about you behind your back, you may feel he has deceived you.

 Deception is the act of deceiving someone—in other words, making someone believe something that is not true. Magicians are masters of deception.

3. **gnarled (nahrlid)** *adjective*; Something that is gnarled is rough and full of twists and bumps or knots. Tree branches often become gnarled as they get old. People's hands can become gnarled too, either from old age or from hard work.

4. **muster (MUHS-ter)** *verb*; *Muster* can refer to gathering a group of soldiers together in one place to do something, such as to prepare for battle. *Muster* is also used to describe gathering up anything—and as much of it as you can—to get something done. Your choir teacher might ask you to muster all the students you can find to help move chairs into the gym for a concert. After standing against the wall at a school dance for an hour, you might muster the courage to get out on the dance floor and show off your moves.

5. **preposterous (prih-PAH-ter-uhs)** *adjective*; If something is preposterous, it is utterly ridiculous, foolish, and silly. It would be preposterous to think that you could teach your dog to do your homework.

6. **sidle (SAHYD-l)** *verb*; To sidle is to walk or move sideways in a quiet or sneaky way so that no one notices you. You might sidle up to a friend to whisper a secret in his ear, or you might sidle through a movie theater door if you are late to the movie.

- 7. summon (SUHM-uhn)** *verb*; As it is used in the play, *summon* means “to call for” or “to order people or things to a place.” You might punch a button to summon an elevator. In an emergency, you might summon help by dialing 911.

Directions: Below and on the back of this page, list any other words from the play whose definitions you are not sure about. For each word, use context clues to try to figure out the meaning. Then look up the word in a few different dictionaries. Discuss the meaning of the word with your teacher or another adult. Then write a definition for the word and one example sentence.

Vocabulary Practice

Gods Versus Giants

Directions: Rewrite each sentence using a form of one of the words in the box. There are two words you will not use.

summon muster preposterous deception begrudgingly sidle gnarled

1. I worried that my sister might lose my favorite hat, but I reluctantly let her borrow it.

2. It took all the bravery Mia could find to get onstage and sing the national anthem in front of everyone.

3. Long ago, people thought Earth was flat, but today that idea seems ridiculous.

4. Tim quietly scooted over toward Matt to pass him a note.

5. The police finally caught up with the criminal who had been selling fake celebrity autographs, and his years of trickery came to an end.

Directions: Choose the word or phrase that is most similar in meaning to each word in bold.

6. **preposterous**

- Ⓐ believable Ⓑ unreasonable

8. **gnarled**

- Ⓐ bumpy Ⓑ smooth

7. **deception**

- Ⓐ honesty Ⓑ betrayal

9. **summon**

- Ⓐ dismiss Ⓑ call for

Name: _____ Date: _____

Close-Reading Questions

Gods Versus Giants

1. Describe the atmosphere inside the giants' castle in Scene 1. What details create this atmosphere? (setting)
2. In Scene 1, how are Skadi's feelings about the gods different from her father's? (character)
3. In Scene 2, who can you infer cursed the gods' meat? How do you know? (inference)
4. In Scene 2, why does Thiazi eat so much of the gods' meat? (inference, character's motivation)

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Critical-Thinking Questions

Gods Versus Giants

1. When Thiazi dies at the end of the story, is he getting what he deserves?
2. Does this story have a moral, or a lesson that can be learned from reading it? If so, what is it?
3. In mythology, a hero is typically a brave, selfless character who saves the day. Based on this definition, does this story have a hero? Explain.

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Gods Versus Giants

Character Thinking Tool

The questions in this activity are about the character of

Loki

1. A. In Scene 1, Thiazi says, “There is one god who will promise anything to save his own skin.” What does it mean to “save your own skin”?

B. Can you think of any characters from other books or movies who do things to save their own skin?

2. Reread Scenes 3 and 4. Based on Loki’s words and actions, what are a few words you would use to describe him? Use text evidence to support your choices.

3. When Thor drags Loki into the great hall in Scene 6, he says, “I found this coward hiding in a field.” What is a coward? In your view, is Thor right that Loki is a coward?

4. A. When Loki confesses to the gods, he says, “I had no choice!” Did he really not have a choice, or is there something he could have done differently?

B. Do you think it is ever too late to tell the truth?

5. Why does Loki decide to bring Idunn back to Asgard?

6. Place a star on the line below to indicate where you think Loki falls on the spectrum from villain to hero.

villain <-----> **hero**

Explain your reasoning.

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Preparing to Write: Is Loki a Villain?

This activity will help you prepare for the writing prompt on page 15:

A villain is an evil or cruel character. Is Loki a villain? Explain your answer using text evidence.

BAD STUFF LOKI DOES

Think about what evil, cruel, or otherwise not-very-nice things Loki does. Fill in the chart with two such things. For each, explain why Loki's action is evil, cruel, or unkind. Also explain why Loki does what he does. Use text evidence.

What Loki does and why it's bad	Why Loki does this bad thing
1.	
2.	

GOOD STUFF LOKI DOES

Now think about anything helpful, kind, or at least halfway decent that Loki does. List at least one thing and explain why that action is helpful, kind, or decent. Also explain why Loki does this thing. Use text evidence.

What Loki does and why it's good	Why Loki does this good thing
1.	
2. (optional)	

Write at least three things that other characters say about Loki. Include page numbers.

1.
2.
3.
4. (optional)

Now look back over what you've written. What do you think? Is Loki a villain?

11

YES

11

NO

In the box below, write a short paragraph explaining your answer.

[illegible]

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Exploring Mood

Mood is the feeling you get from reading a piece of writing. Another way to describe mood is *atmosphere*. When you walk into a place, it has an atmosphere that makes you feel a certain way; when you “walk into” a story, it too has an atmosphere that creates a feeling. Writers create mood through word choice, imagery, dialogue, setting, and plot.

Directions: Open your magazine to Scene 8 of the play *Gods Versus Giants*. Reread the scene, then answer the questions below using details from the scene to support your answers.

Mood Words

cheerful, thrilling, touching, gloomy, creepy, dreary, relaxed, silly

Scene 8

1. Choose one word from the box of mood words above to describe the mood of Scene 8.

Mood of Scene 8: _____

2. Explain what creates that mood by answering the questions below.

A. How does the plot help create the mood? In other words, what is going on, and how does that help create the mood you named?

B. How does the dialogue help create the mood? Think about not only what the characters and stage directors say, but also how they say it.

Now imagine that you are the director of a movie version of *Gods Versus Giants*. Your job is to visualize the script and then direct your crew and actors in fulfilling your vision. Follow the prompts below to brainstorm your vision for a scene of your choosing.

Start here! →

Choose your favorite scene:
Scene ____

What mood do you want to create for this scene? Will the mood be just like in the play? Or will you amp it up or go in a different direction?

Describe the mood (or moods) of the scene.

What kind of music will help create the mood you want? How about sound effects?

Music and Sound

What lighting choices can help create the mood that you want?

Lighting

Which expressions should the cameras be sure to capture? Should there be any special camera movements?

Cameras

What direction will you give each actor on the emotions he or she should be communicating?

Actors

What other elements will help create the mood of your scene? Jot down any notes on props, hair and makeup, costumes, or anything else.

Other Ideas

Name: _____ Date: _____

Gods Versus Giants Quiz

Directions: Read *Gods Versus Giants*. Then answer the questions.

1. Which statement BEST describes the frost giants' relationship with the gods?
 - (A) The frost giants respect the gods and the way they rule the nine realms.
 - (B) The frost giants don't want to be ruled by the gods and want to seize power from them.
 - (C) The frost giants want to live peacefully with the gods; they'd rather not fight.
 - (D) The frost giants fear the gods.
2. Which lines support your answer to question 1? Choose TWO answers.
 - (A) Thrym: "We must put the gods in their place."
 - (B) Thiazi: "You gods think you rule the realms. But you do not rule us!"
 - (C) SD2: "In an enormous ice castle, four frost giants sit at a stone table."
 - (D) Skadi: "Why can't we live peacefully in our realm while the gods live in theirs?"
3. At the end of Scene 1, Thiazi says, "There is one god who will promise anything to save his own skin." Which line expresses a similar idea?
 - (A) SD3: "Loki licks his lips eagerly."
 - (B) Heimdall: "Loki's loyalties are only to himself!"
 - (C) SD1: "Loki puts on the cloak, turns Idunn into a walnut, and flies away with her."
 - (D) Thiazi: "Thor beat you in battle yet again?"
4. In Scene 8, Odin says, "One day your treachery will be your end." Based on context clues, what is the definition of *treachery*?
 - (A) a lack of care in avoiding danger
 - (B) a strong feeling of support or allegiance
 - (C) feelings of worry or nervousness
 - (D) a betrayal of trust
5. Which detail should definitely be included in a summary of *Gods Versus Giants*?
 - (A) Thor's muscles grow larger when he takes a bite of his apple.
 - (B) The roof of the god's great hall in Asgard is made of gold.
 - (C) To save his life, Loki promises to bring Idunn and the Apples of Life to the frost giants.
 - (D) A rainbow bridge leads into Asgard.
6. All of the following can be supported by information in *Gods Versus Giants* EXCEPT which?
 - (A) The Vikings worshiped more than one god.
 - (B) Thor was a popular god among the Vikings.
 - (C) The Vikings didn't like Loki.
 - (D) Elements of Norse mythology have survived into modern times.

Constructed-Response Questions



Directions: Write your answer to the question below in a well-organized response.

7. In Scene 7, Idunn says, "Your blood runs with deception, Loki." What does she mean? Do you agree? Support your answer with details from the text.

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Gods Versus Giants Quiz

Directions: Read *Gods Versus Giants*. Then answer the questions below.

- 1. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below:**

Frost giants _____ the gods.

- (A) respect and admire
- (B) want to take power from
- (C) live in fear of
- (D) live longer than

- 2. Which lines best support your answer to question 1? Choose TWO answers.**

- (A) Thrym: “We must put the gods in their place.”
- (B) Thiazi: “You gods think you rule the realms. But you do not rule us!”
- (C) SD1: “In an enormous ice castle, four frost giants sit at a stone table.”
- (D) Skadi: “Why can’t we live peacefully in our realm while the gods live in theirs?”

- 3. At the end of Scene 1, Thiazi says, “There is one god who will promise anything to save his own skin.” To “save your own skin” means to**

- (A) do things poorly in order to save time.
- (B) protect yourself from danger without caring what happens to anyone else.
- (C) avoid saying what you mean.
- (D) work hard.

- 4. In Scene 8, Odin says, “One day your treachery will be your end.” Context clues reveal that *treachery* most closely means**

- (A) caution.
- (B) loyalty.
- (C) anger.
- (D) betrayal.

- 5. Which detail should definitely be included in a summary of *Gods Versus Giants*? (A summary tells only the main points of something.)**

- (A) Thor’s muscles grow larger when he takes a bite of his apple.
- (B) The roof of the great hall is made of gold.
- (C) To save his life, Loki promises to bring Idunn and the Apples of Life to the frost giants.
- (D) A rainbow bridge leads into Asgard.

- 6. According to information in *Gods Versus Giants*, which of the following statements is true?**

- (A) The Vikings worshiped one god, Odin.
- (B) Thor was the least popular god among the Vikings.
- (C) The Vikings were invaders.
- (D) Norse was the religion of the ancient Greeks and Romans.

Constructed-Response Questions



Directions: Write your answer to the question below in a well-organized response.

- 7. In Scene 7, Idunn says, “Your blood runs with deception, Loki.” Deception is the act of making someone believe something that isn’t true. It often involves being sneaky and dishonest. Do you agree with Idunn that Loki is full of deception? Support your answer with details from the text.**

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Discussion Questions

"A Day in the Life of a 12-Year-Old Viking Boy"

1. Based on information in the first two paragraphs of the essay, how would you describe what life was like for Viking children?
2. How big of a role do you think Norse mythology played in the lives of the Vikings? Use details from the essay to support your answer.
3. Based on information in the essay, what can you infer about the role of women in Viking society?

Note: *Scope* does not accept Google Docs. If you are e-mailing your entry, please send a .pdf or .doc file.

Loki Contest

A villain is an evil or cruel character. Is Loki a villain? Explain your answer using text evidence. Five winners will each get
9 From the Nine Worlds by Rick Riordan.

Entries will be judged on:

- ⇒ a clearly stated central idea
- ⇒ use of supporting text evidence
- ⇒ good organization and transitions
- ⇒ grammar, spelling, and punctuation

My name: _____

My home phone number: _____ My grade: _____

My teacher's name: _____ My teacher's e-mail: _____

School name: _____

School address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

School phone number: _____

My parent or legal guardian consents
to my participation in this contest.

Parent's or legal guardian's signature: _____

Include this form with your entry and send both to: scopemag@scholastic.com
or mail them to: Loki Contest, c/o *Scope*, P.O. Box 712, New York, NY 10013-0712

ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY October 15, 2019!