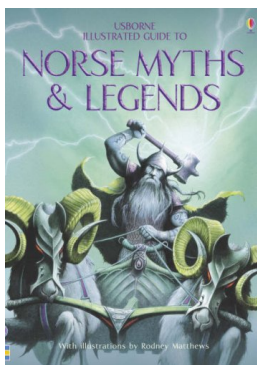


Norse Myths

The Norse myths are one of the most significant collections of stories in human history and they have had a wide ranging cultural influence on modern media including fiction, comics, film and music. This booklist includes retellings of the myths and fiction linked to them.

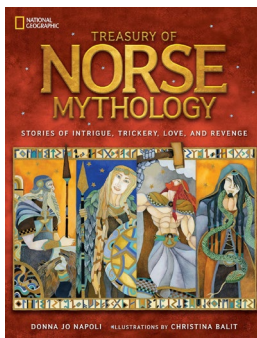
Collections and Retellings of Norse Myths



Norse Myths & Legends by Cheryl Evans and Anne Millard, illustrated by Rodney Matthews

Usborne 9780746081143

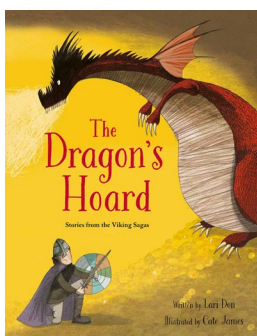
A useful introductory guide to Norse mythology, offering pithy retellings of the major stories cross-referenced with details about the individual gods and the other beings, such as giants and dwarfs, that inhabit the worlds of ice and fire. The stories are appended by a detailed 'Who's Who' glossary and an index.



Treasury of Norse Mythology by Donna Jo Napoli, illustrated by Christina Balit

National Geographic 9781426320996

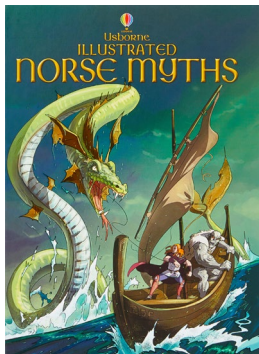
Subtitled 'Stories of Intrigue, Trickery, Love, and Revenge', this is an enticing collection of many of the Norse myths, both in terms of the language used and the striking illustrations. Christina Balit's style — her angular figures, her use of pattern and choice of colour palette - is well suited to the myths, conveying the frosty nature of the landscape and the gods' cruel behaviour towards each other without being too graphic about the violence. Donna Jo Napoli has drawn on a variety of scholarly sources and also provides information boxes about aspects of Viking life and a time line of Norse history.



The Dragon's Hoard: Stories from the Viking Sagas by Lari Don, illustrated by Cate James

Frances Lincoln 9781847806826

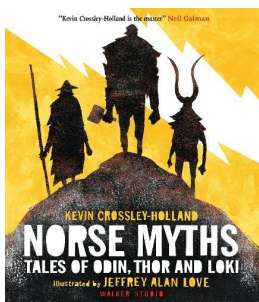
These stories from the Viking sagas and feature human heroes, saints and sinners, rather than Norse gods, although Odin and Loki get a look in. Lari Don has mined a range of sources for her material which is acknowledged in notes at the back of the book. Her retellings use colloquial language and she has altered details to suit the child audiences with whom she has shared them orally before shaping them in writing for this book. The humour which can be found in several of the stories is complemented well by Cate James's illustrations.



Illustrated Norse Myths by Alex Frith and Louie Stowell, illustrated by Matteo Pincelli

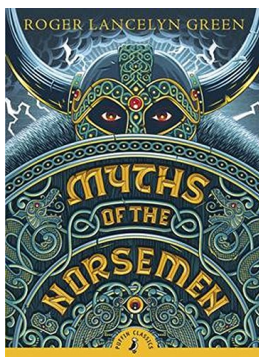
Usborne 9781409550723

Modern colloquial retellings of some of the Norse myths divided into six trios of stories. They focus on the beginning of the world, stories of Loki, stories of Thor, stories of the giants, stories of the gods of Asgard visiting the world of people known as Midgard, and the end of the world. The myths are prefaced by brief descriptions of the main characters and the volume is completed by a chart of the nine realms and information about the origins of these tales. A link to the publisher's website provides more details about the Vikings and the Norse myths.



Norse Myths by Kevin-Crossley-Holland, illustrated by Jeffrey Alan Love Walker 9781406361841

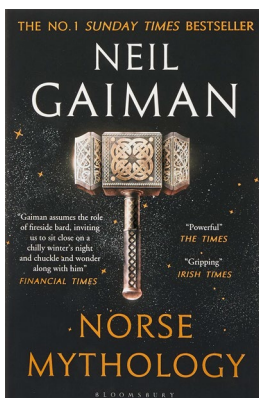
These tales of Odin, Thor and Loki are framed by the story of King Gylfi who, disguised as the tramp Gangleri, crosses Bifrost the rainbow bridge from Midgard into Asgard to learn more about the gods who have such power over human lives. Kevin Crossley-Holland infuses the myths with dialogue that renders them accessible to a modern child reader and his descriptions draw on the natural environment of northern Europe. One reviewer has described Jeffrey Alan Love's bold and graphic illustrations as '*so potent and menacing that they seem less to have been created with acrylic and ink than to have been hammered from iron*'.



Myths of the Norsemen by Roger Lancelyn Green, illustrated by Alan Langford

Puffin Classics 9780141345253

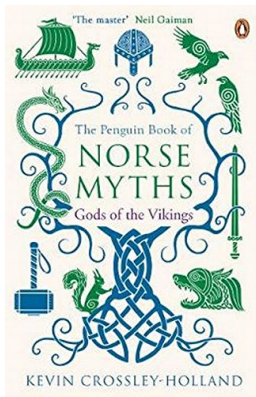
This classic retelling of the Norse myths for children and young people, first published in 1960, is presented as a continuous narrative from 'the making of the world to the vision of Ragnarok' as the author says in a note that prefaces the stories. The most recent edition has an introduction by Michelle Paver in which she says how much these retellings have influenced her own writing.



Norse Mythology by Neil Gaiman

Bloomsbury 9781408891957

The Norse myths retold by a modern master storyteller who first encountered them as a child in American comics and then went on to read Roger Lancelyn Green's interpretations and understood their darkness and depth. In these versions, the dialogue sometimes has a humorous and colloquial tone while the tellings still maintain the stirring language of myth.

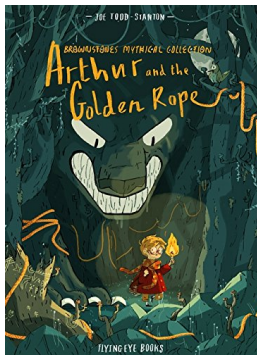


The Penguin Book of Norse Myths: Gods of the Vikings by Kevin Crossley-Holland

Penguin 9780241982075

For adults who want to delve more deeply into the Norse myths, this is an essential source book by an author who has written many lively and literary retellings for children and adults. It includes a detailed introduction, notes on each story, a glossary and a bibliography.

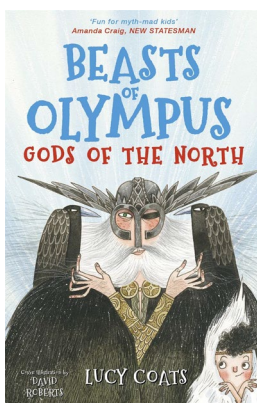
Fiction linked to the Norse Myths



Arthur and the Golden Rope by Joe Todd-Stanton

Flying Eye 9781911171034

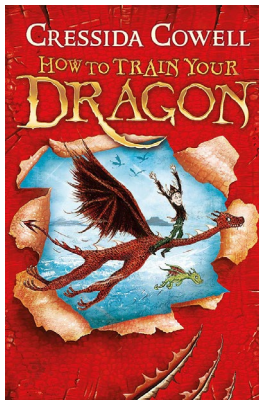
Arthur Brownstone often ventures from the small Icelandic town where he was born into the nearby forest where his curiosity leads him to collect objects and forge friendships that will later be useful to him. One day a huge wolf extinguishes the fire that gives out essential warmth. The local wise woman Atrix advises that the only way to relight it entails someone brave enough to voyage to the land of the Viking gods. So our unlikely hero sets out, his adventures delineated using playful imagery in this graphic novel. He meets mighty Thor who enlists Arthur's help to defeat the wolf whose identity is revealed to be Fenrir, son of Loki. The story is framed by commentary from a Professor Brownstone who is a descendant of Arthur's and there is a strong hint that further family adventures are in store. A CLPE Core Books and Power of Reading text. <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/arthur-and-golden-rope>



Gods of the North (Beasts of Olympus) Lucy Coats, illustrated by David Roberts

Piccadilly Press 9781848127456

In this story in a humorous series featuring the Greek gods, the Norse gods announce that they are going to pay them a visit. It transpires that their purpose is to borrow Pandemonium (Demon for short), son of Pan, who is known to have 'had some success in healing incurable immortal beasts'. So Demon is transported to Asgard to try and cure the boar Goldbristle whose light is fading, causing plants, crops and trees to die. Will he be able to outwit the shapeshifting Loki?



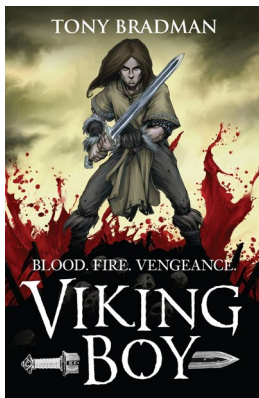
How to Train Your Dragon by Cressida Cowell
Hodder 9780340999073

First in a comedy series numbering twelve titles about Hiccup Horrendous Haddock III and how he becomes a Viking hero from very unlikely beginnings. First he has to catch his dragon and then train it and, of course, in order to do that he has to learn Dragonese. Example phrases are provided and, if you can believe it, the whole thing is translated from the Old Norse! The inspiration for the Dreamworks films of the same name.



Storm Hound by Claire Fayers
Macmillan 9781509895045

Storm of Odin is the last-born hound of the Wild Hunt. Racing across the sky he cannot keep up with the others and falls to the earth, manifesting as a small puppy. As a result, he is adopted from the dog rescue by Jessie who has just moved to Wales with her father and brother. Storm is completely confused by human behaviour towards him as he sees himself very differently from how they do. This is conveyed to the reader in his humorous exchanges with other animals. Three mysterious professors are seeking the missing storm hound but are continually barking up the wrong tree and another enigmatic pair of characters seem to be shadowing them. A novel with a contemporary setting that draws on a meld of Norse myths and Welsh legends. A CLPE core book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/storm-hound>



The Viking Sagas. Book 1. Bracelet of Bones by Kevin Crossley-Holland
Quercus 9781780872100

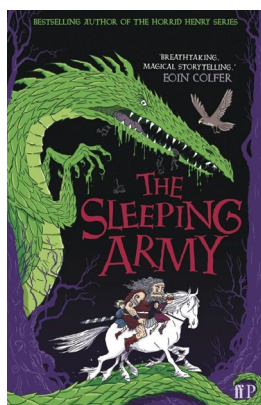
In 1035 Solveig makes the hazardous journey from Trondheim to Miklagard (now known as Istanbul) to find her father who has left her behind. The author has said that discovering Viking runes in Hagia Sophia in Istanbul was the springboard for this novel in which he has created a central character whose head is full of the myths she has grown up with, as well as the new Christian teaching that has recently reached Norway. Solveig's adventures continue in:

Book 2. *Scramasax* Quercus 9781780877013



Eight Days of Luke by Diana Wynne Jones, illustrated by David Wyatt
HarperCollins 9780006755210

When not at boarding school, orphan David lives with his disagreeable uncle, aunt and cousin. He meets Luke, a charmer who seems to have fire at his fingertips and appears to need David's help in eluding a mysterious bunch of characters who are trying to get hold of him. As the story unfolds, it becomes apparent that Luke and his pursuers are modern manifestations of characters from Norse mythology.

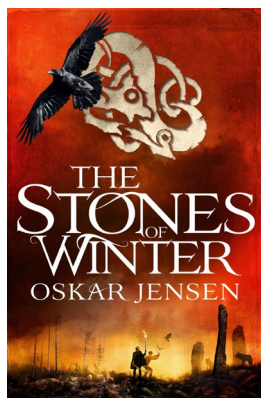


The Sleeping Army by Francesca Simon
Faber & Faber 9781846682797

Imagine that people still worshipped the Norse gods. The Queen is still the Fane of England but Britain is a Wodenic country. In this funny, fast paced adventure, Freya blows a Viking horn in the British Museum and is whisked to Asgard, encountering the Norse gods and from there to meet Hel, goddess of the Underworld. Will she be able to outwit Loki the Trickster and regain Idunn and the apples of immortality? A CLPE Core Book

<https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/sleeping-army>

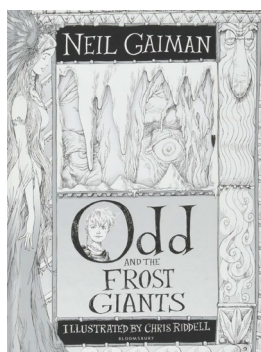
Sequels: *The Lost Gods* Faber & Faber 9781846685668 and the YA title: *The Monstrous Child* Faber & Faber 9780571330270 which has been made into an opera.



The Stones of Winter and The Wild Hunt
by Oskar Jensen

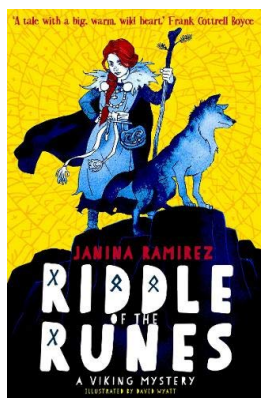
Piccadilly Press 9781848125667/9781471404146

The lives of Astrid, a Viking princess, and Leif, a poet and would-be skald, whose words weave magic, become entwined after he rescues her from marauding wolves. Their adventures involve encounters with trolls and witches and, in the second book, a dangerous journey as they flee from the Wild Hunt set upon them by the god Odin, who Leif has offended.



Odd and the Frost Giants by Neil Gaiman and Chris Riddell
Bloomsbury 9781408870600

The boy Odd leaves a home where he no longer feels wanted and makes his way into the woods. There he encounters an eagle, a fox and a bear who are not what they seem. In fact, they are the Norse gods Odin, Loki and Thor who have been turned into animals by a Frost Giant. Odd travels over the Rainbow Bridge to Asgard where he meets the Frost Giant and the goddess Freya and restoration and reconciliation result, at least for now. Neil Gaiman's words and Chris Riddell's silver framed black and white pictures combine in a stirring and emotional adventure which is playfully portrayed.

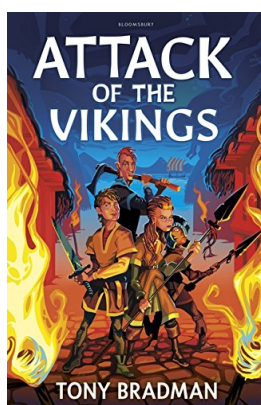


Riddle of the Runes. A Viking Mystery by Janina Ramirez, illustrated by David Wyatt

Oxford University Press 9780192766335

Alva 'is a keen investigator and can seek clues and unpick riddles like no other in Kilsgard'. So says her well-travelled Uncle Magnus. The arrival in their village of a monk from Lindisfarne bearing a mysterious casket covered with symbols that need deciphering leads Alva and Magnus, accompanied by Alva's faithful wolf Fenrir (named after the son of the Norse god Loki) to embark on a dangerous adventure. Will they be able to solve the mystery that appears to be connected to Alva's father Bjorn who has not returned from his latest voyage a-Viking? An appendix has information about the runes they must interpret along the way.

Sequel: *Way of the Waves* Oxford University Press 9780192766359



Attack of the Vikings by Tony Bradman

Bloomsbury Education 9781472929402

When Finn Ottarsson's father goes on a trading voyage, he leaves his fourteen year old son in charge of the village. Soon after Ottar leaves, some sea-wolves or pirates attack a neighbouring village and then threaten Finn's village too. With the help of an old Viking warrior Kjartan, Finn learns that being a farmer like his father is a braver life path to follow than being a hero about whom 'Songs would be sung ... until the days of Ragnarok, when the world was doomed to end in blood and fire'.

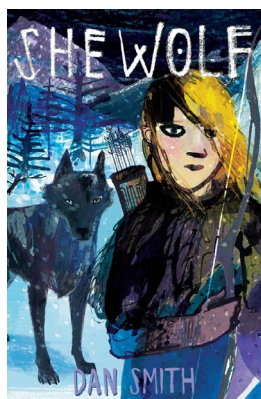


Viking Boy by Tony Bradman, illustrated by Pierre-Denis Goux

Walker 9781406313833

When his father is killed by Skuli and his band of raiders and borne away by the Valkyries, Gunnar vows to find the Bifrost bridge that leads to Valhalla and bring him back. Who is the mysterious old man with one sightless eye that guides him on his way? And what fate do the Three Sisters known as the Norns have in store for him? A CLPE Core Book

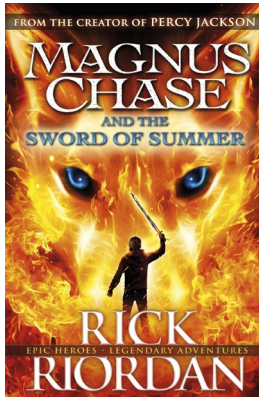
<https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/viking-boy>



She Wolf by Dan Smith

Chicken House 9781910655931

Ylva, whose name means she wolf, is a Dane in Northumbria in the year 866. When her mother is killed, she determines to follow the Viking way ('It's what the gods expect' she believes) and avenge her death. But who can she trust? And what is the truth about Ylva's own history and how she came to travel to England? Throughout the novel, there are references to the Norse gods, with an explanatory glossary at the end so as not to interrupt the flow of this involving adventure.



Magnus Chase and the Sword of Summer by Rick Riordan

Puffin 9780141342443

The first in the series *Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard* in which a homeless American urban teenager discovers that his father is a Norse god. After dying in a fight with Surt the lord of Muspellheim and being borne to Valhalla by Valkyrie Samirah Al-Abbas, who turns out to be a daughter of Loki, Magnus's adventures are only just beginning. As he makes his way across the Nine Worlds, references to modern life are wittily woven in with introductions to characters and stories from the Norse myths. This continues in *The Hammer of Thor* (Puffin 9780141342566) and *The Ship of the Dead* (Puffin 9780141342603) and a short story collection *9 from the Nine Worlds* (Puffin 9780241359433). The wisecracking humour can also be found in the accompanying *Hotel Valhalla. Guide to the Norse Worlds* (Puffin 9780141376530).