

How Thunor Got His Hammer

10 Sif was Thunor's wife and she had long, golden hair.
20 One morning, she went out onto the porch and fell
31 asleep. Just as she did, Loki came along. He was always
51 playing tricks. Loki went up on the porch and cut off Sif's
53 golden hair.

65 When Sif woke up and saw that her hair was gone, she
77 cried and cried. Then she ran to hide. She did not want
86 Thunor to see her. When Thunor came home, he looked
96 all around the house. At last he found her crying.

107 "Oh, Thunor, look, all my hair is gone! Somebody has cut
118 it off. It was a man. He ran away with it."

124 Thunor was infuriated. "I know it
130 was Loki. He is always getting
132 into mischief.

138 Just wait until I get him!"
140 he screamed.



Quick Questions



1. Where did Sif fall asleep?



2. Write two adjectives that the author could have used to describe Loki.



3. Why do you think that Sif did not want Thunor to see her without her hair?



4. What do you think Thunor did next?

Premium Property For Sale!

10 Fresh on the market today we have a stunning, vintage
21 property, built around 1,500 years ago on the edge of a
30 dense, extensive forest. With stiff, wooden walls and a
40 roof thatched with the finest straw, this house oozes with
51 natural charm and faces south to make the most of the
53 daylight hours.

64 Made of only one room, you can eat, cook, sleep and
75 entertain all from the same space – you are never too far
83 away from the fireplace. Boasting the latest features,
93 such as eye-holes to watch through for enemies and a
102 luxury carpet made from local plants, this property will
112 be snapped up quickly by any eager Anglo-Saxon. It is
122 yours to live in today for only 240 silver pennies.



Quick Questions



1. What do you think 'eye-holes' are?



2. How many rooms does this property have?



3. What is the purpose of this text?



4. Find three phrases which show how the author has made normally boring features sound more appealing.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

Really Rare Runes

8 Before the Anglo-Saxons became Christians and began to
19 use the Latin alphabet that we still use today, they wrote
26 in something called the futhorc alphabet – commonly
29 known as runes.
40 The word rune means a secret or a mystic sentence. There
50 were a total of thirty-three symbols made out of straight
59 lines, which were carved into special items and stone
66 monuments to give important information. Runes had
74 religious meaning and were used to write spells.
84 Each rune had its own name and unique meaning, such
95 as the rune 'lagu' meant 'lake' and 'is' meant 'ice'. Runes
106 were no longer used by the year 1000 and were banned
117 by King Canute the Great. So far, less than 200 artefacts
124 carved with runes have ever been found.

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Quick Questions



1. What do you think the word 'monument' means?



2. Why might runes only have been made out of straight lines, rather than curved lines?



3. Summarise the key points of this text in 20 words or less.



4. How do the meanings of the runes compare to their name?

Woden Allfather

8 Woden (or Odin) was the highest and holiest
18 Anglo-Saxon god. He was said to be everywhere in the
30 universe and made every part of it. He was the god of
39 wisdom and victory, and the leader and protector of
50 princes and heroes. As all the gods were supposed to have
60 come from him, his surname was Allfather. He was said
69 to sit upon a mighty watch-tower, overlooking the whole
77 world and could see everything that was happening
84 among gods, giants, elves, dwarfs and men.

95 Woden was said to be a tall, strong man, around fifty
107 years of age, either with dark, curly hair or with a long
112 grey beard and bald head.
118 He wore a grey suit with
124 a blue hood and carried a
128 spear called Gungnir which
132 could never be broken.



Quick Questions



1. How old was Odin said to be?



2. Why do you think Gungnir could never be broken?



3. What is the one main point of this text?



4. Who do you think this information was written for? Explain your answer.

Anglo-Saxon and Scots Invaders

By around 410AD, the last of the Romans had left Britain to go back to Rome and England was left to look after itself for the first time in about 400 years. Emperor Honorius told the people to fight the Picts, Scots and Saxons who were attacking them, but the Brits were not good fighters.

The Scots, who came from Ireland, invaded and took land in Scotland. The Scots split Scotland into 4 separate places that were named Dal Riata, Pictland, Strathclyde and Berricia. The Picts (the people already living in Scotland) and the Scots were always trying to get into England. It was hard for the people in England to fight them off without help from the Romans. The Picts and Scots are said to have jumped over Hadrian's Wall, killing everyone in their way.



The British king found it hard to get his men to stop the Picts and Scots. He was worried they would take over in England because they were excellent fighters. Then he had an idea how he could keep the Picts and Scots out. He asked two brothers called Hengest and Horsa from Jutland to come and fight for him and keep England safe from the Picts and Scots.

Hengest and Horsa did help to keep the Picts and Scots out, but they liked England and they wanted to stay. They knew that the people in England were not strong fighters so they would be easy to beat. Hengest and Horsa brought more men to fight for England and over time they won.

However, men from other countries also wanted to take over in Britain and they attacked too. These invaders are called the Anglo-Saxons because the two biggest groups were called the Angles and the Saxons. Other invaders were the Jutes, Franks and Frisians. They came from Germany, Holland and Denmark.

The Anglo-Saxons ruled in England until the 11th century AD. In 1066AD, William the Conqueror from Normandy beat King Harold II at the Battle of Hastings. This was the end of Anglo-Saxon England and the start of Norman rule.



Questions

1. By what time had the last of the Romans left Britain?

2. What groups of people were attacking England at this time?

3. Where did the Scots come from?

4. One historian described the Scots as 'foul'. What does this mean?

Use a dictionary to help you.

5. What did the Scots and the Picts do as they jumped over Hadrian's Wall?

6. Who did the British king ask for help?

7. Which two groups of people are the Anglo-Saxons named after?

8. Until when did the Anglo-Saxons rule in England?
