

LO: I am learning to understand a historical narrative.

1. What is a fjord? Can you think of any synonyms for it? A fjord is a long narrow inlet with steep sides or cliffs that are created by glaciers. Some synonyms could be: bay, cove, creek, estuary, gulf, inlet and loch.

2. What do you think the punctuation '...' means in the text below? In this part of the text, it represents a pause for thought. It allows the reader to almost predict what will happen before she reveals it to them.

"The boy doesn't like us!" said the first Norn. "What a surprise!"

"He wants to get going," said the second. "And we must get on."

"If he closes his eyes again ..." said the third, "then he'll be gone!"

The instant Gunnar closed his eyes he felt himself flying upwards. He opened his eyes briefly and saw the wonders in Yggdrasil's mighty branches – mountains and seas, forests and cities towering over plains, and the sun and the moon and stars whirling around the great tree like the Norns dancing.

But all he could think of was the coming battle with Skuli.

3. What does Brunhild mean when she says, 'I hope it will be many years before you ride with me again?' She is already acknowledging him as a great warrior and hints to him that eventually he will also feast in Valhalla with his father. She is just hoping that it won't be any time soon. She wants him to win against Skuli and live for many years before he is collected by her to go to Valhalla.

4. How was Gunnar feeling at the beginning of the fight? He feels really unconfident and doubts his abilities as he has never fought before. He thinks of himself still as a boy rather than as a man and warrior. It says in the text that his throat was 'dry' and that he was 'panting, sweat streaming off him'. He is struggling to fight and it brought back his 'old doubts' about his ability to win.

5. How does Skuli try to persuade Gunnar to let him live? Skuli tries to make Gunnar an offer: he says he will give Gunnar power and wealth. He tells Gunnar not to turn him down like his 'fool of a father.'

6. Can you retell the story in 8-10 bullet points? Individual responses—email your answer to your teacher if you would like feedback.