

LO: I am learning to understand a historical narrative.

1. Why do you think the author chose to use the word 'hissed' instead of the word 'said'?

The author used hissed to show that Ari is not a nice character. Hissed means to speak or whisper in a threatening or angrily. Ari has just watched Rurik kill his master and friends—he hates him and so threatens to kill him if it wasn't for the fact that Orm will want to decide the punishment for the death of his son. The hiss is not a nice sound and makes it sound menacing to the listener.

2. How does the author show the changing of the season?

He shows the changing of the season from winter to spring by making little references using adverbial phrases like 'Winter dragged on,' 'Spring arrived at last,' and 'the days passed slowly.'

There is also reference to the things that happen in those seasons. In winter the days are shorter and the nights are longer. When Spring arrives, it becomes warmer and the sea ice melts.

It is clear the seasons have moved from one to the other.

3. Complete a role on the wall for Rurik. On the inside will be how Rurik feels and thinks about himself. On the outside are the things other people think, feel and say about Rurik. Try to use as much evidence as you can by referring back to the text!

Ideas for inside the Rurik Viking (his thoughts and feelings):

Hates Starkad - he calls him a 'fat boy'. He also tells his father that he was not worth a silver arm ring.

Is very confident - he refers to himself as a man but to Starkad as a 'fat boy'. When he is challenged, he asks 'do I have to kill your puppies as well?'

Doesn't value his life - he winds up Starkad and other people and shrugs when he is warned about being caught in a dark alley.

Wants to die - he is defiant when brought before Orm, telling him his son was worth less than a slave and shrugging when asked questions. He also is rude to Ari, trying to provoke him into killing him. He says about not seeing his 'ugly face' again.

Ideas for outside the Rurik Viking (what others think about him):

Thorkel thinks Rurik is rude - 'that tongue of yours is sure to get you killed some day.'

Thorkel likes Rurik - he says 'it's a good thing I like you'. He also warns him to 'stay away from dark alleys.'

Starkad hates Rurik—his eyes were 'glittering with hate'.

Gunnar thinks he is a 'dangerous man to be around' as he is not worried about his own life.

People know Rurik has changing moods - he has 'black moods'.

Vigdis hate Rurik and wants revenge for the death of her son by watching him die slowly.