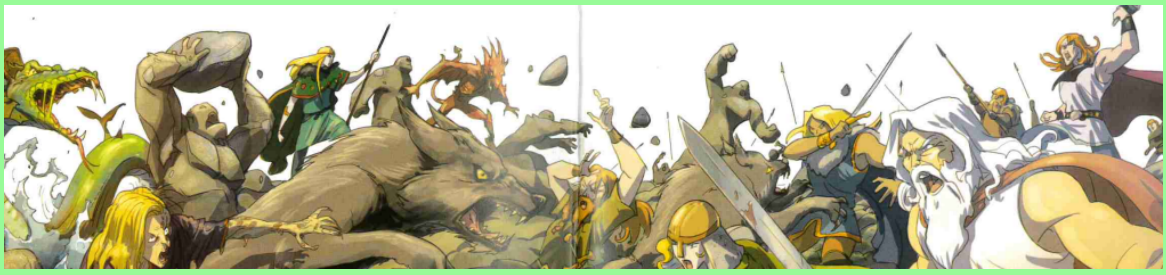
Reading!

LO: To sequence a text.



What are we reading about?

Brief outline of the text:

This is a book all about Norse legends. Norse legends are taken from the Vikings, who believed in the Norse Gods. You will know some of the Norse gods already, as the legends are used in lots of popular films like The Avengers.



Organising task: Put these events in the correct order:

- Thor was killed
- Loki escaped prison
- Odin saw that the world would be doomed
- Loki's children joined the battle
- Asgard was destroyed.
- The fire demon and the world serpent began to destroy the earth

Glossary:

- eager – excited and wanted to do something
- doom – death, destruction or other horrible thing will happen
- chaos – craziness that can't be controlled
- chariots – carriages pulled by horses
- slaughter – death or murders
- imprisonment – being locked in prison
- arrogant – always thinks they are right.
- thrashed – swung around, breaking things
- wreak – create
- havoc – chaos
- swarmed – gathered

Ragnarok

The years rolled by, marching faster and faster, like an eager army – or so it seemed to Odin. The world grew older although not more wise. Odin's single eye stared into the future and saw only destruction.

He had a vision of himself with Thor beside him. "Ragnarok is coming," he said. "The doom of the gods."

"Then we will die fighting!" Thor replied, with a shake of his hammer.

Odin surrendered himself to his vision and stepped into the future in his mind's eye. "But how do you fight the end of the world?" he asked.

Thor had no answer to that. They looked down at Midgard and saw chaos. Wars were breaking out in every land. A cruel, unending winter, known as the Fimbulwinter, swallowed every land.

Then the great wolves, who chased the chariots of the Sun and Moon, began to catch up with their prey. Earthquakes shook Midgard, raining rocks down onto the dwarves in their realm below.

A violent quake shook Midgard to its core and a shout rang out. "I'm free!" screamed Loki. "Free!"

The roof of his prison-cave was cracked and his bonds had been shaken loose. He climbed up into Midgard and gazed around at the destruction and the slaughter. "This is beautiful!" he laughed.

He knew now was the moment to take revenge for his imprisonment. "Come to me, my children!" he called. "Come to me, giants! Come, demons!

Let's finish those arrogant Aesir once and for all!"

Far away, Loki's son Fenrir burst free of his bonds. "I come, Father!" the wolf howled.

Hel herself slowly rose up from Helheim. "Coming... Father," Hel gasped.

A mighty fire demon named Surt left the inferno of Muspelheim for the first time, at the head of an army of demons. The world began to burn.

In the ocean, Jormungand the world serpent stirred. As he thrashed, the oceans rose and flooded Midgard, fighting with Surt's flames to see which could wreak the most havoc and destruction.

Loki and his army swarmed over Asgard's bridge, howling for blood. Lumbering giants of rock and ice brought all their pent-up rage against the gods. "Thor has killed so many of us," they roared. "We will crush those cruel Aesir beneath our feet!"

Heimdall, Asgard's guardian, heard the monsters long before they reached the bridge. His horn rang out and the gods prepared for war.

Odin summoned all the dead warriors and Valkyries in Asgard. "It's time to fight our final battle," he cried. "It's your duty to protect your gods! It's your chance to destroy our enemies!"

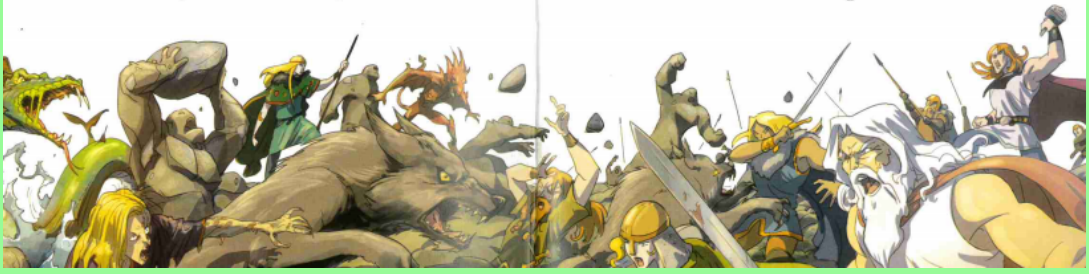
Brave Sigurd and mighty Brynhild put on their helmets. "To the death!" they cried. They knew it would be a final death this time.

Odin's forces gathered on a vast plain to wait...

Loki's army was thundering closer. Loki burst through the gates of Asgard, with his monstrous troops baying for Aesir blood close behind.

Jormungand slithered up onto the rainbow bridge, and it trembled beneath his terrible weight. As the last of Loki's warriors rode through Asgard's gates, the bridge cracked and crumbled. There was no way out.

The battle raged for many days, a clashing, snarling, blood-soaked nightmare of swords and teeth and claws and crushing clubs.



Ragnarok

The wild wolf Fenrir swallowed Odin whole. "That's for keeping me prisoner," he growled.

Thor raised his hammer and hurled it at Jormungand. "Finally, snake, you're going to die!"

As the hammer hit home, the serpent spat a gob of poison. "I've beaten you!" said Thor. But his voice grew weak and he staggered to the ground. The poison flowed through his veins and death called him into darkness.

Heimdall and Loki stood face to face. Loki's eyes glowed with delight, while despair and fury burned in Heimdall's heart. "This is all your fault!" Heimdall cried. He brought his sharp blade down. Loki never laughed again.

Then Surt's flames licked up, engulfing everything, and Asgard was no more.

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