



# Viking Boy

by Tony Bradman



When Gunar's father is taken by the Valykries to Valhalla, Gunar makes it his mission to bring his father back – but unfortunately, he is no fighter. Lost, alone, and blaming himself for what has happened to his father, Gunar has no idea how to set about his task, but then he encounters a mysterious old man who sets him on the right path. But then Gunar is captured and made to work as a slave – will his father be lost to him forever?

## MYTHOLOGY

### About the author...

Tony Bradman is an award-winning writer of many children's books, with a particular focus on diversity and finding new voices.

### Words to discuss...

**Runes** - an ancient writing system, used by peoples of Northern Europe, Britain and Scandinavia  
**Amulet** - a magical charm  
**Oath** - a serious promise  
**Valkyrie** - daughters of the God Odin  
**Sacrifice** - something you give up, usually for the sake of a better cause  
**Scabbard** - a sheath for a sword or dagger

## HIERARCHY

The Vikings were warriors from Scandinavia in northern Europe. They raided countries like Britain between AD 793 and AD 1066 in search of new land and wealth.

## VENGEANCE



## SLAVERY



Viking Age AD 700 to 1100

"A gripping story that brings the gruesome Viking period to life with all of its peril and gore."

Viking Valhalla...and how to get there...



## Valkyries

Valkyries are lesser goddesses in Norse Mythology. They serve the chief god Odin. Their task is to choose those who have died in the most heroic way in battle. The Valkyrie then carries the chosen one off to Valhalla. This chosen one would then be called einherjars. They would fight at Odin's side at Ragnarok, the battle at the end of the world. In Valhalla, the Valkyries would also serve drink and care for the well-being of the feasting warriors. The old Norse people thought that Valkyries rode giant wolves, and that they had black wings which correspond to ravens.

Did you know?



Vikings didn't have surnames. They would take their father's name as their surname e.g. Bjorn son of Erik would be Bjorn Eriksson.



RUNER					
VIKING ALFABETET • THE VIKING ALPHABETH					
ᚠ	A	ᚨ	IJ	ᚱ	R
ᚢ	B	ᚫ	K	ᚵ	S
ᚦ	C	ᚬ	L	ᚹ	T
ᚩ	D	ᚷ	M	ᚰ	UVW
ᚱ	E	ᚺ	N	ᚷ	X
ᚴ	F	ᚠ	O	ᚷ	Y
ᚷ	G	ᚠ	P	ᚷ	Z
ᚹ	H	ᚷ	Q	ᚷ	Æ Ø

Can you spell your name in Viking runes?

## Viking God Odin

Odin has many names and is the god of both war and death. Half of the warriors who die in battle are taken to his hall of Valhalla. He is the one-eyed All-Father, who sacrificed his eye in order to see everything that happens in the world.



Who were the Vikings?



Scan the QR code to find out more about the Vikings.

## Viking homes...

Vikings lived in narrow houses called longhouses which were often found in the countryside. Viking houses in cities such as York would have been smaller.



Longhouses were usually made of wood, stone or earth and turf, which kept out the cold better. They had no chimney or windows, so smoke from the open fire drifted out through the roof.