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Before We Read

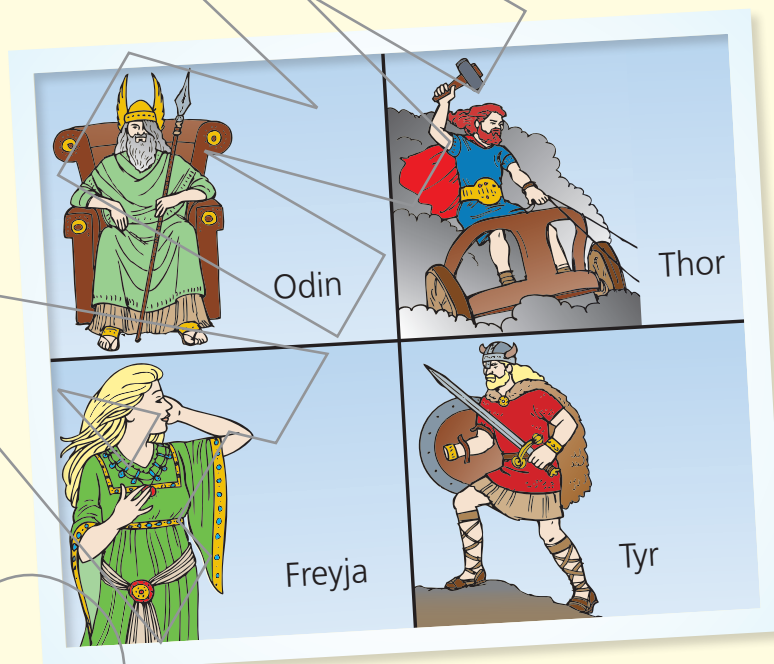
MY LEARNING GOALS

I can

- identify an author's purpose.
- discuss Norse and other myths.

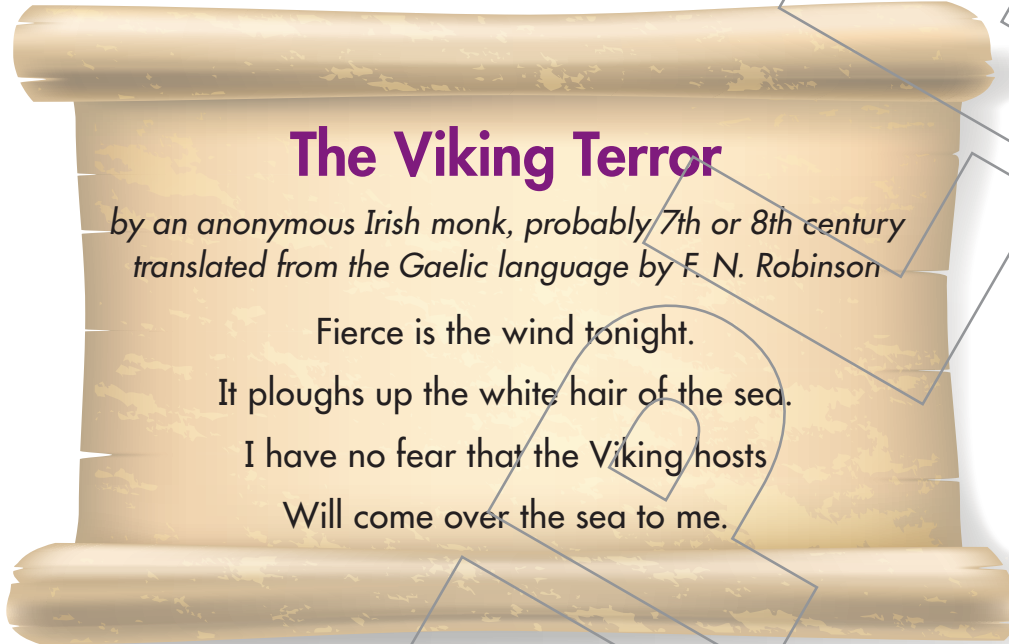
Norse Myths

Every culture has its stories, poems, and myths. Stories and poems often tell about a culture. Myths often reflect the values, beliefs, and deepest truths of the culture from which they originate. The Norse people are no exception. These are people who live in four countries: Iceland, Sweden, Norway, and Denmark. These Scandinavian countries have high mountains, dark forests, and volcanoes. Their oral tradition includes stories about gods and goddesses like Thor and Freyja, as well as heroes and heroines. These myths tell of disagreements, war, personality conflicts, turmoil, and love. Many of the stories and myths try to explain something about this world.

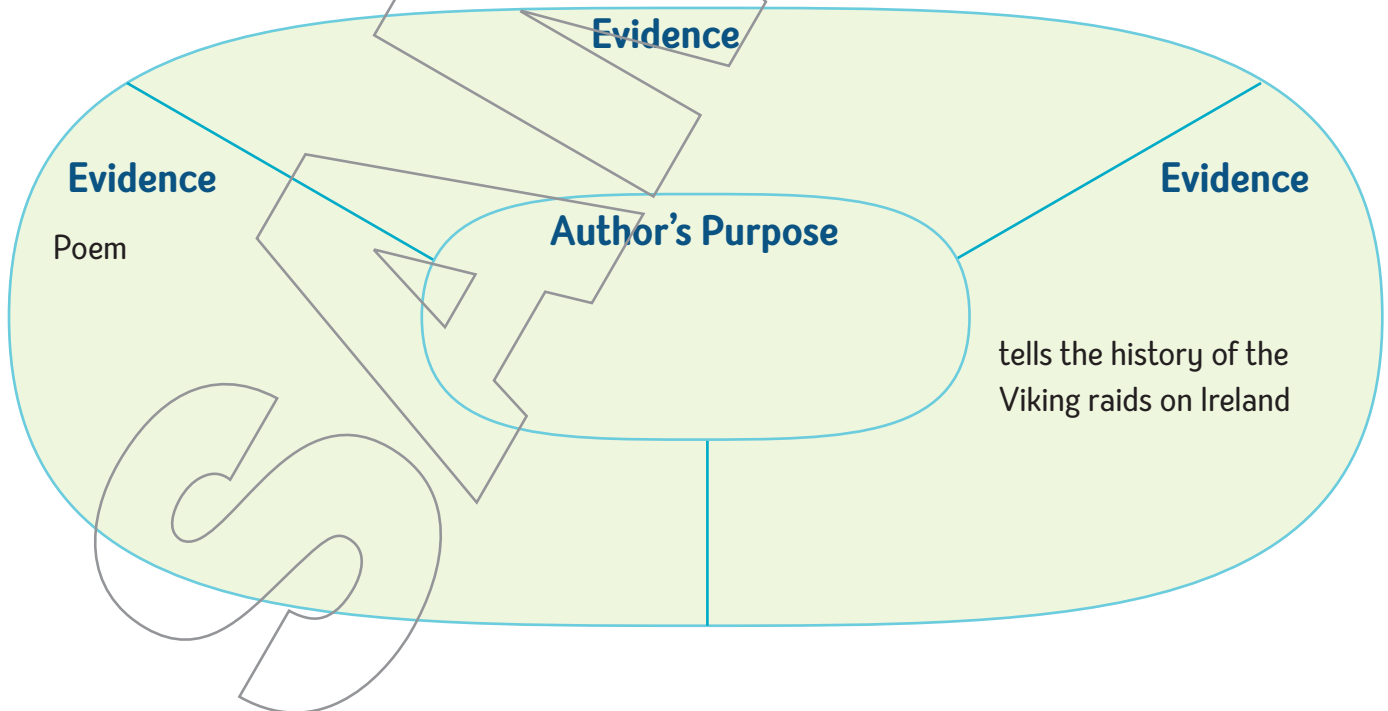


Recognizing Author's Purpose

Read this poem by an Irish monk about the Norsemen, or Vikings.



Fill in the chart based on the poem above.



**MY LEARNING GOALS****I can**

- read and understand a Norse myth.
- recognize an author's purpose.

Thor's Stolen Hammer*a Norse myth*

The struggle between the frost giants and the gods was endless. For half the year, the giants managed to lock the world in ice and cold. They hated warm sunshine and sprouting wild flowers, green hillsides and singing birds. They hated the god Balder, whose presence brought back summer. Above all, the giants hated Thor, for it was his powerful hammer that beat them back into Jotunheim. It was Thor's weapon that guarded the summer sky with flashes of its power. As long as Thor possessed his hammer, Asgard, the home of the gods, was safe against the giants.

One morning Thor awoke groggily from a long, deep sleep. As usual, he reached for his hammer. But Mjolner was not there. Thor searched anxiously for it, but not a sign of it could be found anywhere. Suddenly, mighty Thor thought of the giants. His anger rose, his eyes flashed like lightning, and his red beard shook with wrath.

"Loki," he boomed in a voice like a thunderclap, "the giants have stolen Mjolner! They have used magic to hide it!"

"Then we must use magic to find it again," decided cunning Loki. Now although Loki lived among the gods in Asgard, he was the son of a giant and so he understood their ways.



Underline the name of the home of the gods.



How does Thor guard the summer sky?

He guards it with _____.



Let's Read

Together Thor and Loki hurried to Folkvang to the goddess Freyja. “The hammer has been stolen by enchantment,” said Thor. “Will you lend us the falcon cloak to search for it?”

“You are welcome to it,” replied Freyja.

Wrapping the feathered cloak about him, Loki flew swiftly to the home of the giants. Eventually, he arrived at Jotunheim and encountered the giant Thrym, who had an amused expression.

“Hello, Loki,” said Thrym pleasantly. “How are things in Asgard, and what brings you here?”

Loki guessed that Thrym was the thief. Looking the giant in the eye, he said, “Not well since you stole Thor’s hammer. I have come to find where you have hidden it.”

Thrym laughed uproariously. At last he retorted, “You’ll never find it. It’s buried eight miles underground. With Thor’s hammer, I now have the greatest treasure of all, save one.”

“What is that thing?” Loki asked.

“All I lack is Freyja. If Thor wants his hammer back so badly,” the giant snorted, “tell him to send me Freyja for my bride!”

Donning the falcon cloak, Loki sped back to Asgard. When mighty Thor heard Thrym’s message, he and Loki headed directly to Folkvang.

In his blunt fashion, Thor said to the goddess, “Put on your wedding gown, Freyja. We are going to Jotunheim.”



Highlight the name of the realm where the giants lived.



What do you think Loki and Thor will do next?

I think _____.

Freyja's lovely face contorted with rage. Marry a frost giant! "Who do you think I am? Some mortal who will acquiesce to your command?" the goddess roared.

Retreating from the furious goddess, Thor and Loki convened a council of the other gods to deliberate about this serious matter. Everyone knew the frost giants would attack when they learned that Mjolner was missing. Then the giants would rule in Asgard.

Heimdall, the watchman of the gods, said, "Let Thor go in Freyja's place. Let him wear a woman's gown and jewelry. Let his head and face be covered with a bridal veil."

Thor grumbled but allowed himself to be dressed like a bride. Around his massive neck was hung Freyja's famous golden necklace. Then, Thor climbed into his chariot and drove off with Loki, disguised as a servant maid.

The wedding journey was unlike any before. As Thor's goats drew the chariot swiftly along, thunder rumbled, lightning flashed, and the earth smoked and blazed. From a distance, Thrym spotted the wedding party. But he was unconcerned by the turmoil of fire and storm that accompanied his bride. "Make ready the wedding feast!" he excitedly ordered the other giants.

Evening had fallen by the time the bride arrived. She was led into the banquet hall and seated at the great table, where an enormous feast was spread. Thrym was delighted. Not every giant could marry a goddess!

His delight was compounded by amazement. Never had Thrym seen a bride with such a voracious appetite. Thrym said, "Has there ever been a bride who could eat and drink so much?"



Circle the word that means "agree to."



Why did Freyja refuse to agree to Thor's plan?

Freyja refused _____.



Let's Read

Loki whispered to him, “Freyja was so overjoyed at coming here that she has eaten nothing for eight days.”

Thrym could not resist stealing a glimpse of his bride. The giant raised the veil and peeked beneath it. Instantly he dropped it and leaped from his seat.

“Why are Freyja’s eyes like fire?” he asked Loki in concern.

The cunning serving maid said, “She has been so anxious to come here she has not slept in a week.”

The rest of the giants glanced at each other uneasily. Thrym’s bride seemed to be more than he had bargained for. Thrym decided that if Freyja was so anxious to marry him, he would not make her wait any longer. He shouted, “Bring in the hammer, so that the bride may be consecrated, and wed us!”

The great hammer was carried in, and the marriage ceremony began. According to custom, the powerful weapon was placed in the bride’s lap.

As one hand of the bride closed around the handle of Mjolner, the other suddenly tore away the concealing veil. Leaping to his feet, Thor stood before the guests, his eyes blazing with fury. Thunder boomed and lightning crashed as Thor swung his vengeful hammer.

And so, Thrym paid for his crime of stealing the hammer. Then Thor and Loki returned to Asgard, where the presence of Mjolner made the gods safe once more.



Highlight how Thor got how his power back.

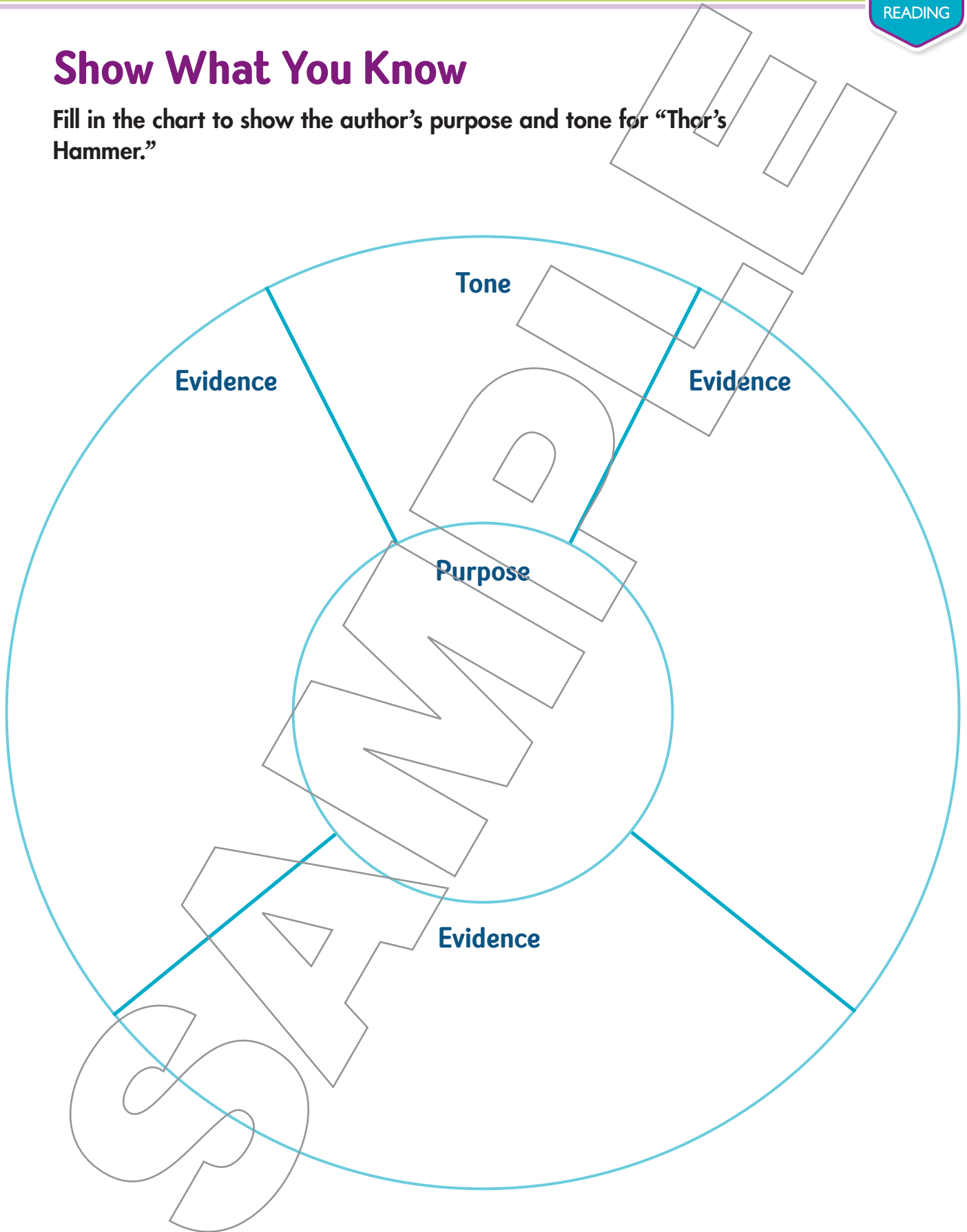


What warning signs that his bride was not Freyja did Thrym ignore?

He ignored _____.

Show What You Know

Fill in the chart to show the author's purpose and tone for "Thor's Hammer."





Let's Read

What Did You Learn?

Think about what you learned from the passage. Then circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. On page 167, the word *voracious* means _____.
 - A behave angrily
 - B extremely talkative
 - C enormous appetite
 - D beautiful beyond belief
2. What is associated with the Norse god Thor?
 - A love and beauty
 - B flowers and birds
 - C snow and ice
 - D thunder and lightning
3. What can you decide about the myth from paragraph 1?
 - A It explains why the seasons change.
 - B It explains how Norway was settled.
 - C It explains why there are no giants today.
 - D It explains how the gods were driven from their home.
4. Why did Loki rather than Thor go to search for the hammer?
 - A because Thor could not fly
 - B because Thor had a bad sense of direction
 - C because Loki had stolen the hammer
 - D because Loki understood the giants since he was the son of one



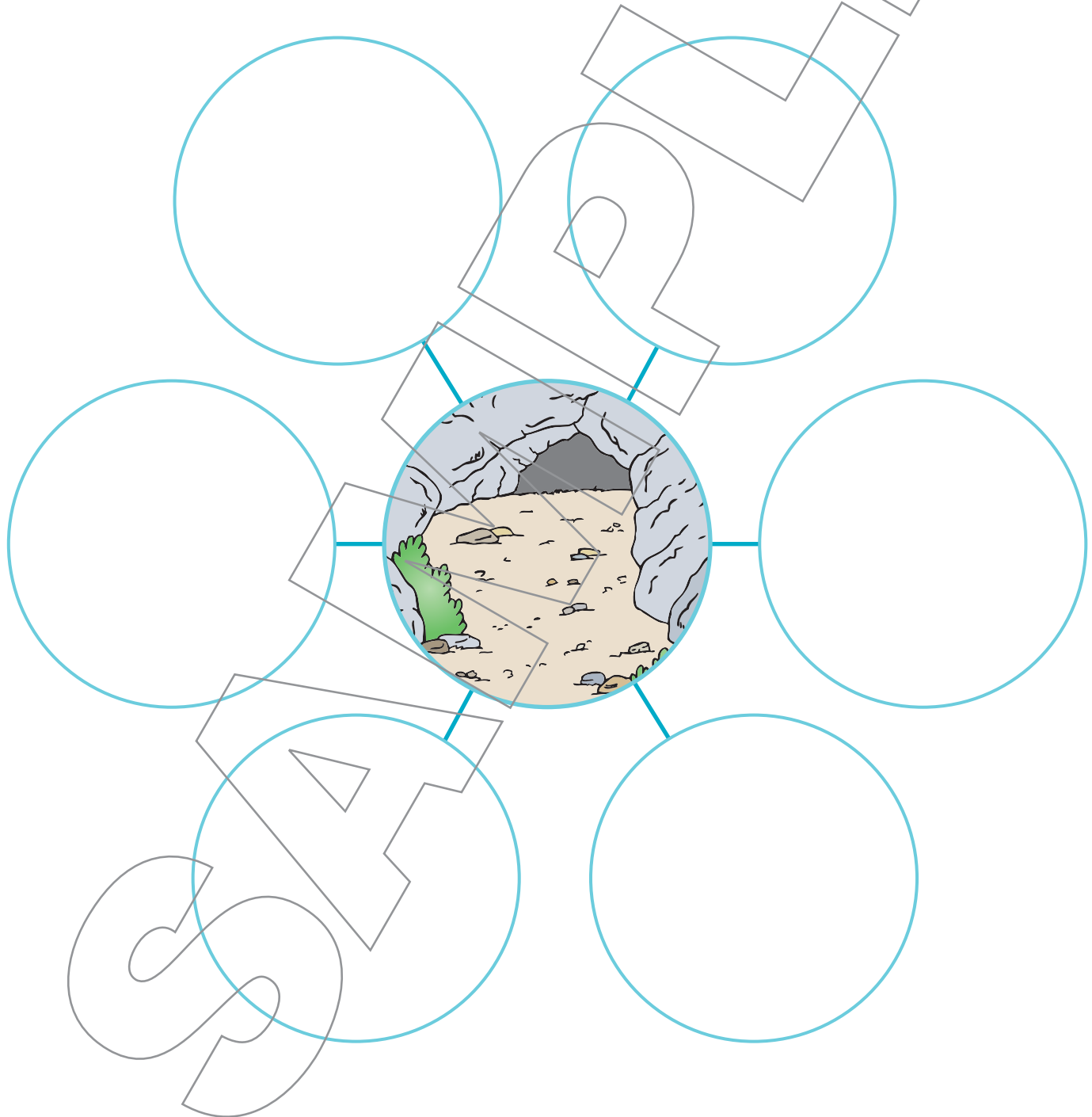
Listen and Discuss

MY LEARNING GOALS

I can

- listen to and understand a retelling of a myth.
- discuss characteristics of a character.

Listen to a myth about a character in a Norse myth. While you listen the second time, take notes on the web below.





SPEAKING

Listen and Discuss

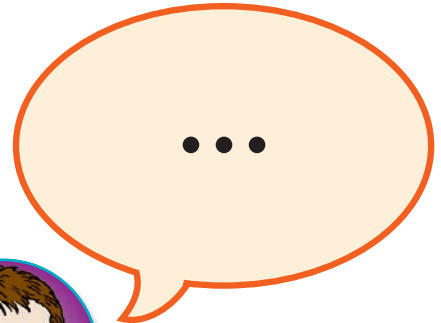


What characteristics of Loki are evident in this story?



Odin riding his eight-legged horse, Sleipner, to Asgard.

SAY



Learning About Language

MY LEARNING GOALS

I can

- recognize dependent clauses.
- use commas appropriately.

Commas

Commas are used to separate three or more items in a series. Commas are used to set a dependent clause off from the rest of the sentence. A **dependent clause** does not have a subject and a predicate and cannot stand alone.

As Thor's goats drew the chariot swiftly along, thunder rumbled, lightning flashed, and the earth smoked and blazed.

The first comma sets off the dependent clause: **As Thor's goats drew the chariot swiftly along,**

The second and third commas separate three items in a series: **thunder rumbled, lightning flashed, and the earth smoked and blazed.**

Read these sentences from the passage. Write Dependent if the comma is used to set off a dependent clause. Write Serial if the comma is used to set off a series of items.

1. They hated the god Balder, whose presence brought back summer.
2. His anger rose, his eyes flashed like lightning, and his red beard shook with wrath.
3. Thor climbed into his chariot and drove off with Loki, who was disguised as a servant maid.
4. Thor and Loki returned to Asgard, where the presence of Mjolner made the gods safe once more.

Learning About Language

Read each sentence. Add commas where necessary.

1. After Marcus made dinner he and Azizah cleaned up.
2. She went to the store bought a gift and had it sent to her grandmother.
3. Carrie didn't recognize Casey who was beautifully attired as Cleopatra.
4. The cake slid off the table flipped over and landed on the floor.

Write a sentence using a comma with a dependent clause and another sentence using a comma with a series of items.

1. dependent clause

2. series





Write About It

MY LEARNING GOALS

I can

- write a retelling of a myth.
- use knowledge of language and its conventions.

Think about the myth you just read or another one you know. Retell the myth in your own words.

Plan My Writing

Fill in the chart to list the most important events in the myth.

First,
Then,
Next,
Finally,



Write About It

First, Thor wakes up very _____

Lined writing area with a silver clip at the top and a large 'DRAFT' watermark diagonally across the page.