

Tuesday 26th January

LO: Character

Our work over the next two weeks is going to be based on a Viking Saga.

1. Read the information about Sagas below.

Sagas

The Vikings did not write their stories down, but passed them on by word of mouth from one generation to another. These stories told of great bravery and wicked treachery. They were called **sagas** and were told around the fires in the Viking **longhouse** to while away the long winter evenings.

Some sagas were short and told of the way that the adventures of boys turned them into men. Others were very long and rather like violent fairy tales.



This is the kind of thing a saga would include: a story about how a fearsome beast was tracked down and slaughtered.

Did you know... ?

- The Norwegian Vikings wrote almost nothing down. The sagas were written in Iceland, centuries after they were first told, and may be very inaccurate.
- Viking writing was made up of short, straight strokes, called **runes**.

2. Watch the film The Saga of Biorn

<https://vimeo.com/18011143>



The main character in this Saga is a Viking called Biorn. Watch the film again and write down as much as you can about him. You might want to set it out in a table like this.

Appearance	Personality
Aging White beard tied at the bottom Tall Broad shouldered Wore a bear skin Sword Shield	Mighty warrior Fearless Determined

3. Last term we worked on developing character in stories. Using what you learnt from this, write a character description of Biorn including his appearance and personality.

Remember you are just writing a character description not a story.

Try to use a colon, semi-colon or dash to link independent clauses in your writing.