

The Kids' Book of the Norse Gods

Written by: Mike Smith, Úlfar aff Jera Þjóð

Drawings by: _____

Of: _____

Foreword:

I thought of doing this purely because of my children Freyjadis (6), Tiarnan (4), and Signy (1). Often times, what few books of that age range that talk about the Norse gods, are generally either far-between or grossly inaccurate. Plus, quite frankly, it is hard enough with the prevailing Christian culture so ingrained in the school system and other children constantly talking about Christmas and the like, that it makes it difficult for heathen parents.

Here was an attempt to help teach my children about the gods in a healthy, fun way by telling my daughter Freyja (Freyjadis) about the gods (VERY simplified, of course) and having her drawing the pictures of them. I found that my younger son, Tiarnan, very much enjoys seeing my daughter's "books" she makes on her own. So, with a little direction....

Of course, not all the gods are here, just a few. Start with the cover and have them draw away!!

Hope you all enjoy this. PLEASE DO REPRINT THIS AGAIN AND AGAIN FOR YOUR KIDS AND THE CHILDREN OF OTHERS!

With Honor,
--Mike Smith
Úlfar aff Jera Þjóð

Óðinn is a high god of the Æsir. He has only one eye and a long, grey beard. Óðinn saw the runes while hanging from the world-tree, Yggdrasil. He had a horse with eight legs named Sleipnir. Hugin and Munin are his two ravens that fly around the worlds to tell him what's going on. He also has two wolves, Geri and Freki. Óðinn often wears a long cloak with a hood or a large-brimmed traveler's hat. Do you know what the runes look like? Add some to your picture of Óðinn! Óðin carries a large spear.

Frigg is the wife of Óðinn and she knows all but tells little. She once asked everything in the multiverse to never harm her son, Balder. She loved him very much. Just like your parents love you! Frigg often likes to spin wool on her distaff. If you look in the sky at night, sometimes you can see “Frigg’s Distaff” Ask you parents to show you! (Parents: Frigg’s Distaff is the same group of stars that makes the belt in the Orion Constellation.)

Thor is the son of Óðinn and Jorð, the earth. Thor has a big red beard and red hair. He carries a magic hammer, Mjollnir, to smash the evil giants that try to hurt us. Thor sometimes rides a chariot pulled by two giant goats. Thor also has magic iron gloves and a belt that makes him super-strong! Thor is the god of thunder and lightning! Next time there is a thunderstorm, yell “Hail Thor!” because he’s fighting the giants to keep you safe!

Sif is the goddess with incredibly beautiful golden hair. Thor is her husband. Some people believe she is a goddess of the ripened grain. Can you draw her standing in a pretty field with flowers?

Eir is the goddess of healing and health. It is good to pray to her when you or someone you love is feeling sick. She's like the nice people you see at the doctor's office. Some people think she shows us how to use the herbs of the earth to keep ourselves healthy. Can you draw her picking plants in the forest?

Sunna is the goddess that carries the sun in a chariot pulled by horses and her brother, Mani carries the moon in a chariot pulled by a horse too! Can you draw them flying through the sky? Remember never look right at the sun, it can hurt your eyes. Isn't the moon beautiful at night?

Gefjon was a goddess who used magic to turn her sons into giant oxen and plowed out Zealand a place in Denmark with a big plow. Farmers plow their fields to make things grow in the spring. Can you draw Gefjon and the oxen plowing a field?

Tyr is a brave god who only has one hand! His other hand was bitten off by the giant, mean wolf named Fenrir (or Fenris) while the gods were trying to tie him up. Tyr is also god of the Thing and of the community. The North Star was once known as Tyr's star. Draw Tyr fighting Garm, the evil hound with his sword!

Jorð is the goddess that is the earth under our feet! Thor is her son. We should be careful not to litter and be good to the environment to help her. Can you draw her? Next time you go outside to play, tell Jorð thank you for being so fun to live on.

Njord is the god of Harbors. He is one of the Vanir gods. Njord lives in a great hall under the sea called Noatun. People said his feet were so beautiful to look at the Skaði married him because of them. Can you draw Njord protecting some ships in the ocean with all kinds of fish swimming around?

Skaði is a goddess of winter and hunting. She's married to Njorð, but doesn't like living near the ocean, so she and Njorð take turns living at the ocean and in the mountains. She wears skis and uses a bow and arrow to hunt. Can you draw her skiing down a mountain or hunting with her bow and arrows?

Forsetti is the son of Balder and Nanna. He is a god of justice and mediation. He carries a big golden ax! It is said in legends that Forsetti gave the Frisians their laws. He is known for being very fair. Can you draw a picture of him?

Two other gods of the Vanir are Freyr and his sister Freyja! Freyr is strong and brave! He is a god of growing things. Freyr fought a mean giant named Beli with only a stag's antler! Can you draw him? Don't forget to draw his sister, Freyja with him, who has a beautiful magic necklace called Brisingamen. Freyja is a goddess of fertility and also was a warrior goddess. She sometimes carries a spear.

Idun is the goddess of youth and renewal. She is married to Bragi, the god of singing and story-telling. Idun carries a basket of golden apples! And Bragi has a long white beard and carries a harp. Can you draw them next to a tree? Next time you eat an apple, think of Idun!

Heimdhal is the god who guards the Bifrost bridge into Asgarð. He has shining white armor and golden teeth. He carries a large, curving ram horn called Gjallarhorn. Can you draw Heimdhal guarding the rainbow bridge?

Viðar is called, the silent god. He has a giant stout boot that he will use to fight the mean wolf, Fenrir. Viðar is the son of Óðinn. Can you draw Viðar with his big boot?

Ullr is the son of Sif and the step-son of Thor. He is a winter god who has a bow and arrows and wears snowshoes! He lives in a place called Ydallir. Ullr sometimes uses his shield like a sled! How cool is that! Can you draw Ullr sliding on his shield like a sled down a hill?

For your last picture, I want you to draw the world tree, Yggdrasil. It is huge and all kinds of animals live in it. Falcons, hawks, squirrels, goats, deer, and even a dragon gnaws on one of its roots. At the bottom be sure to draw a well with the three norns sitting nearby! I hope you and your parents enjoyed this!

THE END

