

Viking Saga Songs

1. Loki the Joker

NIGEL Hello, and Welcome to Viking Saga Songs! I'm Nigel...

JOANNA ...and I'm Joanna, and in Viking Saga Songs, you're going to join in with discovering songs, games and music-making, all to do with a group of stories from over a thousand years ago...about Viking gods and goddesses...like this one:

THOR I am Thor! God of thunder!

NIGEL We'll be exploring the cold North lands where the Vikings came from, and meeting some half-human creatures things like goblins and trollseeyuk!

JOANNA There'll be some magical mayhem and journeys to imaginary places. We'll all be singing in a while, but first let's see how well we can speak in time, together.



Viking Saga Songs

NIGEL

Yes, we're going to start by saying the name of a crafty character who turns up in lots of Viking stories – he's a bit of a joker called...Loki. Loki the Joker! Gently tap on your fingers as you say that rhythm-pattern a few times. Ready to speak and tap?

BOTH

*Loki the Joker...**Loki the Joker...**Loki the Joker...**Loki the Joker...**Loki the Joker...**Loki the Joker...**Loki the Joker...**Loki the Joker...*

JOANNA

...and stop tapping!

Now, perhaps you're wondering who were the Vikings? And what is a Saga?

NIGEL

Over a thousand years ago 'Vikings' were feared warriors from the Scandinavian countries now called Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and so on. They were a seagoing people, exploring oceans and lands as far as Asia, Iceland, maybe even North America.



JOANNA

Often, theirs was a bloodthirsty history they sometimes raided towns and villages, like pirates but they were also traders and fine craft-people, making beautiful wooden long-ships, fantastic embroidery and intricate metalwork.

NIGEL

Today there's still a lot of evidence of Vikings having been in Great Britain, especially in many of our place-names...places like Scunthorpe and Seathwaite...

JOANNA

The Vikings were great poets and storytellers too, and many of their stories or "sagas" as we call them are still famous today.

NIGEL

Some were "sagas" about real people and some were tall-stories about gods and goddesses and half-human creatures, like trolls and goblins... and some were about our mischievous character called:

JOANNA

Yes, Loki! Who is he? Well you've heard that he's a bit of a joker...The thing is, he's always playing tricks and "shape-shifting" from one creature or thing to another, always getting in and out of scrapes and tricky situations...



Viking Saga Songs

NIGEL

He can turn into a fly, a flea, an eagle, a raven,
a wolf, a dragon, a serpent...all sorts!...and he's
always making problems for the Viking gods.

JOANNA

You know roughly how his song goes, so now listen
and learn the first part of the song's chorus.
Loki's song is lively, and to get the rhythm and
feel, click your fingers to the beat...

BOTH

*Loki the Joker,
With Odin the Ancient,
And Thor the Thunderer
Voyaging forth!
With Gods and Goblins,
And Freya the Fair-Hair,
And the Apples of Idunna
Stories of the North!*

JOANNA

Have a go at copying that tune, bit by bit, as a
Follow-my-Leader. Listen as I sing two lines at a
time, then you copy with Nigel.

JOANNA

*Loki the Joker,
With Odin the Ancient.*

NIGEL

*Loki the Joker,
With Odin the Ancient.*



JOANNA

*And Thor the Thunderer,
Voyaging forth!*

NIGEL

*And Thor the Thunderer,
Voyaging forth!*

JOANNA

*With Gods and Goblins,
And Freya the Fair-Hair.*

NIGEL

*With Gods and Goblins,
And Freya the Fair-Hair.*

JOANNA

*And the Apples of Idunna,
Stories of the North!*

NIGEL

*And the Apples of Idunna
Stories of the North!*

JOANNA

As well as singing, the chorus has some actions you can add with your hands and arms and your face, for a bit of fun! They're shown beside the words of the song so, as you get to know them, you can try to fit the actions in.

NIGEL

Let's sing the whole chorus through now. Sing with a good, loud, clear voice and have fun! Off we go, a-1, 2, 3, AND!



Viking Saga Songs

BOTH

*Loki the Joker,
With Odin the Ancient,
And Thor the Thunderer
Voyaging forth!
With Gods and Goblins,
And Freya the Fair-Hair,
And the Apples of Idunna
Stories of the North!*

JOANNA

And stop! In between the choruses come several verses, which tell us about the character and exploits of our trickster, Loki. Verse 1 goes much more slowly than the chorus, and the rhythm is quite free:

*Loki's clever, shifting-shape.
Playing tricks, make no mistake,
Fly or fireball, beyond belief
Loki, Loki makes mischief!*

NIGEL

Did you hear how the music is made from just two notes, rocking from one to the other?

NIGEL

They slow down at the end and there's a "pause" on the last note which means it's held on for a bit longer: Makes mischieeeef...



JOANNA

Try the whole of that verse as a Follow-my-Leader. Nigel will lead, a phrase at a time, and we'll follow. Listening first?

NIGEL

Loki's clever, shifting-shape

JOANNA

Loki's clever, shifting-shape

NIGEL

Playing tricks, make no mistake

JOANNA

Playing tricks, make no mistake

NIGEL

Fly or fireball, beyond belief

JOANNA

Fly or fireball, beyond belief

NIGEL

Loki, Loki makes mischief!

JOANNA

Loki, Loki makes mischief!

NIGEL

And what do you think happens after that verse? That's right, back to the chorus, with energy and rhythm, like before. So now we'll start by singing verse 1 again, slowly and freely, and slowing down at the end of the verse...then, after the "pause", listen for some flute-notes and bell-sounds, which bring you in for the lively chorus, where you'll keep the rhythms tightly in time, and the words strong and clear.

JOANNA

But it's Verse 1 first: slow and steady:



Viking Saga Songs

*Loki's clever, shifting-shape.
Playing tricks, make no mistake,
Fly or fireball, beyond belief
Loki, Loki makes mischief!*

*Loki the Joker,
With Odin the Ancient,
And Thor the Thunderer
Voyaging forth!
With Gods and Goblins,
And Freya the Fair-Hair,
And the Apples of Idunna
Stories of the North!*

JOANNA

Verse 2 starts just like the first verse but it's about different animals that Loki changes into:

*Loki change if Loki wish,
Eagle, raven, wolf or fish,
Dragon, serpent, bird or beast,
Loki's storytelling feast!*

NIGEL

Have a go now at singing those words carefully, with relish for the names of different animals. Quietly at first...



*Loki change if Loki wish,
Eagle, raven, wolf or fish,
Dragon, serpent, bird or beast,
Loki's storytelling feast!*

JOANNA

Next, verse 3 is about how Loki moves through the landscape of the Viking North-lands. Listen:

*Over mountain, sky and sea,
Shifts to where he wants to be,
Wind and rain, or frost and snow,
Loki the Joker, on you go!*

NIGEL

So, now it's time to have a go at singing those verse 3 words about landscape and weather, making them really evocative as if it's really blowy and cold! Ready to sing?

*Over mountain, sky and sea,
Shifts to where he wants to be,
Wind and rain, or frost and snow,
Loki the Joker, on you go!*

NIGEL

That's nearly the whole song. But after the final chorus, There's an extra bit, called the 'coda' which means 'tail'!



And this coda is very simple to sing. It has two phrases from the beginning and end of the chorus: "*Loki the Joker...Stories of the North*". And you'll sing that four times, getting quieter and quieter each time, until the very last "Stories of the North", which is as loud as you can make it...to wake everybody up!

JOANNA

And watch out....there'll be a massive clap of thunder at the end!

We'll show you how it all goes: see if you can join in, getting quieter and quieter...

Loki the Joker...Stories of the North
Loki the Joker...Stories of the North
Loki the Joker...Stories of the North
Loki the Joker...Stories of the North

JOANNA

You're ready now to sing the whole of "Loki the Joker" all the way through. Remember to sing in time, and to keep the words strong and clear.

NIGEL

Till next time, as the Vikings might say:

"Farvel!" Bye!

