

Viking Saga Songs

5. Thor on a journey

Joanna

Hello! In today's *Viking Saga Songs* we go on a journey with Thor - the God of Thunder.

Nigel

Yes, that's Thor. You may have seen versions of him in films, comics and games. Not always the Viking Thor but always fierce and strong and often hammering with his hammer – going:

*Thunder bang 'n' bash,
Thunder bang 'n' crash.
Thunder bang 'n' bash
Thunder bang 'n' crash.*

Joanna

Can you join in by saying those words, while tapping there rhythm on your knees are you ready?

Both

*Thunder bang 'n' bash,
Thunder bang 'n' crash
Thunder bang 'n' bash,
Thunder bang 'n' crash*



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Nigel

See if you can tap it on different parts of your body to suit some high or low percussion sounds. If the sound is low, tap something that is low like your feet.

Joanna

If it's high, tap something high like your nose.

Nigel

And if it's in the middle...well, you choose how high or low you think is ort to be. So ready to tap? Keeping in rhythm? Off you go.

Joanna

In our story later on, we will find out more of what happens when Thor travels to Jotunheim to challenge the giants. To get there he has to ride his chariot over Bifrost, the rainbow bridge.

Nigel

Throughout the song there is a chorus that keeps coming back and there are some actions to do with each phrase shown by the bit by the words. Things like pointing, waving your fist and making a rainbow shape. Anyway here's how the chorus goes...



Both

*Thor on a journey,
Challenging the giants
Hammer, hammer, hammer
Thunder bang 'n' bash!
Chariot over Bifrost
Ride across the rainbow
Hammer, hammer, hammer
Thunder bang 'n' crash!*

Joanna

The tune goes up and down, ranging widely, low and high. So let's slow that melody right down and sing just a few notes at a time as a follow me leader.

Nigel

I'll sing each phrase and then you can copy with Joanna. As you sing hold your hand in the air in front of you or down to fit which way the tune is going. Higher or lower.

Joanna

Are you ready to listen first then copy?

Nigel

Thor on a journey,

Joanna

Thor on a journey,



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Nigel	<i>Challenging the giants</i>
Joanna	<i>Challenging the giants</i>
Nigel	<i>Hammer, hammer, hammer</i>
Joanna	<i>Hammer, hammer, hammer</i>
Nigel	<i>Thunder bang 'n' bash!</i>
Joanna	<i>Thunder bang 'n' bash!</i>
Nigel	<i>Chariot over Bifrost</i>
Joanna	<i>Chariot over Bifrost</i>
Nigel	<i>Ride across the rainbow</i>
Joanna	<i>Ride across the rainbow</i>
Nigel	<i>Hammer, hammer, hammer</i>
Joanna	<i>Hammer, hammer, hammer</i>
Nigel	<i>Thunder bang 'n' crash!</i>



Joanna

Thunder bang 'n' crash!

Nigel

For the thunder bit did you notice how first the tune went down - '*Thunder bang 'n' bash*'? And the second time it came up - '*Thunder bang 'n' crash!*'

Joanna

Let's put the whole chorus together. Up to speed this time. The tempo is quiet slow and steady throughout going a 1, 2, 3.

Nigel

Just before you sing listen out for an electric guitar, drums and big gongs in the accompaniment. They help show off Thor's fierce mighty power. So make sure your singing voice is strong and mighty too. All sitting up straight? Here comes the introduction. Get ready to sing a-1, 2, 3:

Both

*Thor on a journey,
Challenging the giants
Hammer, hammer, hammer
Thunder bang 'n' bash!*



*Chariot over Bifrost
Ride across the rainbow
Hammer, hammer, hammer
Thunder bang 'n' crash!*

Joanna

The verses tell the story of what happens when Thor arrives in Jotunheim. The music is quite a bit slower, it feels a bit more free and flexible and it slows down at the end pausing on the last note. Follow the words and listen to verse one.

*Travel to a mansion-hall:
Giant's glove, so wide, so tall,
Giant's head and skull and eye
Far too strong for Thor, oh why?*

Nigel

Did you hear how this melody is made from only four notes – do, do, do, do, do, do, doo. It goes up like that step by step four times.

Joanna

And as you sing listen to some creepy pizzicato sounds, like feet tip toeing and scary percussion for the giant's skull...



- Nigel And the giants eye...
- Joanna So make your singing creepy and scary too. Let's all sing verse one. Not too fast.
- Both *Travel to a mansion-hall:
Giant's glove, so wide, so tall,
Giant's head and skull and eye
Far too strong for Thor, oh why?*
- Nigel Oh, sounds like there is a real mystery in the song; maybe Thor's not so fierce and mighty after all! We'll find out what Thor does next in a minute, but let's sing the chorus again first.
- Joanna Repeat your strong and mighty singing, and see if you can try some of the actions pointing and hammering and so on.
- Nigel But keep your timing and rhythms strict and tightly together. Here come the guitars, drums and gongs. Ready to sing, a-1, 2, 3:



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Both

*Thor on a journey,
Challenging the giants
Hammer, hammer, hammer
Thunder bang 'n' bash!
Chariot over Bifrost
Ride across the rainbow
Hammer, hammer, hammer
Thunder bang 'n' crash!*

Joanna

On to verse two the next part of Thor's challenge to the giants. Make sure you can see the words which is all about a feast where there is a drinking cup which keeps on filling up however much Thor drinks!

Nigel

The melody for this verse goes up step by step just like before. And at the end of the verse remember to exaggerate the slowing down. All ready to sing verse two? Of you go!

Joanna

*At a feast, a drinking cup:
Viking-horn is filled full-up!*

Nigel

*Deep, deep, deep though Thor may drink
Cup keeps filling...why do you think?*



- Joanna Mmm, it seems Thor's boasting is getting the better of him.
- Nigel Thor's next challenge is at a wrestling match, so make sure you can see the words of verse three. First he has to wrestle with a cat, then with an old lady who's like a skeleton - a bag of bones.
- Joanna And to every one's surprise they win and Thor loses!
- Nigel When you sing this verse you need to vary your voice between loud and strong for the first half about Thor being mighty and quiet...and playful for the second half about the cat and bag of bones. So have a go at verse three starting loud and strong but not too fast. Off you go...
- Both *Thor the mighty! Thor the strong!
Thor the wrestler! Can't go wrong!
But Cat and Bag-of-bones defeat him
Its craft and magic really beat him!*



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Joanna

Well, that's almost the whole song but there's an extra bit at the end - a 'coda'. For this you'll repeat the phrase from the first bit of the chorus - 'Thor on a journey' - three times, getting quieter each time.

Nigel

And then instead of repeating a fourth time you sing a loud 'Thunder bang 'n' crash!' And you can make it ultra-loud!

Joanna

Ready to sing that coda? Starting with 'Thor on a journey' - getting quieter. Here we go -

Both

*Thor on a journey,
Thor on a journey,
Thor on a journey,
Thunder bang 'n' CRASHHHHH!*

Nigel

Good luck in singing the whole song. Till next time!

Both

Bye - Farvel!

