

How Thor Lost His Hammer

(or How Thor Got His Stolen Hammer Back)

A Norse myth from Scandinavia

Recommended Key Stage: 2

Synopsis: Thor wakes up one day to find that his legendary hammer, Mjolnir, has gone missing! He sends Loki out wearing Freryr's cloak to find out what has happened. Loki discovers that Thrym, a Frost Giant of Jotunheim, has stolen the hammer and will only return it if Freyr agrees to marry him! Thor and Loki decide to trick Thrym by dressing up Thor as the bride Freyr. The trick works and Thrym mistakenly returns Thor's hammer to him. Thor takes revenge on them all and returns home with his faithful hammer at his side.

Part 1: Share the Story

Listen to the story How Thor Got His Hammer Back told by Brian McMahon or tell the story yourself.

Top storytelling tips:

- Learn the story beforehand so that you can be expressive and maintain eye contact with the students.
- Use actions and sound effects and encourage the students to join in.

Find one or two moments in the story to stop and ask the students to predict what is going to happen next, or how they would feel if they were the characters.

Part 2: Discuss the story

Use the questions below to begin a discussion about the story

Questions

- What did you think of the story? What was your favourite part?
- Do you have a special object like Thor? How would you feel if it went missing?
- What advice would you give to Thor when he realises his hammer has gone?
- Why do you think Thrym stole the hammer?
- How would you trick a frost giant?
- What have you learnt about Thor's character in this story? What about Loki?
- If you were a God, like Thor, Loki or Freyr, what would your powers be? What would you be like?
- Would you end the story differently?

Part 3: Play the Story

Activities	
Character presentations Write about Thor's day from his point of view – this could be in the form of diary entries. Use these as starting points for each entry: • In the morning, Thor wakes up and sees his hammer has gone. What is he thinking? Does he suspect anyone? What emotions does he express? • When he finds out what has happened to his hammer, what is he feeling? • When he has to disguise himself to retrieve the hammer • When he gets his hammer back and returns to Asgard As an extra challenge – write about the day from a different character's point of view. This could be Loki, Freyr or Thrym. Does this change the way we view the story? What would the different characters choose to write about?	Hot Seating Give the children the opportunity to pose questions to one of the characters in the story. This could be: • Thor • Loki • Thrym the frost giant • Freyr An adult or one of the children can hot seat as the chosen character. Give the children some time to come up with their questions – these questions should help them to understand the character and their motivations, so questions like 'what is your favourite colour?' should be avoided! Here are some suggestions: • Thrym – why did you steal Thor's hammer? How would you feel if somebody stole from you? What would you do with the hammer? • Thor – why is your hammer so special to you? What will you do if you can't get your hammer back?

Part 4: Story Stimulus

Activities	
Creative Challenge: Draw the story as a comic strip instead. - Students take a piece of paper and make 9 panels. - Students try to tell the story of Thor's Missing Hammer from beginning to end in just those 9 panels. - Plan what will happen in each panel before you start to draw it, so you don't use too many or too few. - Use words and pictures in each. Create sound effects, and speech/ thought bubbles to show what the characters are saying and thinking. - When drawing, make sure you show how characters feel throughout. Show Thor worried or angry about his hammer and show him victorious at the end.	Innovation/ new ending In groups, pairs or independently, make a change to the story and decide what would happen instead. Think carefully about what change you would like to make – here are some suggestions to get you thinking: - What if Freyr had gone to meet Thrym instead of Thor? - What if Loki had stolen the hammer? - What if Thrym had seen through Thor's disguise? - What if Thrym had fought Thor? What if Thor had lost? - What if it was Loki or Freyr who had lost something important? Present your changed myth – this could be a written story or a performance with a narrator and actors.
Create Thor's next adventure There are many stories about Thor and Loki – come up with their next adventure. Thor is usually the hero of the stories, who fights everything he comes up against, and Loki is the sly trickster. Will you keep these roles in your story? Or will you mix things up?	

Part 5: Taking it Further

Similar Stories

Thor and Utgard Loki (Norse)

The Treasures of the Gods (Norse) – the story tells of how Thor's hammer was created

Daedulus and Icarus (Ancient Greece)

Theseus and the Minotaur (Ancient Greece)

Wider Curriculum Links

PSHE

- to recognise reasons for rules and laws; consequences of not adhering to rules and laws
- about everyday things that affect feelings and the importance of expressing feelings