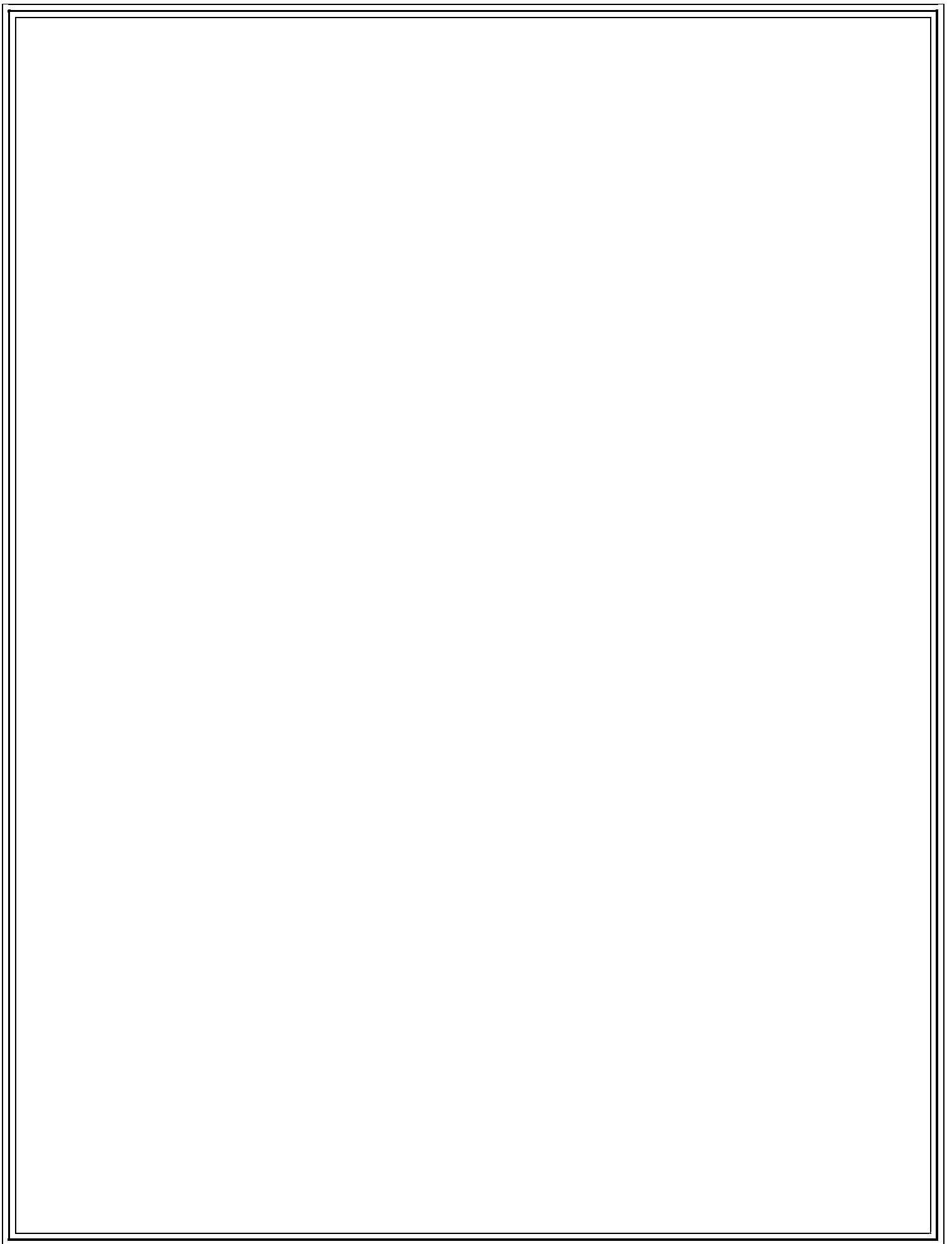


D'Aulaires'
Book of Norse Myths



A Reading Guide by Lisa Kelly

Book of Norse Myths was written by Ingri and Edgar D'Aulaire



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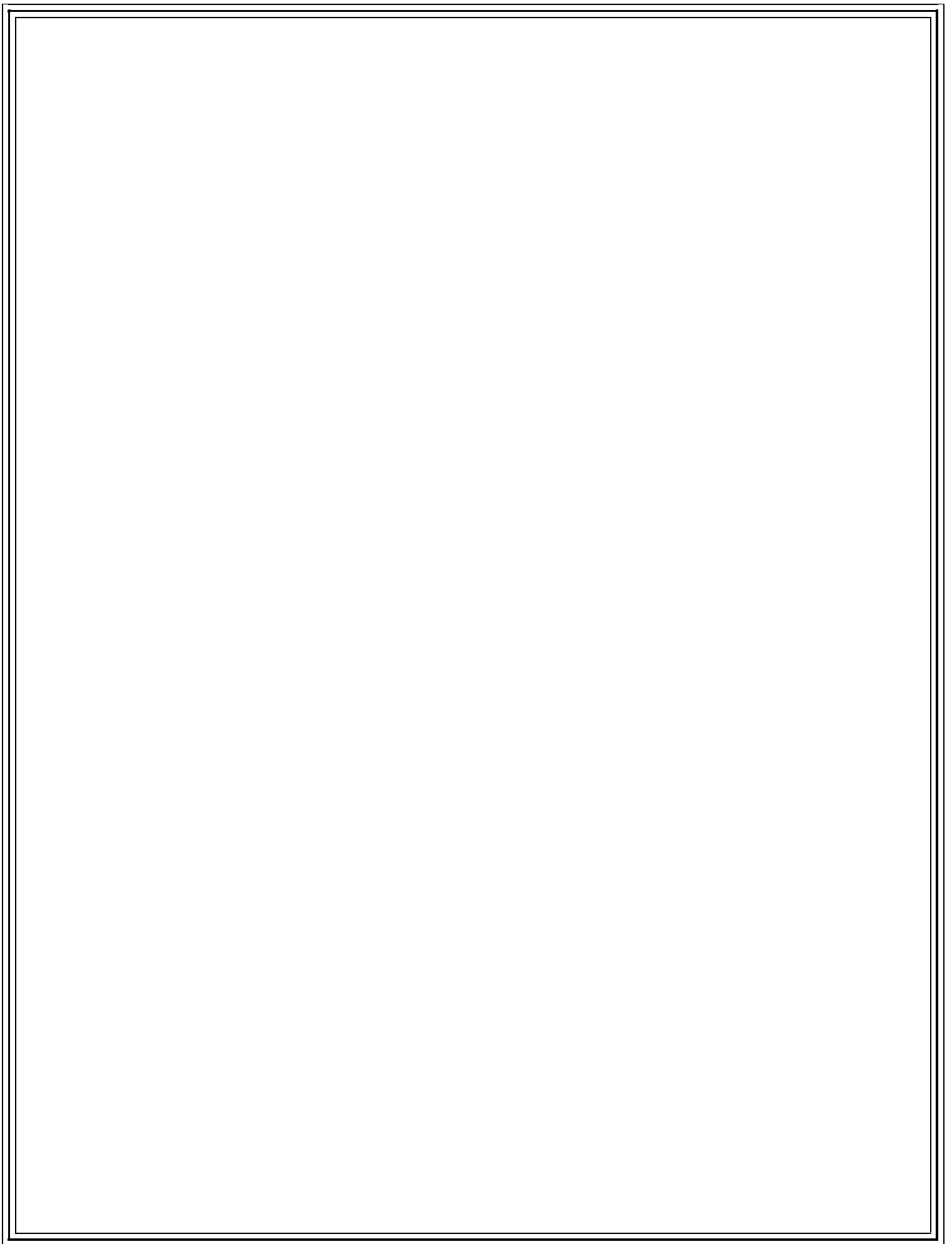
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Author's Note

Literary Elements and Literary Techniques are incorporated as they best illustrate them based on the book itself. In other words, I do not predetermine which terms and elements I will include in advance, aside from being aware of the age range for which the guide is designed. The best introduction to them occurs when they are presented by the book itself. I then try to bring them forward as they appear.

Ideally, I will create guides for most every book and poem included in this entire curriculum. This will provide the balance needed to provide full coverage of literary elements and techniques. While this guide may introduce one or two specific terms, another guide may introduce a few different ones. There may also be some repetition, which of course offers review and repeated exposure.

I don't wish for literature to be analyzed to the point of destroying a child's natural interest in how an author creates it, especially in the younger years. This is why I emphasize that each teacher should introduce the elements and techniques as best fits each student and situation.

Myths

A myth, according to Merriam-Webster, is "a story often describing the adventures of beings with more than human powers that attempts to explain mysterious events or that explains a religious belief or practice".

Here are some types of characters you might meet in a myth:

- Heroes
- Heroines
- Tricksters
- Mythical Creatures or Monsters

Lesson Notes

1. “Connection” questions and prompts were written to bridge the gap between chapter readings. They were designed to bring forth what students already know about a topic so that the new information can be connected to it.
2. Have students define the words listed under “Words to Know” either independently or together orally with the teacher. Teachers and students should locate any listed places, read and discuss any notes included at the beginning of each lesson and discuss the pronunciation of any words, as needed.
3. Students should either have the book read aloud to them or should read each chapter (or reading section) together with the teacher or should read the book independently, whichever best fits.
4. After reading, students should narrate. There are multiple narration suggestions for each chapter.
5. Any lessons in literary terms can be included or omitted as it best fits the needs of your students.

Literary Elements and Literary Techniques

- character
- plot
- heroes and heroines
- author
- illustrator
- similes
- alliteration

Illustration Studies, Art Projects & Final Projects

Additionally, there are 3 illustration studies within this guide and 3 [optional] art projects. Some suggestions for final projects can be found at the end of the guide.

Coloring Pages

A link to a website with free printable coloring pages of Norse Myths can be found at the website. Look under the tab “Resources” and then scroll down to “Literature”. You can find the link here under *D’Anlaire’s Book of Norse Myths*.

Exam Prompts

- Share a favorite scene. What made this scene memorable?

There are more exam prompts in the guide. This is a sample only.

Reading Schedule

| Reading # | Page Numbers | Titles |
|-----------|--------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | 9-11 | Introduction |
| 2 | 12-20 | The First Gods and Giants |
| 3 | 21-25 | The Creation of the World |
| 4 | 26-30 | The Creation of Man |

There are 28 readings in the guide. This is a sample only.

Norse Myths –Reading 1

- * Complete Reading 1 (pp. 9-11) from *D'Aulaires' Book of Norse Myths*.

Before the Reading

- Connection: Use the title and cover illustration to help you predict what this book might be about.
- Locate the following places on a map or globe: North Sea and Iceland. Discuss and locate the general locations of the origins of the Norsemen such as Denmark, Sweden and Norway. Connect these areas to the word “Norse”.
- Name the days of the week and write them on the board or on a sheet of paper.

Literary Elements

A **myth**, according to Merriam-Webster, is “a story often describing the adventures of beings with more than human powers that attempts to explain mysterious events or that explains a religious belief or practice”.

Here are some types of characters you might meet in a myth:

- heroes
- heroines
- tricksters
- mythical creatures or monsters

What is the title of this book? What types of characters do you think that you might meet in this book?

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An **author** is a person who has written something. An **illustrator** is a person who has illustrated a book. He or she has explained or decorated a book, etc. with pictures.

Who are the authors of this book? Study the illustrations in this book.

- \* Who are the illustrators of this book?
- \* Tell what you like best about the illustrations.
- \* What would the story be like without them?
- \* What colors do they use?
- \* Do the pictures look realistic? Why do you think so?
- \* Do you think they spent a little bit of time on each picture or a lot of time?

*Ans. Key: Ingri and Edgar Parin D'Aulaire are the authors and illustrators of this book.*

## After the Reading

### Narration Suggestions

- How did the Norse Myths come to be and why should we read them?
- Describe the Norse people.

### Additionally:

- \* Next to each day of the week on your list write the name from Norse Myths from which it is derived. Note: Odin is also known as Woden. What day of the week might fit “Woden’s Day”? Sunday, Monday and Saturday are not given. Research to find an answer. [Ans. Key=Monday for Mani who personified the moon and Sunday for Sol who personified the sun. Saturday is known as Lorday - Norse Bath Day]

## Art Project -Optional

Begin working on Art Project I.

### Project I -The Nine Norse Worlds

- Black Construction Paper [large, if possible]
- Chalk
- Pencils/Erasers
- Colored pencils
- Hairspray

1. Have your student draw a large tree such as seen on the end pages of the front cover and back cover of *Book of Norse Myths* by drawing onto the black construction paper with a piece of chalk. A simple outline shape such as rectangle for a tree trunk and a large oval for the tree top will be fine. Be sure to have your child center it in the middle of the page, leaving room for the lower worlds and upper worlds. It should not take up all the space of the page either below, above or to each side.
2. Have your child add more worlds each time your child works on his/her project. Large ovals in different colors of chalk to represent each world will work well. Help your child copy the names of the worlds from the book, if needed.
3. Add illustrative details as desired and a title. Spray with hairspray when complete.
4. Give your finished work a title or caption.

## *Norse Myths* –Reading 22

- \* Complete Reading 22 (pp. 108-116) from *D'Aulaires' Book of Norse Myths*.

### Before the Reading

- Connection: Who was Jotun Geirrod?
- Words to Know: marrow, din, ajar, urchin, crone, draught, hoodwinked and malicious
- Words to Pronounce: Utgardsloki, Tjalfi, Skrymir, Logi, Hugi, Elle and Utgard

### After the Reading

#### Narration Suggestions

- Give an account of Thor and Utgardsloki.
- Turn a sheet of paper horizontally and divide it into thirds. Write Thor, Loki and Tjalfi: one name each for a section. Under their names draw a picture of that character performing their task for Utgardsloki. Be prepared to tell about each picture.
- Could you have outsmarted Utgardsloki? What task might have you performed? How would you have handled Loki's task? Thor's task? Tjalfi's task?
- Pretend this story is going to be turned into a movie for children. Create a poster to advertise the new movie. Be sure to give the movie a title.
- Draw or paint a picture of any scene from this reading section. Give your picture a title or caption and share it with someone, telling about the scene you've depicted.
- Thor is outwitted by Utgardsloki. Should Thor feel dishonored? How does Loki feel about Thor's shame? Should he feel this way?