

Writing Den
Student Writing Challenge
by Robert Livesey

Create a Viking Saga

The Vikings told stories, called sagas, about their country, their friends, their families, and themselves. Use the following instructions to **create your own saga**.

1. Viking sagas were **true experiences**. Think about something that happened to you involving your friends or family. (ie: a trip to the mall, a sports event, a walk to school, a classroom experience, sleeping over at a friend's house.)

2. Write a **brief outline** of the event. (ie: Yesterday, I left home to go to school. Along the way, I met my friends, Jason and Linda. We walked together until we met Mikey.)

3. Viking sagas were **entertaining**. **Exaggerate** your saga! **Rewrite it with imagination**. Don't be shy. **Brag** about your talents.

(ie: It was the coldest winter day of my entire life but, wrapped in layers of protective clothing, I bravely headed for school. Soon the tip of my nose was frozen hard as an ice cube and my breath was turning to icicles as it left my mouth.)

4. Vikings **invented names** that described people's appearance, personality, or abilities.

(ie: Thorhall the Hunter, Ketil Flat-Nose, Aud the Deep-Minded.)

Invent names for those in your saga, and for yourself.

(ie: Jason the Jester, Linda the Lovely, Mikey the Maniac.)

5. Vikings believed in a world of **mythology and mystery**. Their sagas often involved **supernatural** elements. You should do the same.

* Because of my weird dream the previous night, I knew it would not be a normal day.

* As we turned the corner, I felt an eerie sensation that there was danger ahead;

* Mikey's eyes flashed ferociously, an animal-like growl came from deep in his throat. His front teeth grew into fangs.

* I turned to find myself face to face with the Snow Monster.)

6.. Make the **last sentence** in your saga an interesting one. Sum up the experience.

* Jason, Linda and I never talk about that day.

* I had never been so happy to arrive at school.

* We all laughed strangely, especially Mikey the Maniac.

7. Give your saga a **title**.

* The Saga of Jason the Jester

* The Saga of Snowy Tuesday