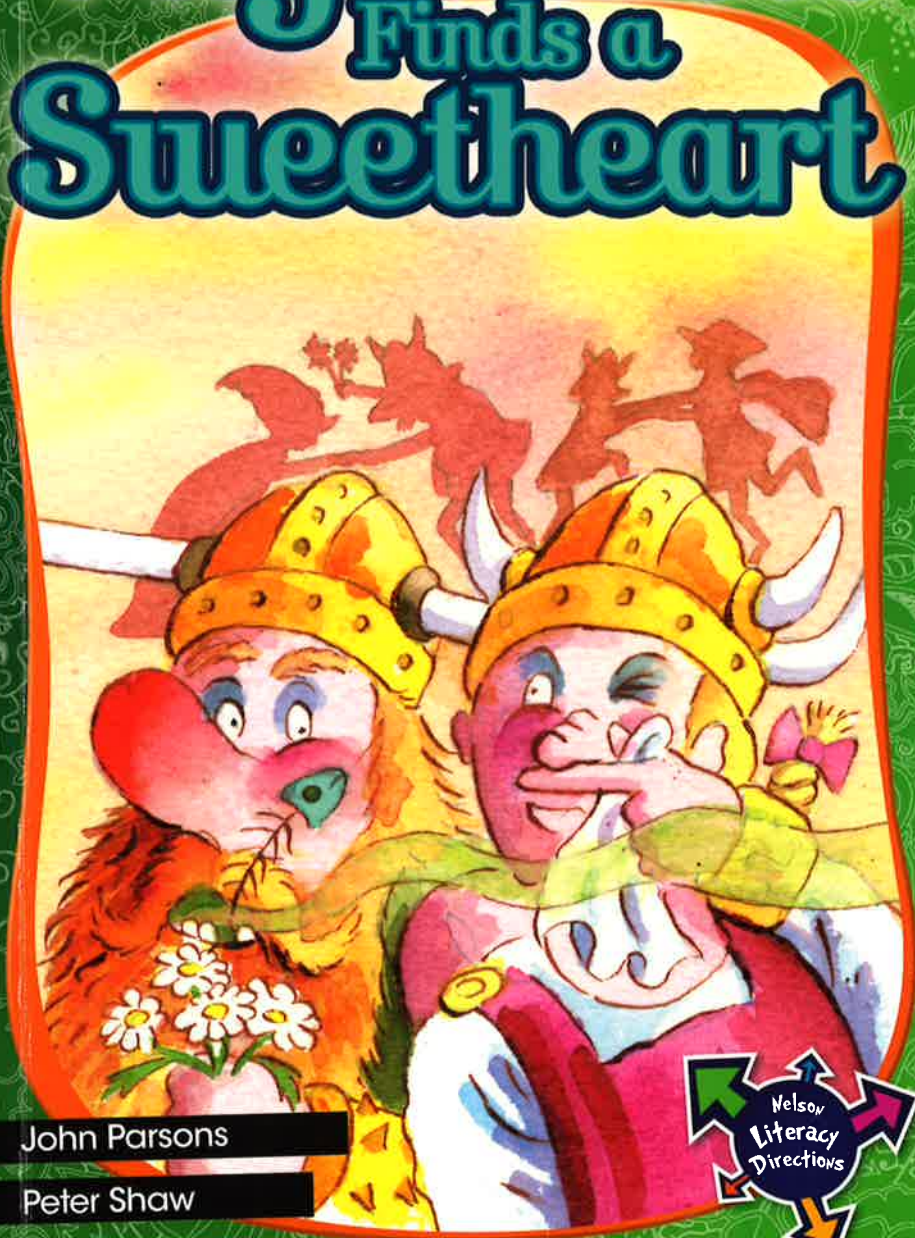
Vagnarok Finds a Sweetheart



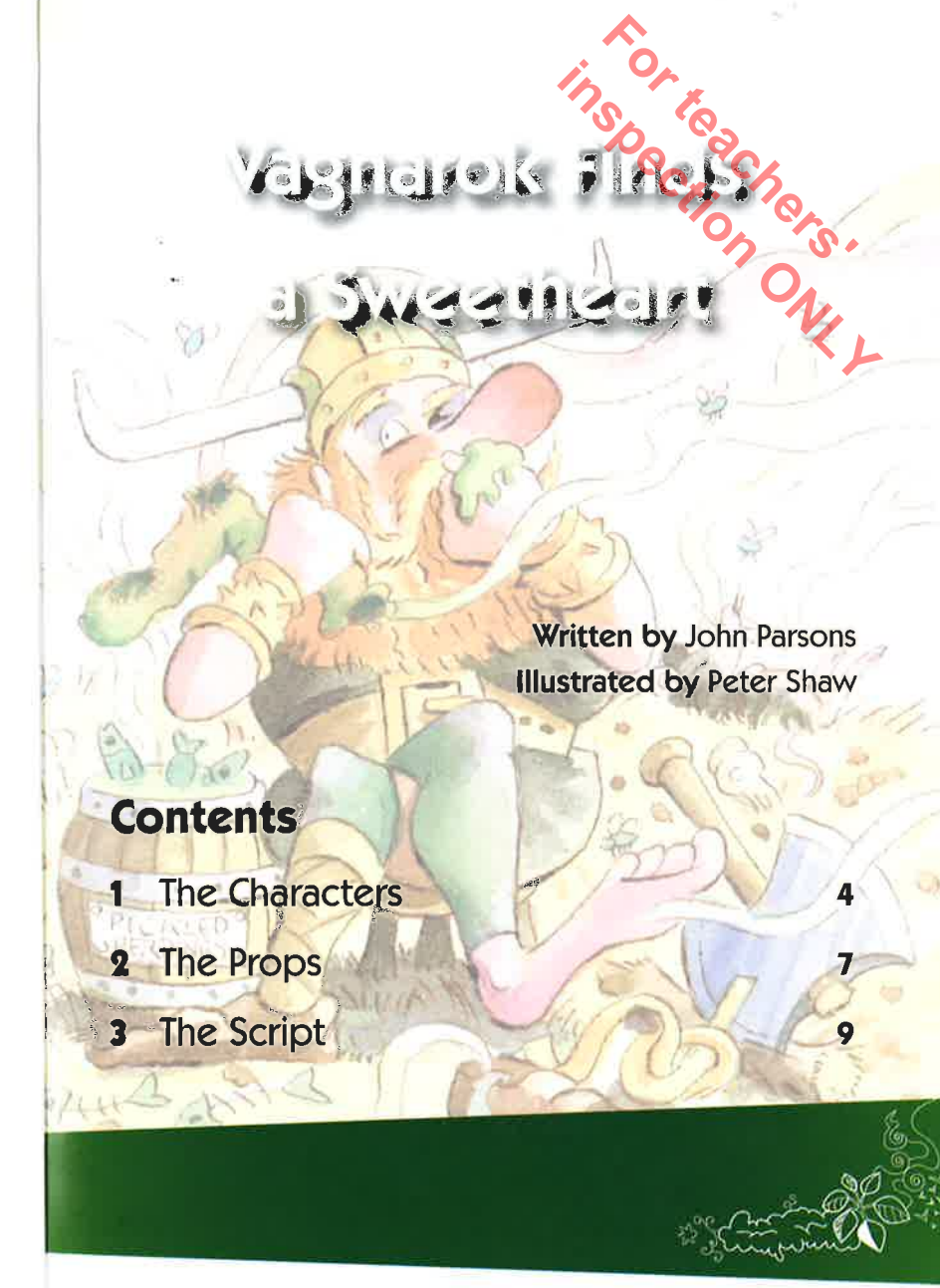
John Parsons

Peter Shaw

Nelson Literacy Directions

For teachers' inspection ONLY

Ragnarok Finds a Sweetheart



Written by John Parsons
Illustrated by Peter Shaw

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Meet the Characters

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Vagnarok

A badly behaved Viking chief.



Horrid

A female Viking warrior.



Torrid

A Viking warrior.



Gryme

A Viking poet.



Other Viking villagers

Male and female Vikings.



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POSTCARD

Dear Reader

Here's another fun play featuring all your favourite badly behaved Viking characters! This time, the Viking men find themselves in a bit of a pickle. They smell, are naughty and have rather unpleasant habits.

But for some reason, the girl Vikings don't want to be their dates for an important ball. I wonder why?

John Parsons
Author

The Viking Village



1. The fjord
2 & 3. Viking girls live here
4 & 5. Viking boys live here
6. The cooking pot

1 The Characters

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You will need the following characters:

NARRATOR

The Narrator is the character telling the story of the conundrum facing the Vikings. The narrator, responsible for setting the scene for the audience and recounting episodes of the story so everyone understands what's going on, is positioned on one side of the stage and may be a girl or a boy or even a teacher.

VAGNAROK

Vagnarok is a fearsome and ferocious Viking chief who is rather untidy and misbehaves quite a lot – but underneath all the fearsomeness and ferocity, Vagnarok has a good heart, and he is secretly worried about what everyone thinks of him!





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GRYME

Gryme is different from the other Vikings, because he thinks there are better things to do than waggling swords and swinging battle axes at each other. In fact, he is rather reluctant to fight at all, preferring instead to spend his time and talents waggling and swinging his pen, writing long poems called sagas about the other Vikings and their deeds.

TORRID

Torrid is one of Vagnarok's fearsome Vikings. He is a typical Viking who speaks loudly and with a deep voice, and feels much more comfortable waving a sword when he speaks!

HORRID

Horrid is also one of Vagnarok's fearsome Vikings. Her favourite accessory is a battleaxe, which she is very experienced at swinging (while everyone else ducks), and she is rather overbearing.



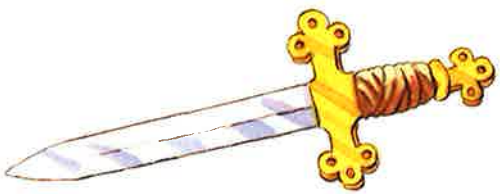
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KING BLØDENGUTS

King Blødenguts, whose name is pronounced "blood 'n' guts", lives in the next town and is the undisputed ruler of all the Vikings. He doesn't have a speaking part, but could sit on the side of the stage observing the action.

OTHER VIKINGS

The other Vikings can be boys or girls. There is one essential qualification for being a fearsome and ferocious Viking: you must pull a frighteningly horrible face when you say "Eeeew!" You may also wear a long, straggly, whiskery beard, but this is optional. If you haven't got one already, or you are a girl, you can make an artificial one using paper.



2 The Props

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To be convincing Vikings, you will need the following props:

- Sufficient cardboard swords for everyone (be careful that they aren't too pointy because Vikings with eye patches will encounter difficulties reading their scripts properly)
- A cardboard battleaxe (be careful that the edges aren't too sharp because Vikings without all their fingers and toes will encounter difficulties turning the pages properly)
- Viking costumes (a dirty one and a clean one with a flower for Vagnarok)
- Paper beards for those who want them (be careful that they don't look too realistic, otherwise sparrows, crows or Norwegian arctic foxes might build their nests in them)



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- A supply of colourful towels (if you can't find Viking towels made of reindeer wool or polar bear whiskers, ordinary ones will do)
- A classroom-sized collection of buckets and mops or brooms (hollowed-out mammoth skulls and birch brooms work best, but plastic ones will do).

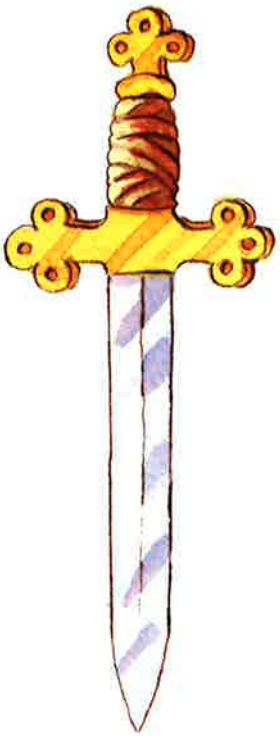


3 The Script

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NARRATOR:

(With a bold and booming theatrical voice, used alongside generous arm-waving and melodramatic flourishes.)



Now listen to this saga
Of Vagnarok the Vile.
Attracting ladies, he found out,
Required a change of style.

He hardly ever brushed his teeth,
Or washed between his toes.
He used old socks to wash his face,
His sleeve to wipe his nose.

No better were his Viking friends,
A smelly, stinking crew!
Whenever they turned up for tea,
The ladies all said ...