# Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Grade 6

**Answer Key**

## Thor and the Stolen Hammer

*A retelling of a Norse myth*

Thor, the Norse god of thunder, owned a hammer called Mjolnir. It was the mightiest weapon in all the worlds, and it protected Asgard, the home of the gods, from the giants who wished to destroy it. One morning, Thor woke, reached for his hammer, and found nothing. Mjolnir was gone.

Thor's roar shook the halls of Asgard. Loki, the clever and troublesome trickster, offered to investigate. He borrowed a magical cloak of falcon feathers from the goddess Freyja and flew to the land of the giants. There, Thrym, king of the giants, sat smiling. "Yes, I stole Thor's hammer," he said. "I have buried it eight miles beneath the earth. I will return it only if the goddess Freyja becomes my bride."

When Loki brought the news home, Freyja was so furious that her famous necklace snapped. She refused to marry a giant. The gods gathered to find a solution, and Heimdall, the watchman of the gods, offered one: Thor himself should dress as the bride. Thor groaned that everyone would laugh at him for the rest of time. Loki reminded him that without Mjolnir, the giants would soon rule Asgard. So Thor put on a bridal veil and Freyja's necklace, and Loki dressed as his bridesmaid.

At Thrym's wedding feast, the bride ate an entire ox, eight salmon, and every sweet meant for the women, then drank three barrels of mead. Thrym stared in amazement. "Freyja was so excited about the wedding," Loki explained quickly, "that she has not eaten for eight nights." When Thrym lifted the veil for a kiss and saw two blazing eyes, Loki added, "She has not slept for eight nights either."

Pleased, Thrym ordered his servants to bring the hammer and lay it in the bride's lap to bless the marriage. The moment Thor felt Mjolnir's handle, he laughed, tore off the veil, and rose to his full height. The giants' hall shook as he defeated Thrym, and Thor returned home to Asgard with his hammer in his hand.

## Part A: Multiple Choice

*Circle the best answer.*

1. Why was Mjolnir so important to the gods?

   **Answer: b) It protected Asgard from the giants.**

2. What did Thrym demand in exchange for the hammer?

   **Answer: c) Freyja as his bride**

3. Whose idea was it for Thor to dress as the bride?

   **Answer: a) Heimdall's**

4. How did Loki explain the bride's huge appetite?

   **Answer: b) Freyja had not eaten for eight nights.**

## Part B: True or False

*Write T for true or F for false.*

5. Freyja happily agreed to marry Thrym.

   **Answer: False**

6. Loki went to the wedding dressed as a bridesmaid.

   **Answer: True**

7. Thrym had the hammer placed in the bride's lap.

   **Answer: True**

## Part C: Characteristics of Myths

*Myths are traditional stories from a culture. They often include gods or supernatural beings with special powers, explain something about the world, and show what the culture valued.*

8. Identify two characteristics of a myth in this story. Give an example of each.

   **Sample answer: It includes gods with special powers, such as Thor, god of thunder, and his magical hammer. It includes supernatural beings and worlds, such as the giants and Asgard. (Also accept: magic objects like the falcon cloak; it reflects Norse values.)**

9. Compare Thor and Loki. How does Loki's cleverness help Thor get his hammer back?

   **Sample answer: Thor is strong and powerful but quick-tempered, while Loki is clever and quick-thinking. Loki's fast excuses about the bride not eating or sleeping keep Thrym from discovering the trick until the hammer is placed in Thor's lap.**

## Part D: Think and Explain

10. What does this myth suggest the Norse people valued? Use evidence from the story to support your answer.

**Sample answer: The Norse valued both strength and cleverness. Thor's strength defeats the giants, but only after Loki's quick thinking gets them close to the hammer. The story also shows they valued protecting their home, since the gods do something embarrassing to keep Asgard safe, and that they enjoyed humor.**