

# Norse Mythology Before Ragnarok



## Fantasy Committee

**Chairs: Rosalind Van Reken and Yara Shomali**

Welcome to DHWMUN II!

Our names are Rosalind Van Reken and Yara Shomali. I, Rosalind, participated in Model UN at Dorothy Hamm Middle School for three years. I am currently a freshman at Washington-Liberty High School and very active in the Marching Band. I hope to start Model UN at W-L this Spring. I, Yara, am relatively new to Model UN. I am an 8th grade student at Dorothy Hamm and involved in many clubs and activities. In my free time I love all things technology, and have an avid interest in the Gods and Goddesses of Norse Mythology. We are very excited to be chairing the Fantasy Committee on Norse Mythology before Ragnarok.

This is a Single Delegation Committee. Read the Background Guide. It is heavily based upon Norse *Mythology for Smart People*, but edited to be accessible to novices and well versed delegates alike. Research your assigned person and their point of view, and use the “questions to consider,” to help guide you. Your position paper should have a Cover Page, 1-2 pages in

length, double spaced and 12 point font. Additionally, please include a Bibliography or Works Cited Page using MLA format with your position paper.

### **Topic: Norse Mythology Before Ragnarok**

*(All references from <https://norse-mythology.org/tales/ragnarok/>)*

Long ago in the time before Ragnarok, the Norse Gods will see signs of the apocalypse coming. A great winter will come and the biting winds will blow snow from all directions. The sun will fail and the earth will plunge into bitter cold. This winter shall last for the length of three normal winters, with no summers in between. Mankind will become so desperate for food and other necessities of life that all laws and morals will fall away, leaving only the bare struggle for survival. It will be an age of violence and death as brother will slay brother, father will slay son, and son will slay father.

The wolves [Skoll and Hati](#), who have hunted [the sun and the moon](#) through the skies since the beginning of time, will at last catch their prey. The stars, too, will disappear, leaving nothing but a black void in the heavens. [Yggdrasil](#), the great tree that holds the cosmos together, will tremble, and all the trees and even the mountains will fall to the ground. The [chain](#) that has been holding back the monstrous wolf [Fenrir](#) will snap, and the beast will run free. [Jormungand](#), the mighty serpent who dwells at the bottom of the ocean and encircles the land, will rise from the depths, spilling the seas over all the earth in floods.

These convulsions will shake the ship Naglfar free from its moorings. This ship, which is made from the fingernails and toenails of dead men and women, will sail easily over the flooded earth. Its crew will be an army of [giants](#), who are the main forces of chaos and destruction. The ship's captain will be none other than

[Loki](#), the traitor to the gods, who will have broken free of [the chains in which the gods have bound him](#).

Fenrir the wolf, with fire blazing from his eyes and nostrils, will run across the earth, devouring everything in his path. Jormungand the serpent, will spit his venom over all the world, poisoning land, water, and air alike.

The dome of the sky will be split, and from the crack shall emerge a band of fire-giants. Their leader shall be [Surt](#), with a flaming sword brighter than the sun in his hand. As they march across a rainbow bridge to [Asgard](#), the home of the gods, the bridge will break and fall behind them. An ominous horn blast will ring out; this will be [Heimdall](#), the divine sentry, blowing the [Gjallarhorn](#) to announce the arrival of the moment the gods have feared. [Odin](#), leader of the gods, will anxiously consult [the head of Mimir](#), the wisest of all beings, for counsel.

The gods will decide to go to battle, even though they know what the prophecies have foretold concerning the outcome of this clash. They will arm themselves and meet their enemies on a battlefield called Vigrid. Odin will fight Fenrir, and by his side will be the [einherjar](#), the host of his chosen human warriors whom he has kept in [Valhalla](#) (a purgatory for great warriors), for just this moment. Odin and the champions of men will fight more valiantly than anyone has ever fought before. But it will not be enough. Fenrir will swallow Odin and his men. Then one of Odin's sons, [Vidar](#), burning with rage, will charge the beast to avenge his father. He will hold open the monster's mouth with a specially crafted shoe. Then he will stab his sword through the wolf's throat, killing him.

Another wolf, [Garm](#), and the god [Tyr](#) will slay each other. Heimdall and Loki will do the same, putting a final end to the trickster's treachery, but costing

the gods one of their best in the process. The god [Freyr](#) and the giant Surt will also be the end of each other. [Thor](#) and Jormungand, those age-old foes, will both finally have their chance to kill the other. Thor will succeed in felling the great snake with the blows of his [hammer](#). But the serpent will have covered him in so much venom that he will not be able to stand for much longer; he will take nine paces before falling dead himself and adding his blood to the already-saturated soil of Vigrid.

Then the remains of the world will sink into the sea, and there will be nothing left but [the void](#). [Creation](#) and all that has occurred since will be completely undone, as if it had never happened.

Some say that that is the end of the tale – and of all tales, for that matter. But others hold that a new world, green and beautiful, will arise out of the waters. Vidar and a few other gods – [Vali](#), [Balduur](#), [Hodr](#), and Thor’s sons Modi and Magni – will survive the downfall of the old world, and will live joyously in the new one. A man and a woman, Lif and Lifthrasir will have hidden themselves from the cataclysm in a place called the “Wood of Hoddmimir”, and will now come out and populate the lush land in which they will find themselves. A new sun, the daughter of the previous one, will rise in the sky. And all of this will be presided over by a new, almighty ruler.

### **Questions to Consider:**

1. What role does your character play in Norse mythology?
2. Who is your greatest enemy?
3. Who is your greatest ally?
4. What can your character suggest to alter the events prior to Ragnarok?
5. What seems to be the greatest danger to protecting the gods from destruction?

### Works Cited:

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### Visual:



**ODIN**



**FRIGG**



**THOR**



**BALDER**



**LOKI**



**HEL**



**FREY**



**FREYA**