

THE NORSE LEGEND OF THE MISTLETOE
Adapted from Norse mythology by Sarah Meservy

Premiered as a collaboration between Clever Octopus, Plan-B Theatre Company's "In the Classroom" Program and Salty Cricket Composers Collective; performed by students in fifth grade at Mary W. Jackson Elementary and Wallace Stegner Academy in December 2018.

This script is available for your use at no cost as long as the individual writers/adapters and source material are credited and no admission is charged.

CHARACTERS

STORYTELLERS (5)

BALDUR (BALD-er), god of light

LOKI, trickster god

FRIGGA, goddess of the sky

THOR, god of thunder

ODIN, god of war

HODER, god of darkness

SIF, earth goddess

IDUN (EE-ye-doon), goddess of fruit

MANI (MAH-nee), god of the moon

MISTLETOE

PLANTS

ANIMALS

EARTH

WATER

STORYTELLER 1: Mistletoe is a green plant that stays green all year round. It has become a common decoration for winter holidays. Tonight, we are going to tell you the Norse legend of the mistletoe.

STORYTELLER 2: Odin, the god of war and Frigga, the sky goddess had a son named Baldur. Baldur, the sun god was so bright and beautiful that he lit up the whole world.

STORYTELLER 3: He was smart, strong, and incredibly good looking.

BALDUR (struts across the stage confidently and greets the ASSEMBLED GODS): Well, hello there.

(EVERYONE except LOKI swoons)

LOKI: Seriously? He's not even that great.

STORYTELLER 3: Everyone loved Baldur. Everyone, that is, except for Loki. Loki, the trickster god, was jealous of all the attention Baldur got.

STORYTELLER 4: Frigga loved her son very much. She did not want anything to ever hurt him.

FRIGGA: Be careful! Those rocks are very sharp!

BALDUR: I'm fine, Mom.

FRIGGA: Watch out for the branches of that tree!

BALDUR: I'm fine, Mom.

FRIGGA: Are you wearing sunscreen?

BALDUR: I'M FINE, MOM!

STORYTELLER 1: Frigga was so worried about something happening to Baldur, that she went around and made every living thing swear an oath to never harm him.

FRIGGA: Do you promise to never hurt Baldur?

PLANTS: We promise!

FRIGGA: Do you promise to never hurt Baldur?

ANIMALS: We promise!

FRIGGA: Do you promise to never hurt Baldur?

ROCKS: We promise!

STORYTELLER 2: Every living thing, that is, except for one tiny little plant. Frigga forgot to ask the mistletoe.

MISTLETOE: I can hurt whoever I want!

LOKI: Interesting.

STORYTELLER 3: Now that Baldur was basically invincible, all the other gods thought it was fun to throw things at him just to watch them bounce harmlessly away.

ODIN: Watch this! (throws something at BALDUR)

(The GODS gasp in shock until they realize BALDUR is unhurt.)

THOR: My turn! (throws something else)

SIF: Let me try! (throws something else)

STORYTELLER 4: There was one god who couldn't join in the fun and games. Old Hoder, god of darkness was blind. He listened to all the laughter and wished he could see well enough to throw something at Baldur.

HODER: I wanna play.

STORYTELLER 1: Devious Loki got an idea. (LOKI laughs maniacally) He picked up a little sprig of mistletoe and brought it to Old Hoder.

LOKI: Here, friend. I have something for you to throw. I'll guide your aim.

STORYTELLER 2: Hoder threw the mistletoe. It flew through the air and hit Baldur right in the heart!

BALDUR: ARGH! (dies)

FRIGGA: Nooooo! My baby!

STORYTELLER 3: Frigga's tears fell onto the mistletoe, turning into tiny white berries.

STORYTELLER 4: Baldur's spirit went to the underworld. The whole world mourned Baldur's death. It became dark and cold.

STORYTELLER 1: After months of darkness, the underworld finally released Baldur. He came back to life, bringing warmth and light back to the world.

STORYTELLER 2: The winter solstice marks the longest night of the year. After the solstice, the days begin to get longer.

STORYTELLER 3: In ancient times, people celebrated the solstice as a way to remember that though the winter was long and dark, soon spring would come again.

END OF PLAY