Pop leads Josh inside. 'Here you are, my boy,' he says. 'I bought you a present.'

'Vikings: Pirates of the North,' reads Josh as he tears off the wrapping. 'Wow! Thanks, Pop.'

Pop often talks about exciting stuff like Vikings, and Spitfires, and Redcoats, though not usually when Nan's around.

> a Birl Warred to, and mouse we augur no. to handle a sword and fight like a warrior. maps or compasses. to handle a set often mention female At age ten, Viking boys were usually At age ten, there are usually sent away to learn the ways of the warriors sent away to real with swords, spears and battle-axes. Boys were also taught shipbuilding, and how to navigate using shippullumer and now to maribat the stars and coastal landmarksteted Viking boys even learned how

is the ultimate conflict the Ice Glants and Viking Gods, and marks the end of the world. Viking warriors who the end of the spent eternity in a cold place. died in peo spent electricity in a convipiace. Viking children didn't go to school but if viking children dian key so action but girl wanted to, she would be taught how

over a thousand years later, with many of their words still in use in our language, including even the names of the days of the week that are named after the Norse Gods. Tuesday is Tyr's day. Wednesday is Wodin G Odin's day, Thursday Is Thor's day and Frid is Freya's day.

In spite of their well-earned reputations as ruthless barbarians, the Vikings were also great craftsmen, the best shipbuilders the world has ever seen, and such excellent sallors that they discovered America 500 years before Columbus, without the The Vikings' Influence is still felt today

to read and write the Rune characters of the Viking alphabet. Those who could were believed to have magical powers and were well respected in Viking society.

out of the dense mists of the frozen northlands a From out of the dense mists or the moden northlands a and years ago came a race of fierce pirates and warriors thousand years ago came a race of herce pirates and warriors called the Vikings. They salled in Longships from the flords of called the Vikings mer same in wingoings from the Scandinavia to pillage and terrorise Northern Europe. Scandinavia to pillage and terror car written europe. A Viking's greatest wish was to die in battle with his sword

A Viking 5 Breatest worth and the carried by beautiful young

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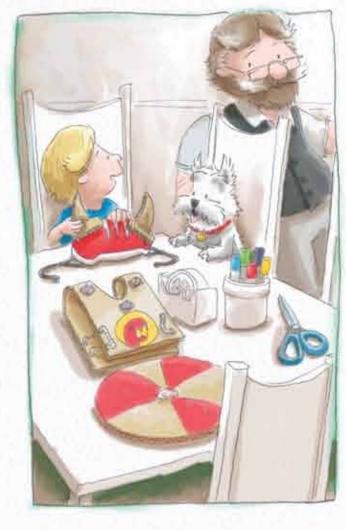
Thand so his soul would be carried of reading young men called Valkyries, up in the clouds to Valhalla, the half women called vality ica) up could spend all eternity fighting of fallen heroes. There he could apenn an elemity righting ind partying, with a magic cauldron always full of tasty stew

6

ANXWHURSUS-FHA







'I've decided to become a Viking, Pop,' Josh declares in the morning.

'They're the bravest, fiercest warriors the world has ever seen, afraid of nothing and no-one — just like me!' 'From now on I'm to be known only as K-nut, Prince of the Vikings.'







'Now I'm a Viking, Nan, I need to follow the Norse gods, too — Odin and Thor and the rest.'

'Oh, your grandfather and his nonsense!' grumbles Nan. 'Why don't you take your wheelie board thing to the park instead.'