

RAGNAR'S ATTACK

The spear's tip glinted in sunlight as it flew toward me and I entered battle time – every second became a minute and each minute, an hour. I stepped left as the bright point neared me. I let it pass my head and snatched the shaft with my right hand.

The man who'd thrown it turned and ran. I twirled the spear, reversed it and threw it one motion. It sped true and plunged into the back of the fleeing man's right leg. He screamed and fell.

I walked to him. He wore a steel cap and a leather jerkin. He whimpered in pain and reached behind him to touch the spear's shaft. He whimpered again, trying to decide if he should try to pull the spear free.

I saved him the trouble. He screamed when I jerked it out. He rolled onto his back and held his hands out to me. I pulled Leg-biter from its sheath. The cowardly soldier opened his mouth to beg for his life, but I acted before he could speak. I plunged my father's father's sword through his heart.

I am Ragnar, Viking. I am sword-thegn to Gofraid and sail in his longship Barden. We raid with Ivar the Boneless. Loot and slaves will be mine after Gofraid declares a sharing. Land is promised to me after we reach the English city of York. Something moved beneath a bush to my left. I whirled and faced the threat.

A pale girl with dark hair recoiled beneath branches covered with red berries. She was a child, nine or ten. Her thin limbs trembled when I took a step toward her. I stared into her eyes – black eyes, not blue like mine. I pointed my sword at her. Blood dripped from its tip.

1. Find the sentence “*It sped true and plunged into the back of the fleeing man’s right leg.*” As used in this sentence, what does the word **true** mean? Write your answer in the box below.

(In this sentence, true means . . .)

2. Use the comment feature and define the word “jerkin.” Place an image of a jerkin like one that might have been used during that time period, in the box below.

3. Why does Ragnar believe the man is a coward? What **evidence** does he use to support his belief?

4. Use your research skills to decode this sentence, ***I am sword-thegn to Gofraid and sail in his longship Barden.*** In your own words, what this sentence mean?

What does a longship look like? Describe what it looks like in the box below using at least three sentences.

5. What is “Leg-biter?” Highlight the sentence in **YELLOW** that **tells you what leg-biter is**.

6. Why is Ragnar on this raid? Highlight everything Ragnar expects to receive as a result of this raid using a **GREEN highlighter**.