



This text is from *Viking Vik and the Longship* by Shoo Rayner.

Viking Vik and the Longship

The dragon glowered as Vik, Freya and Wulf stood hypnotised by its hard, staring eyes.

“She’s beautiful,” said Vik, running his hand down the dragon’s long neck. “I wish we could sail on her.”

“Me too,” Wulf and Freya echoed.

Just then, Jarl Magnusson came striding down the jetty. “A Longship is no place for children,” he boomed.

“Oh, Dad!” Freya fluttered her eyelashes. She knew how to get around her father – but it didn’t work this time.

“Longships are definitely not for girls!” he told her firmly.

Vik longed to sail on a Longship. Just like his father, the sea flowed in Vik’s blood.

“Will we ever get to sail on her?” he sighed.

Jarl Magnusson smiled, and spoke gently to Vik. “When you are strong enough and old enough to understand the dangerous ways of the ocean, then you can sail aboard a Longship.”



The three children want to watch the Dragon set sail, so they go to the ‘skerries’, a group of small islands that reaches out into the sea. It is low tide, and they get to the furthest island, where they wait for the Dragon to sail past.



“We’re quite far out, aren’t we?” Freya’s voice trembled slightly. “Are you sure we’re safe out here?”

“Not scared, are you?” Wulf taunted.

“No ... just as long as we can get back safely.”

It was a while before the sleek vessel sailed into view.

“Hurray!” the children cheered madly.

Jarl Magnusson stood at the prow. He waved his arms and called to them.

“What did he say?” Vik asked.

“Don’t know,” said Wulf. “I couldn’t hear him.”

“Never mind,” said Vik, as he carried on cheering. “Go, *Dragon*, go!”

The children strained to see the last of the *Dragon* as she sailed over the grey horizon and out onto the big, wide ocean.

When they turned to go home, the three children had the shock of their lives. They had waited so long for the *Dragon* to sail past, they hadn’t noticed that the tide had turned and the sea level had begun to rise. Some of the little islands were already underwater!

Name:

Class:

Date:

Viking Vik and the Longship

1

What is the *Dragon*?

2b

1 mark

2

Look at the first five lines of the text. What do you find out about the *Dragon's* appearance? Write **two** things.

1

2

2b

1 mark

3

Think about the whole text. What does Vik think and feel about the *Dragon*? Explain and support your answer fully, using the text to help you.

2d

2 marks

4

Freya flutters her eyelashes to *get around her father*.
In what way is she trying to *get around* him?

2a

1 mark

/ 5

Total for this page

- 5 Look at this section of the text. **Find** and **copy one sentence** which shows that sailing runs in Vik's family.

"Oh, Dad!" Freya fluttered her eyelashes. She knew how to get around her father – but it didn't work this time.

"Longships are definitely not for girls!" he told her firmly.

Vik longed to sail on a Longship. Just like his father, the sea flowed in Vik's blood.

"Will we ever get to sail on her?" he sighed.

1 mark 2a

- 6 Why does Vik need to be older before he is ready to sail on a longship?

1 mark 2b

- 7 **Tick** to show whether the following sentences about Jarl Magnusson are **true** or **false**. The first one has been done for you.

| | True | False |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------|-------|
| He doesn't think the <i>Dragon</i> is a place for children. | ✓ | |
| He is unkind to Vik. | | |
| He knows a lot about sailing on the ocean. | | |

1 mark 2d

- 8 a) What was Freya worried about?

1 mark 2b

- b) Was she right to be worried? Explain your answer as fully as you can, using the text to help you.

1 mark 2d

/ 10
Total for this test