

The Little Viking Band

Here is a story for younger readers to enjoy.
It's about a group of Viking children and their
adventure at sea in a Dragon boat.



You can read the story or you could watch the video. It's read by Mike who wrote the story specially for Zest.

Can you draw some pictures to illustrate different parts of the story? Each drawing will be worth ten Zest points. We can use the illustrations you do and add them to the text of the story to make an online book for younger readers to enjoy or for their parents, carers or older brothers and sisters to read with them.

Here are some of the Viking musical instruments like the ones Eric's uncle Olaf had on the Dragon Ship.

Can you match the sounds with the instruments?

Listen to the video and when you've guessed, send your answers to Alison Zest for points.



Bone flute



Hide and frame drums with beaters of twig and felt



Jaw harps



Giant War horn (Cow)



Pipes



Ceremonial rattles

The Little Viking Band

One day in the Land of Ice and Snow the children of the Sea Village were bored. " There's nothing to do... they cried .. but count the snow flakes !"

But one little girl who's name was Freya had an idea " Look there " she pointed " Down there on the beach "

The children looked and there on the beach was a boat carved from wood with a big dragon's head sticking out at the front. " Let's take her out to sea !" said Freya.

" We can't " said a little boy called Eric " That's my Uncle Olaf's boat. He's sailed all the way over the Whale's Road from Denmark where he lives to visit his brother my dad"

Now Eric's Uncle Olaf was a Viking and he'd sailed over the sea which the Vikings called " The Whales Road"

" Oh he won't mind " said Freya " And we'll be back before he misses it "

So the children ran down to the boat and pushed her out off the sand and into the sea. When it was deep enough they all climbed aboard.

They grabbed the long paddles called oars and opened up the big striped sail and set out onto " The Whale's Road " the deep grey sea.

Now the children were so busy pulling on the oars and laughing they didn't notice that the wind had got behind the big striped sail and taken them a long way out .

They looked back at their village on the beach and it seemed very small and far away.

" What ever shall we do ? " said Ulf one of the littlest boys. "I'm scared " said Hilda one of the littlest girls. " We must make some noise so the grown ups will hear us and come to our rescue" said Freya loudly

They looked around the boat for things to bang together but the boat was empty apart from a big wooden box that Uncle Olaf sat on when he was rowing .

The children opened the box and inside were all manner of strange objects. Drums and whistles and big horns and other even stranger things. These were Uncle Olaf's collection of Viking musical instruments that he'd collected on his travels. Each one of the children grabbed an instrument and began blowing, banging and twanging.

Suddenly out of the sea at the side of the boat a huge whale crashed to the surface and blew up a big spurt of water.... " Who is making this beautiful music ?" said the whale .. " I've never heard anything like it !"

" It's us " cried the children " We are lost at sea and we want to go home !"

" Oh is that all " said the whale... " I think I can help with that ..but keep playing that lovely music while I get you home"

And so the whale got behind the boat and with her huge head pushed them through the sea all the way back to the beach

The children jumped off the boat and ran on to the sand turning to wave thank you to the whale who blew up another spout before waving her tail fin and vanishing down into the deep grey sea.

" I can't wait to tell my dad and Uncle Olaf about our adventure and being saved by a whale !" said Eric

" Oh I wouldn't bother ..said Freya " they'd never believe you "....

