

Read each myth or legend carefully. Use details from the passage to answer the questions in complete sentences.

## Thor's Duel with Hrungnir



In the magnificent halls of Asgard, home to the mighty Æsir gods, life often brimmed with valor, but the realm of the giants, Jotunheim, always posed a threat. One day, Odin, the Allfather, rode his eight-legged steed Sleipnir into Jotunheim. There, he met the formidable giant Hrungnir, known for his immense strength and boastful nature. Hrungnir challenged Odin to a horse race. Odin accepted, and the race led them back to Asgard, where Hrungnir, defeated but still defiant, was invited to feast in Valhalla.

Once inside Valhalla, fueled by potent mead, Hrungnir's arrogance swelled. He boasted loudly, threatening to carry off Freya and Sif and to move Valhalla itself. The gods grew uneasy. It was then that Thor, the thunder god, returned. Hearing the giant's insolent threats, Thor's eyes flashed with fury. He raised his mighty hammer, Mjölfnir, ready to strike. However, Hrungnir reminded Thor that it would be cowardly to attack an unarmed guest. A duel was arranged to settle the matter.



Hrungnir returned to Jotunheim to prepare, gathering his stone shield and a massive whetstone as his weapon. Thor, meanwhile, stood ready, his hammer Mjölfnir humming with power. He knew this would be a battle for the honor of Asgard and the safety of the gods.

The two formidable foes met on the battlefield. Hrungnir hurled his colossal whetstone at Thor. But Thor, swift as lightning, met the attack by throwing Mjölfnir with all his might. The hammer struck Hrungnir's whetstone mid-air, shattering it. One fragment lodged deep in



Thor's forehead, while Mjölfnir continued its flight, smashing Hrungrnir's skull and sending the giant crashing to the ground, defeated.

Though victorious, Thor was left with the whetstone shard painfully embedded in his head. The gods tried remedies, but it remained. This myth highlights Thor's unwavering courage and the constant, dangerous struggle between the Æsir gods and the formidable giants of Jotunheim, reminding all of the high cost of protecting Asgard.



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### COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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(1) Who is the main character in this myth, and what is their role?

- (A) Odin, the Allfather and king of the gods.
- (B) Thor, the thunder god and protector of Asgard.
- (C) Hrungrnir, the boastful giant with a stone heart.
- (D) Loki, the trickster god and Odin's blood brother.

(2) After Hrungrnir threatened the gods in Valhalla, Thor had to defeat him in a

\_\_\_\_\_.

*— continue writing on the lines below*

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(3) What does the word 'insolent' mean as it is used in the story?

- (A) respectful and polite     (B) brave and courageous
- (C) rude and disrespectful     (D) quiet and shy



**(4) Why did Thor challenge Hrungrir to a duel instead of just letting the other gods handle the giant's boasts? What does this tell us about Thor's role and values in Asgard?**

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**(5) What do you think this myth was trying to explain or teach? How does its message connect to something in real life today?**

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