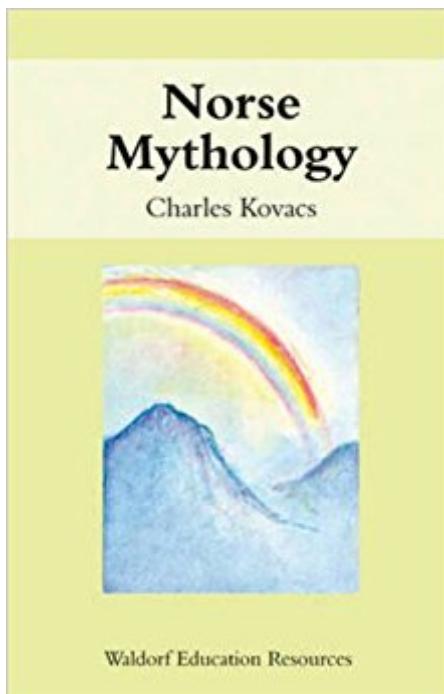


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# Norse Mythology: Waldorf Education Resources



## **Synopsis**

Here is a retelling of the stories of Norse mythology recommended for the Waldorf curriculum, class four (ages 9 to 10). Included are myths on creation, Odin and Mimir, Thor and Thialfi, Idun, Sif, and Loki.

## **Book Information**

Series: Waldorf Education Resources

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Age Range: 9 - 10 years

Grade Level: 4 - 5

## **Customer Reviews**

Charles Kovacs was born in Austria. He left his native country in 1938 at the time of the Anschluss and joined the British Army in East Africa. After the War, he settled in Britain, and in 1956 he took over a class at the Rudolf Steiner School in Edinburgh, where he remained a class teacher until his retirement in 1976. He died in 2001. His extensive lesson notes have been a useful and inspiring resource material for many teachers. He is the author of Parsifal and the Search for the Grail (2002); Ancient Greece (2003); The Age of Revolution (2003); and Ancient Rome (2005).

We're hooked on Norse myth thanks to this book! I read these fantastical stories to my young daughter and we both love the drama and humor. I haven't encountered any of the content another reviewer found objectionable, We're not all the way through the book yet (savoring it!). But, my daughter and I know that one characteristic of mythology is that different storytellers retell the same myths in different ways, adding or omitting details and even changing some elements. That is part of

the richness and complexity of mythology, whether it's Norse, Greek, Roman, African, or of other origin. Talking about the reasons storytellers might have for altering a myth can be part of coming to understand the role of mythology in an an immensely diverse human civilization.

This is a gem for a Waldorf class teacher to have. Charles Kovacs' approach to storytelling has really helped me grasp the delight of Norse Mythology. My class has been loving hearing the stories and I have felt very confident telling them because of this book. This should be on every 4th grade Waldorf teacher's bookshelf!

and that is what is was meant to be. If you want succinct stories of the appropriate length for daily main lessons with Kovac's characteristic depth & inclusion of other curriculum content wrapped within the tale, then you will not be disappointed. This is an inexpensive, and valuable asset to the teacher.

This is not a children's level book. It is supposed to be for ages 9-12 as part of the Waldorf school's curriculum, but it is adult or young adult level. While the renditions of the myths and the included sagas look ok, there are so many better translations for this and other age groups that this is a very poor choice. My main objection though is the Christian introduction. The author says that when men could no longer see god, they worshiped the angels as gods. But the "true" god wanted to help the people who couldn't see him, so he allowed the worship of the angels. ???? He claims that the Norse gods are angels, which is incorrect, insulting and just wacky. Another book that they sell is even worse, "Norse Mythology and the Modern Human Being", contains many references to Atlantis and Lemuria and refers to Odin as an archangel. I don't know much about the Waldorf schools, but if they promote this nonsense, I would question other books that they use, particularly in the science area.

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