**Teaching Material: "The Mighty Vikings - The Sacrificial Feast"**

**The book *"The Sacrificial Feast"* can serve as a key to unlocking the Viking world.**

The Vikings are a significant part of our shared cultural heritage. Whether one is born here, has roots elsewhere, or is unfamiliar with Danish cultural heritage, the Viking fascinates. These rough warriors who ventured out into the world to plunder, raid, and bring back gold, treasures, and slaves have been a story retold many times since.

But who were they when they weren’t raiding, and what was life like here in the North? *"The Sacrificial Feast"* brings students into their daily lives, into moments of difficulty, and moments where great choices must be made. Students are introduced to Freja and Sigurd and, alongside them, can marvel and reflect on what the Viking world looked like.

*"The Sacrificial Feast"* can spark students' curiosity to learn more. It’s an excellent work for learning to seek information and investigating other cultures to compare them with our own times and culture.

*"The Sacrificial Feast"* consists of eight chapters with working questions. The questions are based on reading the chapter, followed by group reflection and research.

### **Introduction**

*"The Sacrificial Feast"* tells the story of a real village. Many, many years ago, there was a village near Tissø in West Zealand. Vikings lived there. Perhaps even two children named Freja and Sigurd. What might their lives have been like?

**Research in groups and present to the class:**

* What do we know about the village near Tissø?
* What were Vikings?
* Where did the Vikings live?

### **Chapter 1 – The Bow in the Sky**

*Read the chapter and discuss in groups before presenting in class.*

* What can you tell about the children’s daily lives based on the text?
* How do they live?
* How do they sleep?
* What does the village look like? (Describe the village!)

**The Weather:**

* What do you think Freja and Sigurd see in the sky?
* Why do you think they become afraid?
* What would you do if you saw something unfamiliar?
* What can Freja and Sigurd do?
* Research weather omens through history!
* Describe the illustrations!

### **Chapter 2 – The Winter Market**

*Read the chapter and discuss in groups before presenting in class.*

* What can you tell about the town where Sigurd and Freja live?
* Who else lives there?
* What do they work with?
* How do you think people looked?

**The Gods:**

* What do you know about the Norse gods?
* Research what Thor’s hammer is!
* What gods do we believe in today?
* What does it mean to sacrifice?
* How do we worship gods today?

**The Market:**

* What is a market? And what is a market today?
* How do we trade today?
* Describe the illustrations in this section!

### **Chapter 3 – The Sacrificial Site on the Hilltop**

*Read the chapter and discuss in groups before presenting in class.*

**The Sacrificial Site:**

* What does the sacrificial site look like?
* What do Freja and Sigurd think about their horse being sacrificed?
* Who is present at the sacrificial site?

**The Sacrifice:**

* Why does the horse need to be sacrificed?
* How does the sacrifice take place?
* What do you think is most different in this chapter compared to your own life?
* Discuss faith and superstition!
* Describe the illustrations in this section!

### **Chapter 4 – A Great Sacrifice**

**The House and the Family:**

* What can you tell about the house Sigurd and Freja live in? (Describe their house!)
* How is it different from the houses you live in?
* What does winter mean for the family?
* What are they afraid of?
* Consider in your group what you would do if you lived in the village.
* Describe the illustrations in this section!

### **Chapter 5 – Hail, Hail Our Gods!**

**The Sacrificial Hall:**

* What does a sacrificial hall look like?
* What happens during a sacrificial feast?
* Who is present at the sacrificial feast?
* “Gold, incense, and myrrh” were offered when the shepherds found Jesus in the stable in Bethlehem. Why did the shepherds offer these?
* Describe the illustrations in this section!

### **Chapter 6 – At the Sacrificial Site**

* Who is present at the sacrificial site?
* The children’s father has a special role; what is it?
* What is sacrificed to the gods, and why?
* Do you think it works?
* Describe the illustrations in this section!

### **Chapter 7 – The Howling Wolves**

* What can you tell about Sigurd and Freja’s daily lives based on the chapter?
* Why is Freja afraid of the wolves?
* Research why people are afraid of wolves!
* The wolf is the ancestor of the dog. How do we use dogs today?
* Is there anything today that we are equally afraid of?
* Describe the illustrations in this section!

### **Chapter 8 – The Greatest Sacrifice**

* Have the sacrifices worked so far?
* How do people know if the gods are satisfied with the gifts?
* What is to be sacrificed now?
* How did the Vikings view being sacrificed?
* Read the story of Abraham and Isaac in the Old Testament!
* Consider in your group what Sigurd and Freja could do differently.
* Describe the illustrations in this section!