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Leif the Lucky

By Ingri & Edgar Parin d'Aulaire

1. When and where does this story begin?
(It began thousands of years ago, in the land of Norway.)
2. Describe Erik the Red. Why did he leave Norway?
(Erik the Red was a Viking. He was strong, wild-tempered, and quarrelsome. He left Norway when he was banned for his bad temper. He moved to Iceland, where he found a wife, but was forced to leave again. He eventually found Greenland and moved there with his wife and three sons.)
3. Who was Erik the Red's youngest son?
(His youngest son was Leif, Erik's son, or Leif Erikson.)
4. How many ships traveled with Erik the Red to the new land, Greenland?
(Twenty-four ships traveled with him, each full of people, cattle, and food.)
5. What did the spirits do when they saw the dragon head on the prow of the ship? Who survived?
(They sent huge waves that sank many of the ships. Erik's ship and thirteen others survived.)
6. Who are the Norse gods mentioned that Leif and his family worshipped? Do you know another, similar, name for one of them?
(They worshipped one-eyed Odin, the allwise, and red-bearded Tor, the thunder god. Another name for Tor is Thor.)
7. What did Leif learn from the traveling merchant/sailor named Bjarne?
(He learned there was a forest-clad land still further west of Greenland.)
8. When Leif had grown to a young man, why did he return to Norway?
(He had heard of the great king, Olav Trygvason, and wanted to sail to his court.)
9. Why was Leif allowed to stay at the king's court?
(He had brought many strange gifts that pleased the king, and the king saw he was a well-mannered youth.)