



Edda: A Little Valkyrie's First Day of School

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Edda is a Valkyrie (an ancient Norse goddess who guides and protects heroes). She lives in a magical land called Asgard where she has everything she wants. Well . . . almost everything. Edda wants to find a friend her own age. Edda's wise papa knows of a place where she can make friends: a place on Earth called "school."

School is very different from Asgard. Edda's not sure if she likes it at first. But then she remembers that Valkyries are very brave. Even little Valkyries. Edda learns that being different is what makes her special and she begins to make new friends.

A Christy Ottaviano Book

Edda: A Little Valkyrie's First Day of School Details

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Author : Adam Auerbach

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From Reader Review Edda: A Little Valkyrie's First Day of School for online ebook

BC Batcheshire says

This little book is adorable! A story about an independent child adjusting to structure and tasks in a classroom.

The illustrations and tale definitely elevate this children's book to a modern classic.

Megan Frangia says

Picture Book

This book is about a little Valkyrie who decides to come to school on Earth. It was nice, but not spectacular. Could be good for talking about new beginnings and discussing what things helped Edda feel comfortable when she tried new things.

Karen says

Edda is a young Norse Valkyrie who lives in Asgard (those of you who are fans of Thor know this place). She wants to find kids her own age, so her father takes her to school on Earth. She finds that school is very different. No one wants to be her friend and school is so much different that being in Asgard. She is homesick, so during writing time she shares about her home. Edda discovers that maybe school isn't such a bad place after all.

I really liked this story. Everyone is worried the first day of school, especially early elementary kids. Even mighty and brave Valkyries have fears. I liked how the author compared Asgard with school. The pictures seem to be pen and ink drawings and fit the story very well. The font is smaller so I would classify this as a "read with me" for younger students.

Kimberly says

Love the concept, but the execution felt lacking to me.

Jadyn Palosaari says

This book is very cute and can be very useful to read at the beginning of the school year or when you a new student so that they can have their fears and nervousness validated. This also can teacher students that we all come different places and it is cool to learn about others past homes and lives. Genre: Fantasy Year: 2014

Jasmine says

Adorable story of bravery and making friends, but mostly what I'm getting here is that school is the worst.

Ksenia says

What an utterly charming book! I mean, a little Valkyrie attending school for the first time? That can be nerve wrecking for anybody and even little Valkyries are super brave! The art for this book just makes me want to hug it!

Aylea says

Edda is the littlest Valkyrie and loves her life of adventure in Asgard, but she also wants to make friends her own age. When she tells her father this, he lets her go to earth and go to school with other kids. She has never been away from Asgard, but her papa assures her that even little Valkyries can be very brave. School is hard at first, especially when she is trying to make new friends and learning to follow the rules, but soon Edda finds a way to make friends in class and to do well in her new school.

Edda's story can help children starting school learn about some of the hard things about school, but that they can have an adventures and be very brave like Edda. Although school may not be portrayed as fun, the positive messages about friendship and being brave though it can be difficult remain prevalent. While Edda has some Norse mythology themes, it's only a hint rather than an introduction to this mythology system. Still, many children will be able to relate to being scared of the first day of school but learning to be brave anyway.

Garrett says

Did that mother at the end just let her child fly away with a stranger on an eight-legged horse? BETTER PARENTING, PEOPLE.

Julia says

A very fun picture book that works for both Norse mythology lovers and kiddos who are getting ready to go to school.

Monica Edinger says

From a first-week-of-school read-aloud blog post:

This distinctly amusing twist on the "being at a new school" trope was a big hit last year so it is top on my

list to use again this year. Edda lives on Asgard, one of the homes to the Viking gods and when her father decides she needs some experience with other kids her age (there being none on Asgard), he sends her to school on Earth. The result is a gently humorous look at Edda learning how to bring her own self into a new and very different place. This is a book that is definitely one that can be best appreciated by my students --- some of them have already studied the Vikings and others know about them. And Edda's fish-out-of-water feeling is one they probably are all feeling on that first day of school. Not to mention, it is quirky and different --- I mean, are there any other first-day-of-school books inspired by Wagner's Ring series (as this evidently was)? Though that it was doesn't matter a wit; I don't know Wagner's operas firsthand, but do know that this little off-beat story is a great one to start my class out on their 4th grade year.

Jen Wills says

So cute.

Miranda says

I love this book! A little Valkyrie from Asgard decides that she'd like to make friends her own age. Her father takes her to Kindergarten on Earth, and at first fitting in isn't easy. When she shares her love of Asgard with her class, though, she connects with the other kids for a happy ending.

The illustrations are adorable, and the concept is fresh and fun. Edda is awesome!

Arminzerella says

Edda is the littlest Valkyrie in Asgard. When she tells her Papa that she'd like to meet kids her own age, he takes her to school down on Earth. School is pretty different from Asgard, and Edda has some trouble adjusting to it. Just when she's thinking maybe she won't go back, the class is given a writing assignment. Edda writes a story about Asgard and her classmates LOVE it. Soon Edda has lots of friends. When she returns home and tells the creatures of Asgard about school, and they're fascinated, too, and the next day... "Edda brings a surprise along. 'School looks so different from Asgard,' whispers the dragon. 'Don't worry,' says Edda, 'Dragons are very brave.'"

As a first day at school story this works very well. Edda has to learn that school and home are different places and that different rules apply. Kids who are just starting school will be able to relate to her experiences. And Edda's story is told in a fun way -- because she comes from Asgard, she has all kinds of interesting and magical adventures. There's only the barest nod to Norse mythology. Readers familiar with some of the gods and stories may be able to recognize characters within the illustrations, but otherwise, they're just a pretty backdrop for Edda's tale.

Thabata says

This book has its ups and downs. To educate a child in Norse mythology this might be a good entry point.

According to the dictionary, a Valkyrie is the one “who conducted the slain warriors of their choice from the battlefield to Valhalla (a hall in which heroes killed in battle were believed to feast with Odin for eternity.)”.

Edda derives from Snorra Edda in Icelandic, or simply Edda, which is a work of literature written in the 13th century. Although “Edda” has no etymological agreement one of its hypothesis is very interesting and pertinent to this story, for in Latin, “edo” means “I write”.

If enticing one to learn more about Norse Mythology and Icelandic literature is not enough, perhaps adding with gusto the beautiful opera “Die Walküre” (The Valkyrie) by German composer Wilhelm Richard Wagner should be. The three acts are powerful and moving, based on (you guessed it) Norse Mythology and the Snorra Edda.

On a more simpler note, straightforward, I should say, it deals with the difference between school and Asgard (home, for Edda) and how a child learns about different costumes and rules.

Now, the amazing cultural possibilities being set, the downside of this book lies on a few things that it lacked. Not exploring the richness it could convey is a big one for me (but I’ll let it slide because it was not set as the intention of the book). Also, the unity of words, illustrations and colouring are just not that good.

Although the background for this is amazing, what the author presents... is not. This is just an okay book. It is fine, which is a shame.
