



# THE VIKINGS

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## Families and Feuds



Here you see a picture of a happy Viking family. Unfortunately family life for the Vikings was not always quite as peaceful as this. Feuding -quarrelling and fighting between families or even whole tribes was common, sometimes with drastic or even fatal consequences!

**Read the story below. In small groups act out the feud between Elric and Olaf, and invent your own ending- peaceful or otherwise!**

Elric and Olaf were good friends and treated each other like brothers, which is not surprising considering that they *were* in fact half brothers!

One day however, after a hard day in the fields a quarrel began which was to test their friendship to its limits.

'Phew', said Elric, wiping the beads of sweat from his brow, 'all this ploughing is hard work- the first warm day we have in ages and you decide to plough the field- typical!'

'Oh quit your moaning' replied Olaf moodily 'anyone would think you'd done all the hard labour! You've had about four breaks to my one and then you wandered off chatting to Agar and left me to do all the tough bits myself!'

'Well that *is* a laugh- why is it then when I came back, you were sat under the tree with your new girlfriend- what's her name- Freya?'

'I was not' shouted Elric 'and besides she is *not* my girlfriend!'

'She *is* too! Everybody in the village is talking about it and they're sniggering behind your back. Fancy picking her. Freya Fatnose!'

'How dare you insult my cousin like that! Take back your words or I'll strike you down where you stand, Olaf the Bigmouth!'

'I do not insult your cousin', replied Elric, trying to contain his temper. 'Her nose is so huge she can smell a moose stew cooking in the next village!'

By this time Elric and Olaf's bickering was beginning to attract quite a large crowd of villagers, including the Village Elder. Ulrich the Wise.

They all gathered round the two men and they *all* had something to say...