

Join the Legends of Orkney Book Club

BOOK CLUB KIT

Discover games and activities, maps, book club questions and more from Alane inside this kit to help make your book club a success!



Invite
Alane to
your book
club!





Welcome

Welcome to the fantastic world of Orkney, where magical portals, gods, and witches run wild! In this book club kit, you'll have resources aplenty to guide your middle school and high school readers on their journey through the *Legends of Orkney* series by Alane Adams.

This kit is intended to provide you with everything you'll need to deepen the reading experience of this powerful series. You'll find that the *Legends of Orkney* provides you with a unique opportunity to engage all of your readers, including those struggling and/or resistant to other texts. The story, while focused on personal discovery and friendship, is a fast-paced fantasy story that promises to hook readers from the first page to the last!

In this guide, you'll find the following resources:

- Map of Orkney
- A Fun Introduction to Norse Mythology
- Games & Activities
- Book Club Questions
- About the *Legends of Orkney* series
- About Battlekasters
- About the Author

We are excited to invite you into this wonderfully immersive story. It's a trip worth taking!



Map of Orkney



**Read the first two books in the
Legends of Orkney
middle grade fantasy series**

THE RED SUN

Sam Baron is about to get the shock of his life. His substitute English teacher claims to have turned his old teacher into a lizard. But that's not the weirdest thing to happen: Sam's life turns upside down when a strange dwarf named Rego arrives and claims Sam is from a magical realm called Orkney.

When his friends are taken prisoner, Sam embarks on a journey to Orkney through a stonefire to rescue them. But when he arrives, he discovers an ancient curse has turned the sun a poisonous red and threatens to destroy the land. With only a young witch girl to guide him, Sam must choose between saving his friends or stopping the red sun from consuming the land.



Legends of Orkney™ Middle Grade Series

Kalifus Rising

Sam Baron just freed Orkney from the ravages of the Red Sun—but now, imprisoned by Catriona, leader of the Volgrim Witches, Sam finds the darker side of his half-god, half-witch heritage released, and he fears he might destroy what he saved. Unable to resist the witches' enchantments, Sam has become their most potent weapon, and is leading an army of monstrous men against Skara Brae.

Sam's only hope for salvation lies with his three best friends and a mystical artifact known as the Moon Pearl. Keely travels north in search of the pearl, while Howie prepares for the gathering onslaught. Leo seeks a powerful artifact in the underworld, and faces an ancient evil that could be an even greater threat than Catriona and her cronies.

As Sam's friends rush to save him, other forces are at work in Orkney's shadows—forces that could help free Sam, or condemn him to the darkness forever.



Legends of Orkney™ Middle Grade Series

Legends of Orkney™



Perfect for fans of *Harry Potter*, *Percy Jackson* and *The Chronicles of Narnia*, *Legends of Orkney™* is a spell-binding series of middle-grade adventure fantasy novels that draws on Norse mythology. *The Red Sun* and *Kalifus Rising* are the first two books in the *Legends of Orkney* series.

Learn more at www.legendsofarkney.com.

"Alane Adams is the brilliant mind behind the Legends of Orkney™ book series."

Hypable

"Percy Jackson meets Norse mythology in this captivating new adventure."

Foreword Reviews

"This series will do well with the Percy Jackson crowd and fans of Norse mythology."

School Library Journal

"This fast-paced, adrenaline-inducing tale is overflowing with spellbinding thrill, and every young reader will finish the last page with their imaginations full of fantastical literary satisfaction."

Brit + Co

"...Alane Adams will do for [Orkney] what... the fantasy series Outlander has done for the Western Isles."

The Scotsman

"A high fantasy tale that maintains a quick pace..."

Kirkus Reviews

"[An] exhilarating adventure"

The Reading Room



A Fun Introduction to Norse Mythology

When these three god-brothers felt strong enough, they killed Ymir despite the fact that he was responsible for creating pretty much everything. Ymir's blood flooded the world they lived on, called Asgard. This flood drowned all of the gods, except two. Sad face.

But gods being gods, they grew again in numbers. Soon, there were as many as before Ymir's death. And, well, because they were gods, they went ahead and created seven more worlds using Ymir's flesh for dirt; his blood for the Oceans, rivers and lakes; his bones for stone; his brain for the clouds; and his skull for the heavens. Sparks from Muspelheim (fiery realm of...you get it) flew up and became stars.

In an effort to create minions (because gods need their minions), one day while the gods were walking around, they found two tree trunks. They transformed the trunks into the shape of humans. Odin gave these humans life, Vili gave them mind, and Ve gave them the ability to hear, see, and speak.

The gods named them Ask and Embla and built the kingdom of Middle-earth (Midgard) for them. Probably because they knew how vicious their fellow gods were, the gods placed a gigantic fence made of Ymir's eyelashes around Middle-earth. That's called recycling, isn't it?

Important notes

- Middle Earth, also referred to as Midgard, is Earth.
- Thor is Odin's son.
- Loki is not Odin's son, but is welcomed, for a time, in Asgard as Thor's brother.
- Then Loki makes mischief and gets booted out.

About Ragnarök

Ragnarök refers to a series pretty much the scariest set of events you could imagine. We're talking "end-of-the-world" type stuff. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Huge battle that ends with Odin, Thor, Freya, Heimdall and Loki's deaths
- Earthquakes
- Holes in the ground opening up
- Hurricanes
- Volcanoes
- Drought
- Massive flood (pretty much covers the entire world)

On the flip side, however, all is not lost. The good news is that afterwards, the world resurfaces anew and fertile, the surviving gods meet, and the world is repopulated by two human survivors. Wahoo!

Sources


1. <http://www.cliffsnotes.com/literature/m/mythology/about-norse-mythology>
2. <http://thenorsegods.com/norse-mythology-a-brief-synopsis/>
3. <http://www.godchecker.com/pantheon/norse-mythology.php>



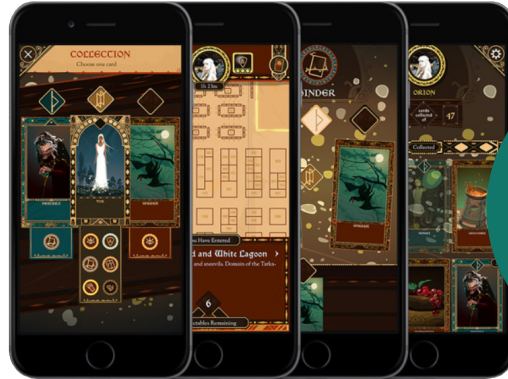


Games & Activities

From video game lovers to artists to rising entrepreneurs, the *Legends of Orkney* series provides a wide assortment of games and activities to suit a variety of interests!

- **Writer:** write an alternate ending or an exposé about a character, setting or scene from the series
 - **Journalist:** create a news story that summarizes the book. Include a headline, as well as one hand-drawn image w/ a caption to accompany the story
 - **Film director:** create a movie trailer
 - **Trivia expert:** design a jeopardy game or “Guess Who?” game
 - **Foodie:** bake cupcakes inspired by your favorite characters from the book
 - **Video gamer:** build a scene from the series in Minecraft or create your own version of Battlekasters
 - **Artist:** create a 2D rendition of a scene or draw character cards
 - **Young entrepreneur:** create a *Legends of Orkney*-inspired product to sell
 - **Actor:** adapt a portion of the book into a script and perform a brief skit
 - **Musician:** write lyrics for a theme song that reference events and characters in the book
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BattleKasters



Bring
BattleKasters to
your school! Visit
www.battlekasters.com
for more details.

The live-action adventure based on the *Legends of Orkney*[™] book series that turns live events into dynamic game boards.

BattleKasters is a mobile game based on the *Legends of Orkney*[™] book series! This transmedia platform evokes interest and excitement in the novels by integrating players with the characters.

Thousands have downloaded and played BattleKasters already and the game is driving players to want to learn more about *Legends of Orkney*[™]. Whether BattleKasters gamers win a copy of the book, purchase a copy or just get hooked on the idea, interest around *The Red Sun* has been picking up speed with every fan con attended.

Press coverage

hypable 


THE SCOTSMAN

Psychology Today 

*“The game gives an added scavenger hunt of sorts to your fancon experience, and has inspired many, especially kids, to read *The Red Sun*.”*

Video Game News Source

“BattleKasters will allow us to expose our fans to the areas of the show that we think are interesting...by engaging them in a fun format, it’s a point of entry to get them interested in something that ultimately is a jumping off point for how they interact with readership.”

Lawrence Settembrini, Director of Strategic Accounts, ReedPOP



Book club Discussion Questions



Bio

A portrait of Alane Adams, a woman with long dark hair, smiling and wearing a brown leather jacket and large gold hoop earrings. The name 'ALANE ADAMS' is overlaid in a white box on the right side of the image.

ALANE ADAMS

Alane Adams is a social entrepreneur, philanthropist, professor, award-winning author and an avid literacy advocate. After spending decades balancing budgets for the family business, she founded the Rise Up Foundation focusing on global poverty issues and particularly their effect on children. A Masters Degree in Diplomacy and several field visits with UNICEF later, Alane witnessed firsthand the importance of education and literacy in the battle to end extreme poverty and shifted the focus of her foundation to improving and supporting literacy efforts. Her passion for literacy and children came together when her 12-year-old son Alex challenged her to write a book he could read. The *Legends of Orkney*[™] book series was born and she hasn't stopped writing since. *The Red Sun* and *Kalifus Rising* are the first two books in her *Legends of Orkney*[™] middle grade book series. In 2015, Alane teamed up with Artifact Technologies to create BattleKasters, a live-action adventure mobile game based on the *Legends of Orkney*[™] book series. In addition, Alane created an award winning picture book series, which includes: *The Coal Thief*, *The Egg Thief* and *The Santa Thief*.

She is a proud member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, the International Reading Association, The Literacy Research Association, and the California Reading Association.

When she's not writing or teaching, she can be found hiking somewhere in the world or hanging out with her three boys.



**Alane Adams would love to
join your book club discussion!**

Invite Alane at:



www.alaneadams.com

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www.legendsoforkney.com

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www.riseupfoundation.org

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