



Interesting words!

In her conversation with Laura – and in *Loki: A Bad God's Guide to Making Enemies* – Louie uses some really interesting words, such as **parody, censor, forbidden, anarchic, myth, elaborate, insult, immortal...** What do they mean? Find out together. Do they have a favourite? Challenge the children to use these words in their talking and writing.

Telling a story

Louie writes the words and draws the pictures for the Loki books. She says one of her favourite pages of this book is p. 31 - Vinir the Elf. Put an image of this page onto the big screen. What do the children notice? What is Vinir wearing? What is his hair like? How does Louie make it seem like he is powerful? Next put up an image of the page with 'The Characters' at the start of the book. In their talking partners invite the children to talk about their favourite character drawing.

Can the children create their own comic book character? Provide paper and pens. Encourage them to use arrows, labels, zigzag lines... Can they come up with an interesting name for their character? Make time for sharing their pictures and ideas together.

Find out about Elves

Louie says the question she would ask herself is "Tell me more about Norse Elves?". She explains that Elves appear in different traditions and folklore. Set the children on a fact-finding mission about Elves. Have prompts to get them started – What do they look like? How big are they? What did they do?

How are the children going to find out this information? Are there any books in the school library or local library about Elves? After they have discovered some facts, they could record them in pictures and words – like a comic book!

Activities for *Loki: A Bad God's Guide to Making Enemies*

By **Louie Stowell**

Friendship

One of the themes in *Loki: A Bad God's Guide to Making Enemies* is friendship. Loki spends a lot of the book trying to mend his friendship with Georgina. Near the end Loki says, "Mortal friendship truly WAS an onerous and tedious maze of unknown complexities."

Check out the vocabulary – onerous, tedious, and complexities – make sure everyone understands what Loki means. Ask the children if they agree with what Loki says about friendship? How do they feel about friendship? Is it easy? Is it complicated sometimes? Does it take some effort? Why do they think friendship is important?

Exploring comics

Louie shares an example of a comic she read as a child - called OINK! Collect some extra comics for your reading area. Introduce a few minutes of 'Comic Time' each day/week, for choosing a comic to read individually or in pairs.

Discuss comics. What is the difference between a comic and a chapter book, or picture book? What do they notice about the structure of a story in a comic? Where does the speech go? Are things described in words or pictures? What about sounds? Are there similarities between comics and *Loki: A Bad God's Guide to Making Enemies*? Everyone is different, what kind of reading do they prefer – chapter books, books with pictures, comic books, non-fiction books?