



Dear Brother,

I am writing tell you of my despair at the current situation here at Lindisfarne. In the early hours of the morning, our sacred monastery was brutally attacked by those from the Norse lands, who were searching for gold and other precious items. Now, our beautiful building has been left ransacked and cherished items have been taken, including: our plates, crosses and even our manuscripts!

It all began when I was awoken in the early hours of this morning by cries echoing in the chambers. I swiftly lumbered out of bed I rushed down stairs towards the distant screams. Nervously, I opened the chapel doors to witness those shameful Norse men trashing our holy alter and shattering the ornate carvings of our Lord. In a flash, I was joined by my fellow brothers, who tried, unsuccessfully, to stave off the attackers. Instead, the Norse men turned on my brothers, plunging their swords into their hearts, and leaving them for dead. I was quivering in the corner, petrified that I may soon suffer at the hands of these criminals too.

Now the clean-up operation has begun. So far, we know we have lost four bibles, countless goblets, a number of plates and seven crosses! On top of all that, we have had our beautiful, ornate tapestries ripped from the walls and muddled with their footprints. Our stained glass window featuring the last supper has been completely smashed with rocks and stones.

I am still struggling to believe what has happened. I know the Norse men have gone for now, but for how long? I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw those terrifying bearded warriors rampaging through the corridors with all of our precious (and holy) items in their hands. I've heard from others in Britain that these pests have been not just raiding monasteries, but villages too! Will anyone be able to stop their attacks?

I am sending this letter as a warning, brother, that they may come to you very soon. Be alert, ensure that all of your precious items are locked away safely, and protect yourself too – find somewhere to hide where you cannot be found until the atrocity is over. There is no point in fighting with them – they are just too powerful!

I wish you a safe and happy few months. I will write again soon!

Yours sincerely

Brother John



Questions

DIFFICULTY:   

1. According to the text, where did the incident take place?

2. According to the text, what were the Norse invaders looking for?

3. Look at paragraph 2.

What two incidents did John witness when he opened the chapel doors?

1. _____
2. _____

4. What did John do when the Norse men turned on her brothers?

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| ran away | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| hid | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| shouted for help | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| fought back | <input type="checkbox"/> |

5. Look at paragraph 3. Find and copy one word which means the same as 'destroyed'.



Questions

DIFFICULTY:   

6. 'I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw those terrifying warriors rampaging through the corridors with all of our precious items in their hands'.

What does the word 'rampaging' mean in this sentence? Tick one.

- walking ☐
- tiptoeing ☐
- skipping ☐
- charging ☐

7. Look at paragraph 4. What other crime have the Norse men committed?

8. Look at the final paragraph. What three pieces of advice does John give to his brothers?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Answers

DIFFICULTY:   

1. According to the text, where did the incident take place?

Lindisfarne

2. According to the text, what were the Norse invaders looking for?

Gold and other precious items

3. Look at paragraph 2.

What two incidents did John witness when he opened the chapel doors?

1. Norse men trashing the holy alter.

2. Norse men shattering the ornate carvings of the Lord.

4. What did John do when the Norse men turned on her brothers?

ran away ☐

hid ☒

shouted for help ☐

fought back ☐

5. Look at paragraph 3. Find and copy one word which means the same as 'destroyed'.

smashed

Answers

DIFFICULTY:   

6. 'I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw those terrifying warriors rampaging through the corridors with all of our precious items in their hands'.

What does the word 'rampaging' mean in this sentence? Tick one.

- | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| walking | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| tiptoeing | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| skipping | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| charging | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

7. Look at paragraph 4. What other crime have the Norse men committed?

Raiding villages

8. Look at the final paragraph. What three pieces of advice does John give to his brothers?

1. Be alert
2. Lock away precious items
3. Protect yourself

Also accept: hide/do not fight

