

Danegeld by Rudyard Kipling

9 Fierce and brutal Vikings sailed to Britain in longboats,
17 'Let's go Viking!' they yelled so they did,
26 With axes high and a glint in their eyes,
32 Many Britons just ran and hid!

40 When a new wave of Viking raids started,
46 Poor King Ethelred struggled to cope,
55 So Danegeld he paid to try and stop raids,
62 But Vikings came back in their boats.

68 The Danegeld tax couldn't contain them,
74 And Ethelred got called 'the un-ready',
81 "It's not funny, they're after more money!
85 I'm fleeing abroad instead!"

92 In the end some Vikings liked Britain,
97 They enjoyed the British way,
106 They sent for their wives and started new lives,
111 Vikings were here to stay!



Quick Questions



1. How did Vikings travel to Britain?



2. Which word means the same as 'leaving a place of danger'?



3. Why do you think 'many Britons just ran and hid'?



4. How did some of the Vikings change?

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Answers



1. How did Vikings travel to Britain?
Accept: they came in (long)boats.



2. Which word means the same as 'leaving a place of danger'?
Accept: 'fleeing'.



3. Why do you think 'many Britons just ran and hid'?
Accept reference to the Vikings being 'fierce and brutal' and having 'axes', so the Britons feared them.



4. How did some of the Vikings change?
Accept an explanation focusing on the change from coming only to 'go Viking', look for new land and being brutal, to settling with family because they liked the British way of life.