

# ACTIVITY GUIDE



## *Soul Riders: Jorvik Calling*

**SPOILER ALERT:** These activities contain details about the story in *Soul Riders: Jorvik Calling*! Stop reading now and go finish reading the book!

# LITERATURE: DESCRIPTIVE LANGUAGE

**SPOILER ALERT:** These activities contain details about the story in *Soul Riders: Jorvik Calling!* Stop reading now and go finish reading the book! If you haven't read the entire book yet, STOP reading this and go finish the book! All others, gallop in!

## Sensory Description

Below are some examples of the wonderful descriptive language in *Soul Riders: Jorvik Calling*. Which sense is targeted in each description? List sight, hearing, smell, taste or touch.

- "The house that was now theirs...was slightly crooked, with mullioned windows, twisted vines climbing up the walls, and overlapping, cinnamon-colored shingles on the slanted roof." (p. 23)

Sense: \_\_\_\_\_

- "The smell of warm pine needles filled her nose as she rode along the winding roads..." (p. 35)

Sense: \_\_\_\_\_

- "She had woken with a start to the sound of a car engine. Tires against gravel, birds singing loudly." (p. 42)

Sense: \_\_\_\_\_

- "Lisa gently touched his muzzle. It was silky smooth and warm." (p. 56)

Sense: \_\_\_\_\_

Practice sensory writing by describing your home, favorite outdoor spot, mode of transportation, or pet/animal. Try to use all of your senses!

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## Similes

The author also uses similes to help readers experience the story. A simile is a comparison between two things using the words like or as. Similes help readers experience a story by comparing things or events to something readers already know. Here are some examples from *Soul Riders: Jorvik Calling*:

- “Everything felt stiff and hard to adjust to, like when you first put on a new pair of jeans.” (p. 32)
- “A melody, at once both strange and familiar, flowed through her like a trickling brook.” (p. 60)
- “Over the next few days, time stretched out like rubber bands, snapping back whenever Lisa least expected it.” (p. 61)

Below are the first parts of some similes from *Soul Riders: Jorvik Calling*. Use your imagination to complete each simile.

- “Despite her fears, there was something about these girls. Lisa liked being with them.” (p.46)

It kind of felt like... \_\_\_\_\_.

- “(Sabine) was tall and powerful and prowled along the bushes...” (p.48)

just like: \_\_\_\_\_

- “The driver had rolled the tinted window down enough for them to see that it was a man.” (p.47)

...His face had sharp features that looked as if: \_\_\_\_\_



# LITERATURE: CHARACTER TRAITS

We all have character traits, the many different things about us that make us unique. When writers create characters, they tell and show us the characters' traits through the story. These traits can be external (such as appearance and personality) and/or internal (such as thoughts and beliefs). The reader's job is to infer a character's traits from what the character does, says, and thinks.

For example, near the beginning of *Soul Riders: Jorvik Calling*, the author describes Lisa: "Regular old Lisa in her worn-out jeans and an old hoodie, with her headphones around her neck or resting snugly over her tousled, bright-red hair." (p. 10) What does this tell us about the character? The author tells us directly that Lisa has bright red hair. She wears old, comfortable clothes, so we can infer that comfort is more important to her than fashion, and she isn't worried about what others think of her appearance. She wears headphones, so we can speculate she probably likes to listen to music—it's important to her. She can also use her headphones and hoodie as a sort of defense to keep other people away.

## Identifying Character Traits

Read the following excerpts from the story and identify the character. Then, write some character traits you think each excerpt shows.

- "The girl asking for a canter had messy, tawny hair and an open, lively face that brimmed with curiosity and mischief." (p. 19)

Character: \_\_\_\_\_ Traits: \_\_\_\_\_

- "She was tall and lanky, and walked slightly bent over as if she hadn't quite grown accustomed to her height yet." (p. 18)

Character: \_\_\_\_\_ Traits: \_\_\_\_\_

- "He was actually really pretty, with an unruly forelock and mischievous air. Now that he was looking directly at her, his big brown eyes felt almost...human? If she didn't know any better, she would have thought he was trying to tell her something." (p. 38)

Character: \_\_\_\_\_ Traits: \_\_\_\_\_

- "Lisa's thin hand was enveloped by one of his enormous gloves, marked by years of stable work. His handshake was firm." (p. 38)

Character: \_\_\_\_\_ Traits: \_\_\_\_\_

## Fantasy Casting

You have just been hired as the casting director for a movie version of *Jorvik Calling*. Think of a celebrity to cast in each role. Imagine pitching the role to the celebrity telling them why they're the perfect actor to play the part. Use what you know about each character's traits to inform your imaginary conversation.

# Trading Cards

Create a trading card for your favorite Soul Rider. You can use the Character Trading Card template on page 6. Based on what you know about the character, add three more items to the trading card (e.g., favorite color or song, hobbies, heroes). If some of the information is not included in the story, use what you know about the character to make an educated guess. You can cut out your completed trading card and “lamine” it with packing tape.

For an extra challenge: Create a trading card featuring you!



**Character Name :**

**Appearance:**

**Horse:**

**Power:**

**Symbol:**

**Likes:**

**Dislikes:**

**Character Name :**

**Appearance:**

**Horse:**

**Power:**

**Symbol:**

**Likes:**

**Dislikes:**

**Character Name :**

**Appearance:**

**Horse:**

**Power:**

**Symbol:**

**Likes:**

**Dislikes:**

## Identifying Character Traits

Write a few sentences or a paragraph using descriptive language and similes to describe:

- Your perfect Jorvik wild horse. *(As an example, read how Lisa describes Starshine on page 55.)*

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- A Soul Rider power. *(Read how Lisa describes her power on page 60.)*

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### BONUS: DESCRIPTIVE LANGUAGE WRITING WORKSHOP

Try this online creative writing workshop with author Helena Dahlgren:  
<https://starstableentertainment.com/creative-writing-workshop>  
Lessons 2–6 will help you use your senses to create vivid descriptive text.



# LITERATURE: CHARACTER ARCS

In most stories, the main character goes through changes during the course of the story. This is called a character arc. (An arc is a curve, like a rainbow.) Characters can change on the outside, such as changing their appearance or behavior, so that others can see the change. Some changes are internal, like thoughts and feelings, known only to the character and the reader.

Characters change for many different reasons. Sometimes outside forces, like going to a new place or meeting new people, prompt a change in the character's point of view and understanding. Sometimes the forces are internal, like growing older.

## Lisa's Character Arc

Look for evidence in the story that shows Lisa's character arc. For example, see this excerpt from the beginning of the story: "The stable began to sway. Lisa had to lean against a stall to keep from falling down. Then a horse nuzzled her hand. It was too much. Panic raced through every part of her body. She could feel one of her arms tingle as if it were starting to grow numb." (p. 39) This description of Lisa's feelings helps us understand her extreme distress around fear of horses.

Later in the story, we read, "They were flying, as though they were one body. Lisa felt the humid air against her cheeks. She was intensely aware of Starshine's movements underneath her. She sensed that she was grinning from ear to ear." (p. 68) What a difference! This change in Lisa is a turning point in the story.

How does Lisa feel about herself at the beginning of *Soul Riders: Jorvik Calling*? How do you know?

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How does she feel about herself near the end of the story? How do you know?

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What caused Lisa to change how she feels about herself?

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What big changes have you gone through in your life? How do you feel about these changes?

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# Character Change Journal

Choose a character OR imagine yourself as part of the story in *Soul Riders: Jorvik Calling*. Write three journal entries: one from a time near the beginning of the book, one from the middle of the story, and one from the end. Show how you or your chosen character change and develop over the course of the story.

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# LITERATURE: SETTING

The setting of a story is the time and location where events take place. *Soul Riders: Jorvik Calling* takes place in a very special setting: the fictional island of Jorvik. The setting is integral to the story, meaning this story couldn't take place anywhere else. The special magic of the Starbreed horses and the Soul Riders only exists here.

Here are some descriptions of Jorvik from early in the story as Lisa arrives on the island:

"High mountains, gently rolling hills, and a rich shade of green that almost looked photoshopped. The vast blue sea around the island seemed endless. It brought to mind the colorful fairy tales she'd read when she was little." (p. 10)

"She couldn't help gasping as she took in the dark, majestic firs blanketing the rolling green hills and the sides of the towering mountains. The landscape was somewhat similar to Norway's, Lisa thought. However, it was even vaster and wilder, as if Jorvik's colors had all been magnified by a Technicolor filter. Lisa began to wonder whether she had ever truly seen real colors before. It felt like she hadn't." (p. 14)

"She opened her window and stuck her head out. She breathed in the distinct smell she would later think of as the Jorvik smell, a mix of salt, soil and something almost sweet." (p. 14)

As you read, look for descriptions of the more specific settings on Jorvik, such as Lisa's house, the town of Jarlaheim, and the Jorvik Stables.

## Compare and Contrast the Setting

Write about three ways in which the island of Jorvik is similar to where you live and three ways in which it is different. Here are some aspects of places to consider: landforms, weather, plants, animals, buildings, roads and transportation, and people. Later in the story, we read, "They were flying, as though they were one body. Lisa felt the humid air against her cheeks. She was intensely aware of Starshine's movements underneath her. She sensed that she was grinning from ear to ear." (p. 68) What a difference! This change in Lisa is a turning point in the story.

## Design

Create a travel brochure, a website, or a Yelp review for the island of Jorvik or the town of Jarlaheim. Convince people to visit by describing the settings. Draw some pictures of what you think the island or the town looks like based on descriptions in the book.



# MAP THE SETTING

On the map on page 11, create symbols to mark the settings from this story, for example the Jorvik Stables, the girls' homes, and the Secret Stone Circle. You can also mark events that take place across more than one setting, such as the Light Ride. Create a map key showing what each symbol means.



## MAP KEY



# SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

## Emotional Words

Each quote below contains a word that describes a feeling or an emotion. For each emotion, write at least ten synonyms, either single words or phrases, that could be used in place of the bold word. A few examples have been done for you. Then, circle your favorites and use them in your own conversations and writing.

<p>"It was...a riding accident. I was okay, but my mom wasn't. That's why I'm afraid...." (p. 52)</p>	<p>"I've never seen [Starshine] this happy! Not since he sprinted about in the meadows as a tiny colt!" (p. 68)</p>	<p>"This was where they must part and go their separate ways on their individual missions. They were sad to be splitting up and gave each other a long hug before setting off." (p. 187)</p>	<p>"She was lost, angry at the entire world, filled with a strange restlessness that sometimes made her see red." (p. 144)</p>
<p>Afraid Scared Terrified Frightened Shaking like a leaf</p>	<p>Happy</p>	<p>Sad</p>	<p>Angry</p>



## What would you do?

The characters in *Soul Riders: Jorvik Calling* go through some tough situations and difficult times. Below are some specific problems that the characters face. Think about how the characters dealt with each situation and then write about what you would do in a similar situation.

Lisa moved to the island of Jorvik with her father. She had never been there before and didn't know anyone. Imagine you are moving to a new place where you've never been before. How would you prepare for the move? What might you do when you arrive?

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When Lisa was new at school, Alex and Linda were the first to befriend her. If you went to a new school, what three things would you want to happen on the first day to make you feel welcome and comfortable? How could you help a new student who came into your class feel welcome?

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Both Lisa and Anne have to deal with possibly losing their beloved horses. Think of someone or something that you miss. What makes you feel better when you miss them?

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# MYTHOLOGY OF JORVIK

Myths are traditional stories that explain natural events or origins, usually involving the supernatural. The prologue to this book tells the story of the goddess Aideen, a mythological tale about the beginnings of Jorvik. Throughout the story, we learn more about this myth, as well as the story of the Soul Riders.

## Defining the Myths

<i>Myth</i>	<i>Myth of Aideen</i>	<i>Myth of the Soul Riders</i>
What is a myth?	"One day a star fell from the sky, and out of its strong, flaming glow came a girl on horseback." (p. 7)	
Characters		
Symbol(s)		"The sun, the star, the moon, and the lightning bolt are ancient symbols often associated with the legend of the four Soul Riders." (p. 87)
Actions and influences (What do they do? How do they help?)	"They say she was the one who brought horses into the world and that true goodness was born with her and the horses." (p. 97)	



## Visual Art Interpretation

Use the information from your completed chart to create art showing your vision of Jorvik mythology. Draw, paint, sculpt, or carve in whatever medium speaks to you!

## Create Your Own Soul Rider Shield

Once you have found your Soul Rider symbol (see the Word Find activity below), create a shield featuring your symbol. Draw your symbol on a piece of cardboard (empty cereal boxes work well) and cut the cardboard into the shape of a shield. Glue yarn along all the lines of your symbol and let the glue dry. Brush a thin layer of glue all over the cardboard and lay a sheet of aluminum foil over the entire shield. Press the foil down everywhere—you can use a pencil eraser to gently push the foil in around the details. Wrap any extra foil around the edges of the cardboard shield. Once the glue is dry you can use permanent markers to color the flat parts of the design.

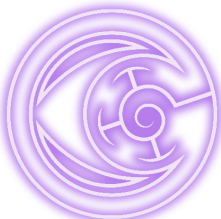
## Word Search

Search horizontally, vertically and diagonally to find three words to inspire your Soul Rider Symbol.

M A G I C S O T D W  
K Y C S F U J Y R A  
D E S T I N Y A U T  
E S U A R S K G I E  
A K T R E H Y F D R  
Q D V O M O A H C R  
M U P A N D O R I A  
O W E L D E E R M Q  
O G Z S J O R V I K  
N R D H T I C X G Q

# My Soul Rider Symbol

Use the box to sketch a symbol inspired by the words you found in the word search.





# IMAGINE YOUR JORVIK WILD HORSE

In the world of Star Stable, Jorvik Wild Horses live in areas where Pandoric energy is strong, which gives them special coat colors and mystical qualities. They lose their magical appearance when they are near human places like villages and stables, only revealing their true form in nature.

Many Jorvik Wild Horses take their appearance from natural phenomena, such as:

- Plants: cherry blossom, birch tree, wood-eating mushroom, pumpkin
- Animals: zebra, fawn, seahorse
- Natural phenomena: fire, ice, rainbow

## Discover Your Jorvik Wild Horse's Name

The first part of your horse's name is your favorite color. Be specific! Try colors like alabaster, fire orange, and periwinkle.

My favorite color is \_\_\_\_\_

The second part of your horse's name is your birthday month:

January: Shadow

February: Dawn

March: Meadow

April: Blossom

May: Crystal

June: Storm

July: Sunshine

August: Aura

September: Feather

October: Moon

November: Autumn

December: Wind



My horse's name: \_\_\_\_\_

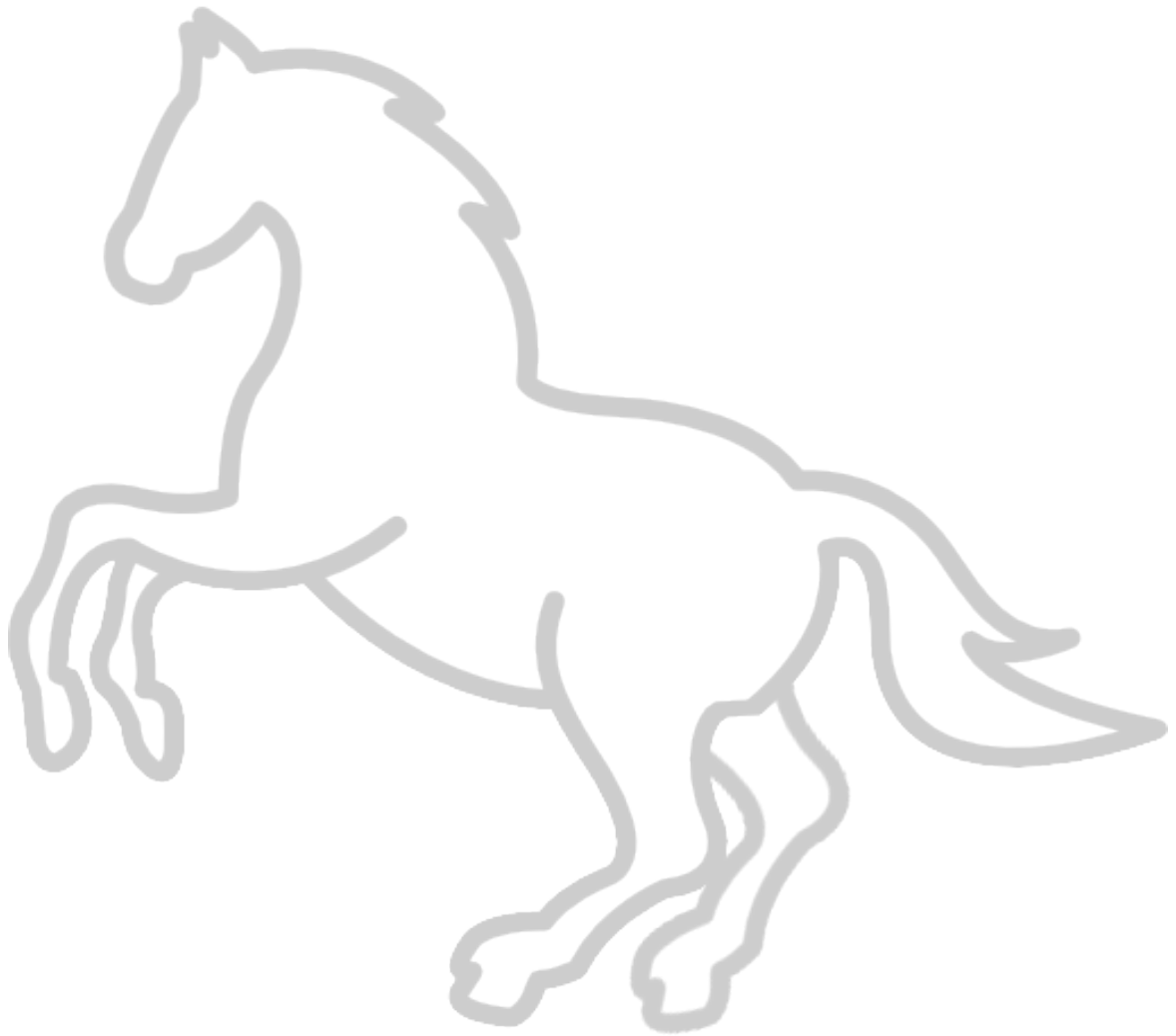
## Describe Your Jorvik Wild Horse

Now that you know your horse's name, give them a special power. The second letter of your horse's name is the first letter of its power. For example, the horse Greywind has the power of lightning-fast **reflexes**, Bluefeather can **leap** huge distances, and Emeraldmeadow is **magnetic**!

My horse's power: \_\_\_\_\_

## Draw Your Jorvik Wild Horse!

Don't forget the mane and fetlocks! Note: A feltlock is a tuft of hair on the back of the leg above the hoof of a horse or similar animal.



Write a short story (or draw a comic on a separate page) imagining how you met your Jorvik Wild Horse!

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# CREATIVE WRITING: FANFICTION

*Fanfiction* is writing by fans to expand on an existing story, characters, or world from their favorite games, TV shows, movies, books, and other media. Also known as “fanfic” or just “fic”, these stories range from just a few sentences to the length of a novel. Fans also create “fanart” which can include drawings, paintings, videos, or any other form of art.

Some fanfiction creators stick to the existing world of their favorite media, writing about established characters and settings. Others create new characters, settings, and situations to expand the world. Some fanfic creators keep their work to themselves, and some share with other fans for free. The only rule in fanfiction is that you can't sell it because you don't own the copyright to the original work.

Here are some ideas to get you started in creating your own fanfic or fanart.

## Rewrite a Jorvik Calling Scene

Choose an exciting scene from the book and rewrite it from different characters' perspectives. You can even write from a horse's perspective! Or, imagine yourself in the scene as part of the story.

Here are some ideas for scenes to rewrite:

- Sabine attempts to steal Starshine (pp. 57-60)
- Setting out on the Light Ride (pp. 83-85)
- Starshine is stolen (pp. 109-112)
- Jessica attacks Derek (pp. 145-149)

## Write What Comes Between

Choose a character from the story and write a scene that comes in between existing scenes in the book. For example:

- What did Alex do from the time she and Tin-Can were almost hit by Lisa and her dad in their car (pp. 19-21) to when she met Lisa at the stables (p. 36)?
- What was Sabine doing from the time the girls spotted her talking to the man in the SUV in the school parking lot (p. 47) to when she tried to steal Starshine at the stables (p. 57)?

## What Happened Next?

The story in *Soul Riders: Jorvik Calling* ends with some pretty exciting cliffhangers. Before going on to read the next book, *Soul Riders: The Legend Awakens*, choose a character and write about what comes next for them. Or imagine and describe what a character will be doing a year after the end of this story.

## Setting a Scene

Choose your favorite setting from the story, such as the town of Jarlaheim, the Jorvik Stables, or the Secret Stone Circle, and write a new scene set in that location. It can be a scene featuring the characters from the book, or you can write about yourself and your family or friends visiting Jorvik. Include your Jorvik Wild Horse! Be sure to use plenty of descriptive language to draw your readers into the scene.

## Discovering Your Soul Rider Power

Create your Soul Rider symbol (see the Word Find on page 16) and write about how you might have discovered your unique magical power if you lived in the world of Soul Riders. Does your power combine with that of your Jorvik Wild Horse? For examples of the characters in *Soul Riders: Jorvik Calling* discovering their powers, see the following pages:

Alex: pages 63-64, 147-148

Lisa: pages 71-72, 152-153

Anne: pages 120-121, 175-176

Linda: pages 138-139, 155, 170-171

## Write Fanart Lyrics or Poetry

In the story, Lisa finds comfort and expression through music.

“Lisa was always singing, even when she wasn’t aware of it. Maybe particularly in these moments. She loved music. All kinds of music, old and new.” (p. 13)

“She often found that words failed her; they were not enough. That’s when she turned to music. She always managed to find a movement, a melody, or a song that matched her mood. Colors have songs. Days of the week. Even people.” (p. 24)

Listen to original Star Stable music performed by Lisa here.

<https://starstableentertainment.com/music/>

Try writing music, lyrics, or poetry to express your feelings about a passage, a character, a horse, an event, or a setting from the book. You can find lyrics and chords from Star Stable songs at the website below.

<https://starstableentertainment.com/music/lyrics/>

Interested in creating more Star Stable fanart? At the Star Stable fanart resources page. You’ll find plenty of downloads to help you get started.

<https://www.starstable.com/en/article/5563>

