

ᚠ Viking Runes ᚠ

Viewmont High School's Literary Magazine — Bountiful, Utah — September 2019

This year at Viewmont we were introduced to the 5 Viking virtues. These 5 traits are designed to remind us that while we are here working on our academics and preparing for future careers, we are also here to become better people by demonstrating that we are: Respectful, Resilient, Giving, Kind, and Responsible. This year in *Viking Runes*, we'll be covering each one of these virtues individually. Because of recent events, the first choice seemed obvious.

Our community was recently devastated by a raging brushfire. Many of Viewmont's own students were among the 400 families who were evacuated from their homes in the small hours of the morning on August 30th. Many people had to take refuge with friends, family, and in other community buildings that opened their doors to them.

The following morning, teachers were told to prepare for a possible drop in class attendance for the day and to be ready to comfort students who were affected. Although hundreds of acres burned, first responders were able to contain the blaze in the coming days, and thankfully only three houses were completely destroyed.

As the smoke settled, a shape began to emerge on the mountain. Feeling like Francis Scott Key, I looked through the billowing smoke and saw a star spangled banner. Only this one was not a flag "fitfully blow[ing]" in the breeze—these Stars and Stripes were stalwart and still and set into mountain itself.

Through the flames and smoke against the charred mountainside, the Viewmont V stood untouched.

As teachers took roll in their classes and stared into the sleep-deprived eyes of students who had been evacuated from their homes in the middle of the night, the unharmed Viewmont V became the embodiment of the Viking Virtue of Resilience. Some may argue that this is a flawed comparison because the V is made of concrete and was never really in any danger of burning. In reality, this only strengthens the argument because Resilience means that you're made of stronger stuff than other people. Resilience means being able to stand tall when the world is burning around you.

Resilience means that you can go through the fires of adversity and come out on the other side stronger than you were before.



Resilience is being evacuated in the middle of the night and then getting up in the morning and coming to school anyway. Resilience means staying at the oars and pulling harder than you've ever pulled before—even if you're not exactly sure where you're headed. Resilience is pursuing your dreams—even if you're not sure what those dreams are.

And that's what it means to be a Viking.



Photo used with permission. Courtesy of KSL News.

Ardent Twilight

by Rhys Harwood

Upon an emblazoned bastion of concrete victory
Surrounded by the scorched hillside
We stood there staring at the setting sun
Like so many seem to say
But this experience was unlike the scenes I'd viewed before
The bright beams of that gross incandescence
Softened as they soon drooped behind a curtain of clouds
As the shade of that celestial barrier passed upon us
The sounds beneath the scene and in the valley rose
A distant dull thundering of the train along the tracks
The cries of jubilant competition and stadium static from the football field
A motorcycle revving betwixt the roads of the hillside suburbs below
While a hound bayed brashly from someone's yard
Up above, the far-off roar of an unseen jet engine
And under it all, the almost unheard burr of the cars along the highway
All the subtle sounds of the valley made themselves seen
As clear as furtive insects which walk along a cement lot, unnoticed
The misty evening blazed on the other end of the lake which filled the valley's basin
And the air seemed to shimmer above the surface of the waters
Its light lazily basking in its own brilliance
Soon, the valley was split in two by the twilight's unveiling
The stream of cars along the highway sparkled and shattered in reflections of radiance
Opening my eyes to its brilliance, a blinding bolt struck me
And so, I saw a stolen slice of the sun's light above the view of the mountain beyond the valley
And smiled, having found my reason to write and be happy
For today, at least



October Prompt:
TWO-SENTENCE HORROR STORIES

Are you ready for Halloween? We are! We want to hear as many scary stories as we can, so we're asking for short ones. Two sentences, to be exact. Feel free to look up a few examples, but all submitted work must be your own.

Submit as many as you'd like!

Send all work to:

ViewmontVikingRunes@gmail.com

Missing Dog



- I miss my dog
- She's not lost or anything, she's just at home
- And I'm stuck here at prison for 7 hours straight, 5 days a week
- Enjoy the picture of her though

Meet the Viking Runes Staff

Mr. Bartholomew

Editor-in-chief

Jacob Wach

Editor

Rhys Harwood

Editor

Calvin Albertsen

Editor

Zeb Rhodehouse

Editor

February Challenge

Each month we share a puzzle or a challenge for you to complete. Completing these challenges makes you eligible for rewards such as drawings, or first-come-first-serve prizes. September's challenge—and prize—go along with the theme of this issue: the Viking V. Here's how you can complete the challenge.

1. **Color the Viking V on page 4**
2. **Turn your creation in to Mr. B in room 220**
3. **You'll be entered into a drawing to receive one of 10 Viking V keychains!**
4. **Winners will be announced and awarded their prizes on October 14th**



