

## 10<sup>th</sup> Globes Summer Reading = Gaiman, Neil. *Norse Mythology*. Fall 2024

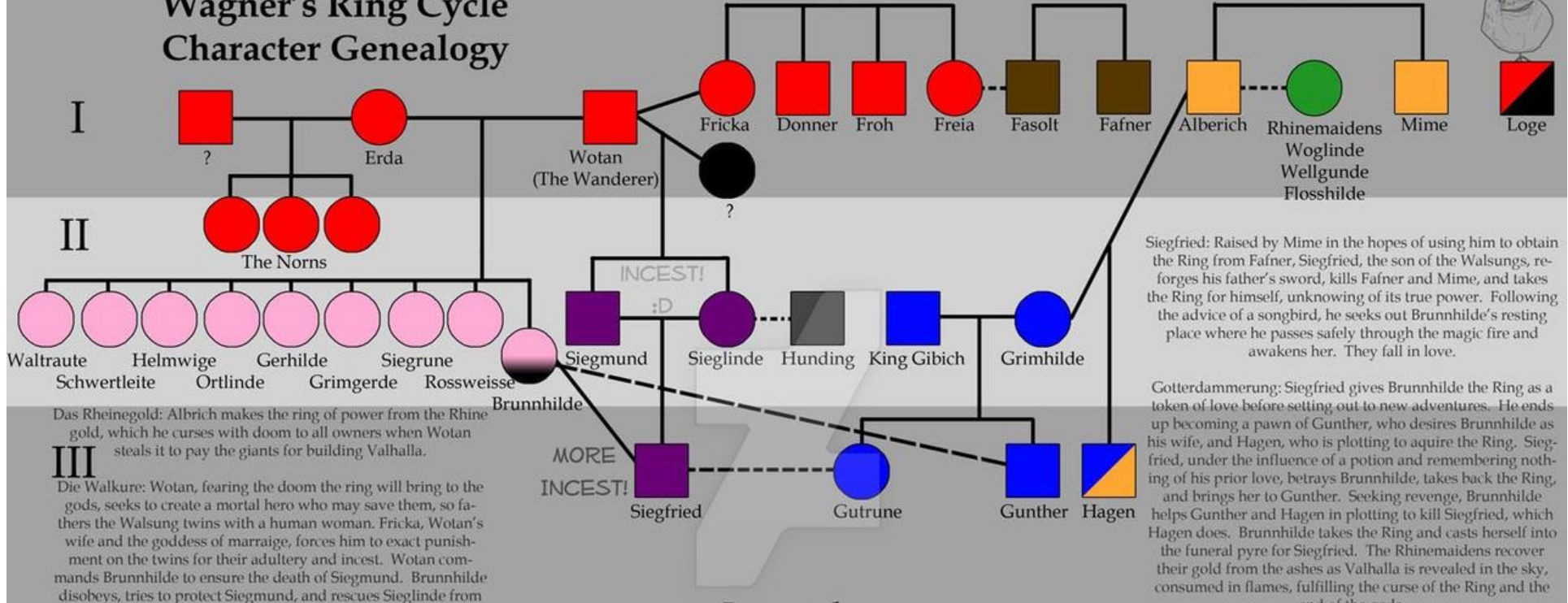
This book can be found on Amazon or AbeBooks or Thriftbooks. ...probably can be found at used bookstores around town if you call first.

ISBN-13: 978-0393356182

Note about content: This novel is based on Norse mythology, which does contain violence, bloodshed, and unfairness; however, the novel is written in good taste.

1. Read this book and take notes/make diagrams/make family trees by chapter. There are 16 chapters. I am currently reading it myself for the first time (it is 8 May 2024 as I type this), and I am personally doing this. My notes/drawings for chapters 2 and 3 take up almost a full page each. It's fun! I will check your notes/drawings/diagrams for all 16 chapters the first day of class, and you will be using these notes during our first few days together for a crazy-fun but organized class activity.
  - Things to think about while reading (these will be part of a required class discussion) Questions adapted from LitLovers
    - What are the individual passions, humors, conflicts, personalities, flaws of each of the gods? Which one do you find the most interesting, admirable, cruel, weird, cool?
    - What is the role of mythology in culture? What do myths signify? What do Norse myths say about the Germanic/Norse culture and their view of mankind?
    - Do mythological stories have relevance today? Are they universal cautionary tales? Do they offer wisdom?
    - What other mythologies are you familiar with (Greek, African, Hindi, Native American, Sumerian)? Do the Norse myths compare/have similarities?
    - All roads lead to Ragnarok. How did they get there? Is it inevitable...dictated by fate or innate nature?
2. Below or reverse, you will find a diagram for Wagner's Ring Cycle of four operas (*Das Rheingold*, *Die Walküre*, *Siegfried*, and *Götterdämmerung*). Study it and read the plots of the four operas. FYI, Wotan is another name for Odin. Compare what Wagner did to what you have read in the book.
3. I want you to watch this last act from Wagner's 2<sup>nd</sup> Ring opera *Die Walküre* (and have the volume WAY UP!):  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ap\\_p\\_oQtqec](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ap_p_oQtqec)
4. Then watch this from Wagner's 4<sup>th</sup> Ring opera *Götterdämmerung* (again with the volume WAY UP!):  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wwEGgLICW24>
5. Word to the wise: it is ok to speed up these opera acts to 1.25 speed! (1.5 messes up the music too much)
6. Be ready to comment about your opera watching experience in class. Everyone will be called on to comment!

# Wagner's Ring Cycle Character Genealogy



Siegfried: Raised by Mime in the hopes of using him to obtain the Ring from Fafner, Siegfried, the son of the Walsungs, re-forges his father's sword, kills Fafner and Mime, and takes the Ring for himself, unknowing of its true power. Following the advice of a songbird, he seeks out Brunnhilde's resting place where he passes safely through the magic fire and awakens her. They fall in love.

Gotterdammerung: Siegfried gives Brunnhilde the Ring as a token of love before setting out to new adventures. He ends up becoming a pawn of Gunther, who desires Brunnhilde as his wife, and Hagen, who is plotting to acquire the Ring. Siegfried, under the influence of a potion and remembering nothing of his prior love, betrays Brunnhilde, takes back the Ring, and brings her to Gunther. Seeking revenge, Brunnhilde helps Gunther and Hagen in plotting to kill Siegfried, which Hagen does. Brunnhilde takes the Ring and casts herself into the funeral pyre for Siegfried. The Rhinemaidens recover their gold from the ashes as Valhalla is revealed in the sky, consumed in flames, fulfilling the curse of the Ring and the end of the gods.

Das Rheingold: Albrich makes the ring of power from the Rhine gold, which he curses with doom to all owners when Wotan steals it to pay the giants for building Valhalla.

Die Walkure: Wotan, fearing the doom the ring will bring to the gods, seeks to create a mortal hero who may save them, so fathers the Walsung twins with a human woman. Fricka, Wotan's wife and the goddess of marriage, forces him to exact punishment on the twins for their adultery and incest. Wotan commands Brunnhilde to ensure the death of Siegmund. Brunnhilde disobeys, tries to protect Siegmund, and rescues Sieglinde from the battle. Wotan punishes Brunnhilde by making her a mortal woman, leaving her in an enchanted sleep surrounded by fire.

Look at Wotan up there, such a horn dog. Too bad he's married to the goddess of marriage. Oops.

**Legend**

				<b>hybrid</b>
male	married/ lovers	children		Becomes mortal
female	attempted pairing/courting	siblings		

**Gods**

Valkyries

Rhinemaidens

Nibelungs (dwarves)

Giants

~Mortals~

Walsungs

Neidings

Gibichungs

Other Humans

SILVER DRGN BANE

By A. Oviatt (PhantomOfTheSalle)

Fun fact: The four Ring operas total somewhere in the neighborhood of 15 HOURS of story-telling.



Diagram from <https://www.deviantart.com/silverdrgnbane/art/Wagner-s-Ring-Cycle-Genealogy-327439238>.