Isis and Odin – the Price of Secret Knowledge

Subjects: English · History · Religious Studies | recommended from age 12 (B1) | Video: 9:09 min



Watch the video
youtu.be/yMAdWIMrOYk

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

A · Before watching

1. Why might knowing someone's “true name” give you power over them? Make a guess.

B · While watching

1. What did Isis want from Ra – and why was it so valuable?

2. How was the snake that bit Ra created?

3. Why couldn't the other gods heal Ra?

4. What did Odin do to find the runes?

5. What did the word “rune” originally mean?

Useful words

sorceress	Zauberin	spear	Speer
spittle	Speichel	rune	Rune
poison	Gift	sacrifice	Opfer
to heal	heilen	secret	Geheimnis

C · Put the story in order

Number the events from 1 to 8 in the order they happen in the video.

	Not even Thoth can heal Ra.
	Ra gives his true name to Isis.
	Isis collects the spittle of the sleeping Ra.
	After nine nights Odin sees the runes in the depths.
	She shapes it into a poisonous snake.
	Odin falls from the tree – not dead, but changed.
	The snake bites Ra on his morning path.
	Wounded by his own spear, Odin hangs himself on the World Tree.

D · Think and discuss

1. Isis wins through a trick, Odin through a sacrifice of himself. Which way seems “fairer” to you? Explain.

2. In the fairy tale, Rumpelstiltskin loses his power when his name is spoken. What do all three stories have in common?

E · Isis and Odin compared

Complete the table with information from the video.

	Isis (Egypt)	Odin (Scandinavia)
What are they missing?		
How do they get the knowledge?		
What price do they pay?		
What do they gain?		

F · Get creative

1. In your exercise book, write a short dialogue in which Isis and Odin meet by chance and tell each other how they gained their knowledge (10–12 lines).