**PLOT ACTIVITY SHEET 1**

**THE FILM’S ‘STORY’: *THOR***

When someone watches a film for the first time, they will often have an idea of the film’s ‘story’ and some expectations of what might happen in the film.

**DISCUSS**:

1. How many different sources can you list for finding out information on a film before you watch it?
2. Which of these sources of information do you tend to use when thinking about what film to watch? Can you explain why you look to those sources first?

*Thor* is a film adaptation of a Marvel comic book series, featuring the character Thor, who is loosely based on a Norse legend. Someone watching it for the first time might be familiar with the character on which the film is based. They might also have seen marketing materials, such as the DVD cover, the film poster or trailer, or online content. They may have talked to someone who knows the film.

Read this official film synopsis for *Thor*:

*The epic adventure Thor spans the Marvel Universe from present day Earth to the mystical realm of Asgard. At the centre of the story is the mighty Thor, a powerful but arrogant warrior whose reckless actions reignite an ancient war, As a result, Thor is banished to Earth where he is forced to live among humans. When the most dangerous villain of his world sends its darkest forces to invade Earth, Thor learns what it takes to be a true Hero*.

1. From this very short piece of text, what can you find out about the characters and the plot of the film? Highlight or underline key words or phrases.
2. What additional details or impressions about the film would you expect to get from the film’s trailer? Think about the way in which the moving image conveys meaning, compared to printed text.

Whether or not you have seen *Thor* before, you now have some basic information about the film - a sense of the main character and the ‘story’ - from the synopsis. However, knowing the *story* of the film – a rough overview of what happens – isn’t the same as knowing the exact *order* in which the action takes place on screen.

**VIEWING ACTIVITY**

Watch the *Thor* clip called **Opening sequence** on the DVD. This is the first scene of the film. Then work in groups to suggest answers to the following questions:

1. What do you see and hear in this sequence – what is the main action or story taking place here?
2. How much of this is the same as what you read about in the synopsis?
3. Do you think someone watching this film for the first time might be surprised or intrigued by this opening scene? Can you explain your answer?
4. If you don’t already know the film, what links could you make between what happens in this sequence, and the outline of the film’s story given in the synopsis?
5. Thinking back to the synopsis, why do you think the filmmakers made this the first scene in the film?