Arya Stark, Heroine of the Battle of Winterfell, Becomes Second Favorite to Take the Throne

Game of Thrones Predictions. Content warning: Spoilers ahead

Washington, DC, May 2, 2019 – Before the much-anticipated Battle of Winterfell, 12% of Game of Thrones fans correctly predicted the downfall of the Night King. Another 14% correctly predicted the death of Jorah Mormont and 15% predicted the fall of Theon Greyjoy. We pay our respects for the fallen.

Looking forward to this week, fans are placing their bets against Cersei and the Golden Company: 21% think Euron Greyjoy is the next one to die in the series, followed by his ally Cersei Lannister (14%). Next on the list is a three-way tie between Jaime Lannister, Grey Worm and one (or more) dragons at 12%. Jon Snow is seen relatively safe this week compared to last week. Before the Battle of Winterfell, 12% of fans thought he would be the next one to die. Now that the Night King is defeated, only 4% think that Jon Snow is likely to die next, an eight-point decline.

Arya Stark, which personally stabbed and killed the Night King, is now seen as the second favorite to rule over Westeros. Last week, only 6% of Game of Thrones fans thought she would sit on the Iron Throne. Now that Arya showed her ruthlessness and heroism in battle, 15% of fans think she is going to be the Queen of the Seven Kingdoms, a nine-point increase. Arya's rise comes at the expense of Daenerys Targaryen, who dropped to third place of favorites to take over the throne. Last week, one out of five fans (20%) thought Daenerys would end up on the Iron Throne. This week? 13% – a seven-point decline. Jon Snow continues to be the favorite to rule over the Seven Kingdoms (31%), constant from last week (33%).

Arya Stark also leaped forward in the rankings of who should rule over the Iron Throne: 12% of fans think that the person to run Westeros should be her. Thirty-six percent of fans continue to believe that Jon Snow should rule, a slight decline from an all-time high of 41% reached last week. Daenerys Targaryen also experienced a decline of 4 points, with 12% of fans thinking she should rule the throne, tied with Arya.

1. Do you watch Game of Thrones, the popular HBO TV show and book series?

	Total (N = 1,005)	*After Episode Two April 25*	*After Episode One April 18*	*Pre-Season April 11*
Yes, I have seen all the episodes and plan to watch the new season live	19%	*15%*	*18%*	*18%*
Yes, I have seen all episodes but plan to watch the new season once all episodes are released	5%	*5%*	*4%*	*6%*
Yes, but I am not caught up in all the episodes	11%	*8%*	*10%*	*9%*
No, I do not watch Game of Thrones	65%	*72%*	*67%*	*67%*

2. Which, if any, of the following major characters in Game of Thrones do you think is likely to die next? (Select up to three)

	Watch Game of Thrones (N = 278)	*After Episode Two*	*After Episode One*	*Pre-Season*
Euron Greyjoy	21%	-	-	-
Cersei Lannister	14%	11%	14%	18%
Jaime "The Kingslayer" Lannister	12%	17%	15%	13%
Grey Worm	12%	-	-	-
One (or more) dragons	12%	16%	10%	13%
Sandor "The Hound" Clegane	11%	14%	12%	13%
Lord Varys	10%	7%	9%	7%
Davos Seaworth	9%	12%	10%	6%
Yara Greyjoy	7%	-	-	-
Daenerys "Khaleesi" Targaryen	7%	6%	8%	8%
Brienne of Tarth	7%	-	-	-
Tormund Giantsbane	6%	-	-	-
Arya Stark	5%	6%	8%	10%
Bronn	5%	-	-	-
Tyrion "The Imp" Lannister	5%	5%	5%	9%
Gendry	5%	-	-	-
Gilly	5%	-	-	-
Samwell Tarly	5%	10%	3%	6%
Missandei	4%	-	-	-
Podrick Payne	4%	-	-	-
Jon Snow	4%	12%	8%	14%
Sansa Stark	4%	5%	5%	7%
Bran Stark	3%	5%	6%	6%
Jorah Mormont	RIP	14%	16%	9%
Theon Greyjoy	RIP	15%	17%	16%
The Night King	RIP	12%	7%	10%
Other	-	1%	1%	2%
None	1%	2%	1%	1%

3. Who, if any, is most likely to become a White Walker and join the Night King? (Select up to three).

    No longer asked after the defeat of the Night King.

4. In your opinion, who do you think will end up on the Iron Throne, ruling over Westeros?

	Watch Game of Thrones	*After Episode Two*	*After Episode One*	*Pre-Season*
Jon Snow	31%	33%	32%	31%
Arya Stark	15%	6%	6%	11%
Daenerys "Khaleesi" Targaryen	13%	20%	13%	22%
Sansa Stark	6%	6%	4%	4%
Bran Stark	5%	4%	8%	2%
Gendry	3%	-	-	-
Cersei Lannister	3%	1%	2%	2%
Tyrion "The Imp" Lannister	3%	5%	5%	3%
Sandor "The Hound" Clegane	2%	2%	1%	1%
Tormund Giantsbane	1%	-	-	-
Yara Greyjoy	1%	-	-	-
Grey Worm	1%	-	-	-
Lord Varys	1%	2%	2%	2%
Samwell Tarly	1%	2%	2%	2%
Jaime "The Kingslayer" Lannister	1%	1%	4%	1%
Brienne of Tarth	1%	-	-	-
Gilly	*	-	-	-
Bronn	*	-	-	-
Euron Greyjoy	*	-	-	-
Missandei	-	-	-	-
The Night King	RIP	4%	5%	5%
Podrick Payne	-	-	-	-
Davos Seaworth	-	1%	*	1%
Theon Greyjoy	RIP	1%	2%	1%
Jorah Mormont	RIP	1%	1%	2%
Other	5%	2%	2%	1%
None	8%	9%	11%	10%

5. In your opinion, who do you think should end up on the Iron Throne, ruling over Westeros?

	Watch Game of Thrones	After Episode Two	After Episode One	Pre-Season
Jon Snow	36%	41%	40%	34%
Arya Stark	12%	4%	7%	3%
Daenerys "Khaleesi" Targaryen	12%	16%	14%	20%
Sansa Stark	6%	5%	4%	4%
Tyrion "The Imp" Lannister	5%	6%	4%	4%
Bran Stark	4%	2%	6%	4%
Brienne of Tarth	2%	-	-	-
Tormund Giantsbane	2%	-	-	-
Grey Worm	2%	-	-	-
Samwell Tarly	1%	2%	2%	1%
Lord Varys	1%	1%	2%	3%
Sandor "The Hound" Clegane	1%	2%	-	1%
Gendry	1%	-	-	-
Gilly	1%	-	-	-
Cersei Lannister	1%	3%	1%	2%
Podrick Payne	1%	-	-	-
Jaime "The Kingslayer" Lannister	*	3%	3%	4%
Davos Seaworth	*	2%	1%	2%
Missandei	*	-	-	-
Yara Greyjoy	*	-	-	-
Bronn	-	-	-	-
Euron Greyjoy	-	-	-	-
The Night King	-	4%	3%	4%
Jorah Mormont	-	*	1%	3%
Theon Greyjoy	-	*	1%	1%
Other	4%	1%	1%	1%
None	7%	7%	9%	9%

About the Study

These are findings from an Ipsos poll conducted between April 29-30, 2019. For the survey, a sample of 1,005 adults 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska and Hawaii were interviewed online in English. The sample includes 278 adults who watch Game of Thrones.

For the wave fielded after episode two, a sample of 1,005 adults 18+ from the continental U.S, Alaska and Hawaii were interviewed online in English. The sample includes 267 adults who watch Game of Thrones.

For the wave fielded after episode one, a sample of 1,005 adults 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska and Hawaii were interviewed online in English between April 15-15, 2019. The sample includes 303 adults who watch Game of Thrones.

For the pre-season wave, a sample of 1,006 adults 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska and Hawaii were interviewed online in English between April 4-5, 2019. The sample includes 298 adults who watch Game of Thrones.

The sample for this study was randomly drawn from Ipsos' online panel (see link below for more info on "Access Panels and Recruitment"), partner online panel sources, and "river" sampling (see link below for more info on the Ipsos "Ampario Overview" sample method) and does not rely on a population frame in the traditional sense. Ipsos uses fixed sample targets, unique to each study, in drawing a sample. After a sample has been obtained from the Ipsos panel, Ipsos calibrates respondent characteristics to be representative of the U.S. Population using standard procedures such as raking-ratio adjustments. The source of these population targets is U.S. Census 2016 American Community Survey data. The sample drawn for this study reflects fixed sample targets on demographics. Post-hoc weights were made to the population characteristics on gender, age, race/ethnicity, region, and education.

Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online polls. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error and measurement error. Where figures do not sum to 100, this is due to the effects of rounding. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points for all respondents. Ipsos calculates a design effect (DEFF) for each study based on the variation of the weights, following the formula of Kish (1965). This study had a credibility interval adjusted for design effect of the following (n=1,005, DEFF=1.5, adjusted Confidence Interval=+/-5.0 percentage points).

The poll also has a credibility interval plus or minus 6.7 percentage points for adults who watch Game of Thrones.

For more information about conducting research intended for public release or Ipsos' online polling methodology, please visit our Public Opinion Polling and Communication page where you can download our brochure, see our public release protocol, or contact us.

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