



O'BRIEN

for Schools

2021–2022

**A comprehensive guide to
O'Brien Press children's books and
how to use them in the classroom**








obrien.ie/schools

At The O'Brien Press, we're always conscious of the changing needs of schools and of teachers. In this catalogue, we have put together the perfect set of books and *FREE* resources for you to teach the New Primary Language Curriculum with ease. From stunning picture books to suspense-filled historical fiction, our selection of engaging, entertaining and challenging reads will foster a love of reading, thinking and speaking about books among your pupils.

O'Brien Press books are colour-coded with reading age flags. This guide indicates which flags are most appropriate for different class levels, to support you in choosing the right book for your students.

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	Reading age flag	Republic of Ireland	Northern Ireland
	Black flag Picture books	Usable throughout the school (but especially Junior Infants, Senior Infants)	Usable throughout the school (but especially Year 1 [P1])
	Purple flag Reading level 5+	Senior Infants, First Class (also Second Class)	Year 2 [P2]. Key Stage 1
	Yellow flag Reading level 6+	Second Class (also First Class, Third Class)	Year 3 [P3]. Key Stage 1
	Red flag Reading level 8+	Third Class, Fourth Class	Year 4, Year 5 [P4, P5]. Key Stages 1 & 2
	Blue flag Reading level 9+	Fifth Class, Sixth Class	Year 6, Year 7 [P6, P7]. Key Stage 2
	Green flag Reading level 12+	First Year, Second Year (second-level schools)	Year 8, Year 9, Year 10 (secondary schools). Key Stage 3
	Young Adult Books	Older and more confident readers	Older and more confident readers

Where Can I Find O'Brien Press Books?

- BOOKSHOPS AND SCHOOL SUPPLY CENTRES:** they all stock our books. If they do not hold a given title in stock, just ask, and they will be delighted to order O'Brien Press books for you.
- THE INTERNET:** There are lots of choices online, such as books.ie, thebookdepository.com and amazon.co.uk, as well as education sites such as schoolbooksireland.ie, easonschoobooks.com and tarabookco.ie. Or you can buy directly from obrien.ie.
- SCHOOL AND PUBLIC LIBRARIES:** All school and public libraries should have O'Brien Press books. If they do not have a title you're looking for, they can order it for you. (If you do not have a school library, use our guide to setting one up: see obrien.ie/schools/school-library.)
- BUYING DIRECTLY:** Orders can be placed by post, telephone, fax or e-mail:
The O'Brien Press, 12 Terenure Road East, Rathgar, Dublin 6 D06 HD27, Ireland
Tel: +353 1 492 3333; Fax: +353 1 492 2777;
E-mail: schools@obrien.ie
Discounts: a discount of 10% and free postage is available on all class sets bought directly.
Higher discounts are available for larger orders.

Front cover illustration from *Tabitha Plimtock and the Edge of the World* by Erika McGann, illustrated by Philip Cullen. See page 14 for more details.



Take a tour of Ireland from the comfort of your classroom with these stunning picture books from O'Brien Press

NEW

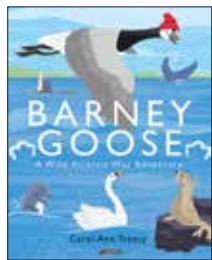


A spooky bus tour all around Ireland, with our favourite little Vampire and friends!

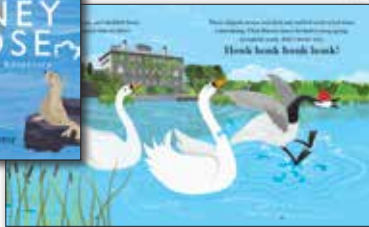
NOW in paperback



Santa's sleigh is flying over Ireland, delivering presents to all the boys and girls. But then there's a crash! Dancer hurts her leg and can't pull the sleigh. What will Santa do? Rory, the smallest reindeer, has a great idea!



Travel the Wild Atlantic Way with Barney Goose!



arts council ealaíon **literature** arts council



A contemporary take on Hansel and Gretel. Sean and Grainne drop crumbs of soda bread at the Spanish Arch, the Salmon Weir Bridge and Eyre Square, as they seek out the perfect present for their mammy. (Also available as *Gaeilge*)

arts council ealaíon **literature** arts council

NEW



arts council ealaíon **literature** arts council

The friendly Dublin Vampire goes for a walk all over the city, but everyone is too busy rushing around to notice him!



arts council ealaíon **literature** arts council



Scout writes postcards home to cat from Donegal, Cork, Salthill & the Sugar Loaf. Will cat admit she misses him even a teeny tiny bit? Explore Ireland with Scout and find out!



Wee Donkey travels Ireland trying to find the perfect souvenir for her Grandad.

Activity Sheets



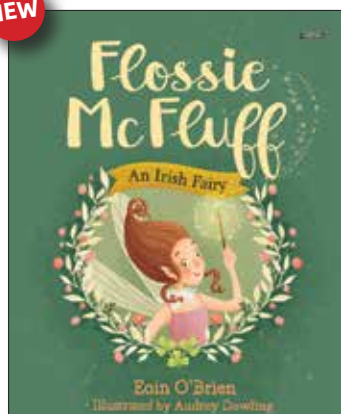
NEW



My Little Album of Ireland will take your class on a fun-filled tour of the Emerald Isle. Along the way, they will build up their vocabulary in English and Irish. With fabulous illustrations with a diverse range of characters it's useful for the New Primary Language Curriculum as well as SESE & SPHE.

We've got you covered for the New Primary Language Curriculum with O'Brien Press Picture Books! Base your successful oral language and poetry lessons on these quality resources, stunning visuals and vibrant characters. These books are a fantastic addition to any classroom and a great support for teaching across the New Primary Language Curriculum.

NEW



*In a deep leafy wood, by a slow-moving stream,
Where butterflies flutter through golden sunbeams,
Lives a beautiful fairy called Flossie McFluff.
She's tiny and shiny, but Flossie is tough.
She has magical powers; she knows magic words;
And she cares for the trees and the bees and the birds.
Wee Flossie lives high in an ancient oak tree,
And lives for adventure, as we shall soon see...*

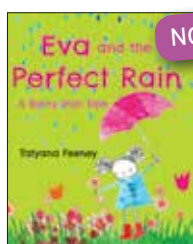


NOW in paperback

If you feel sad or lonely, this shapeshifting hero will show you what to do! This madcap tale is ideal for shared reading in your classroom.



Three gorgeous stories in rhyme about a fairy who looks after the forest. Super for teaching Environmental Awareness & Care. For other books on this theme, be sure to check out page 22 of this catalogue.



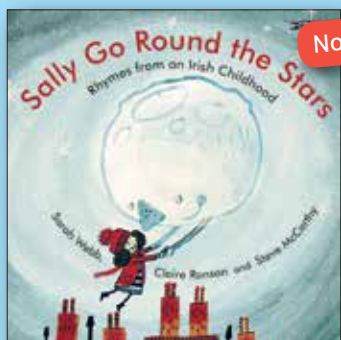
NOW in paperback

Perfect to accompany the theme of weather, join Eva while she splashes through all the varieties of rain you might find in Ireland.



*Hans Christian Andersen
Honour List – Illustration
– 2020 (Short-listed)
Irish Book Awards Children's
Book of the Year (Junior)
2017 (Short-listed)*

Poetry & Nursery Rhymes



Now as a Board Book

'Parents, child-care providers, and ... school teachers will find this a wonderful resource for encouraging literacy and imagination' – *School Library Journal*



From the team that brought you *Sally Go Round the Stars* (short-listed, Irish Book Awards) and *A Sailor Went to Sea, Sea, Sea* (winner, Irish Book Awards). Add this wonderful, colourful hardback of poetry and rhymes to your classroom collection today!



This new, specially curated edition includes best-loved poems and poets from the original collection *Something Beginning with P* and is a must for every class library.



**White Raven – 2018 Winner
Irish Book Awards Children's
Book of the Year (Junior) – 2017**



NEW



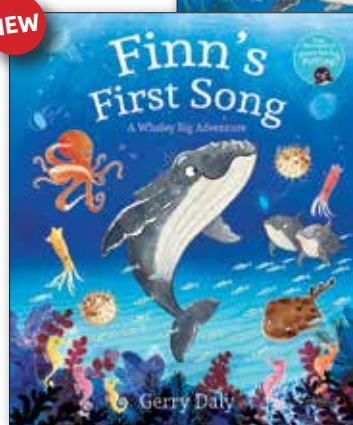
When Puffling finds a lost egg on Skellig Michael, she sets off on a brand-new adventure to return the egg to its nest!



GERRY DALY is a children's author and illustrator living by the beautiful sea in Dublin. His previous books include the best-selling *Where Are You, Puffling?* and *Wee Donkey's Treasure Hunt*, both written by Erika McGann. He loves to paint birds and animals, from the tiniest to the biggest of them all.

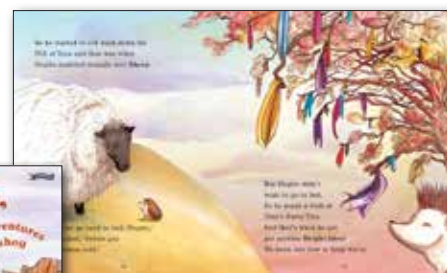
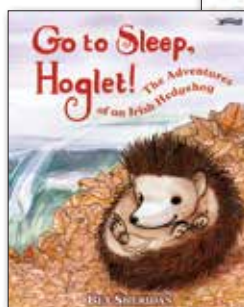


NEW



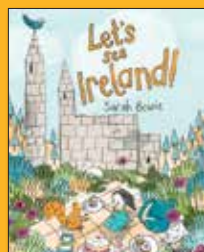
A baby humpback whale and his mother are swimming across the ocean to find his father. But when they come across some great big ships the sonar confuses them and baby whale gets lost. With the help of some new friends, baby whale learns to sing his first song and is reunited with his mother when she hears his singing. They continue their journey to the Irish coast, guided once more by his dad's long magical songs.

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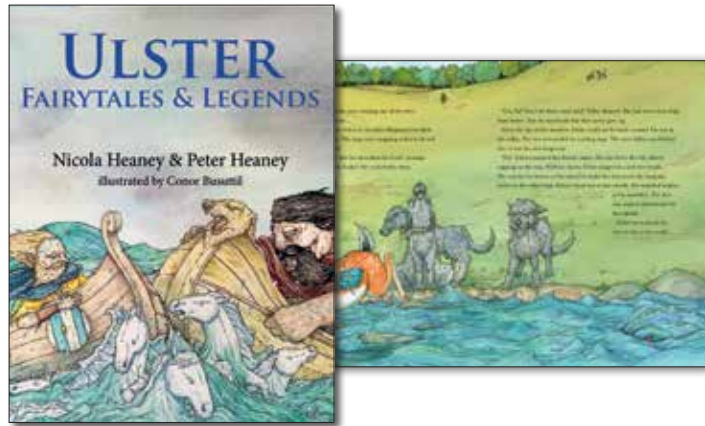
As the hedgehogs of Ireland get cosy and snuggle down for their big winter sleep, one little hoglet just can't seem to close his eyes. Follow the adventures of a baby hedgehog while exploring the concept of hibernation with your class this autumn.

Check out lots more of O'Brien Press picture books at obrien.ie/childrens/picture-books



Real Resources for Oral Language Development

Picture books are not just for younger children. A well-chosen book can promote critical thinking and encourage real talk and discussion in older classes too. These lavish large-format books will enhance engagement of your pupils and provide an excellent resource for fostering joint attention and reflective dialogue in your classroom.



'Legends from each of the nine counties of Ulster see the fire breathing dragon Paiste, the red hand of Ulster, and river demon of Fermanagh animated by Conor Busuttill's rich illustrations.' – *Evening Echo*



There once stood a fortress, four children lived here
Along with their father, the mighty King Lir



CBI Book of the Year 2016: Merit Award for Illustrations

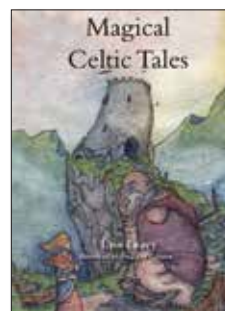
'An engaging read-aloud for junior classes and a valuable book for readers about the futility of war and the importance of respecting different perspectives.' – *Children's Books Ireland*



A book to be treasured, this collection of Oscar Wilde stories with striking, original artwork can be enjoyed in your classroom just as it is, or as a stimulus for amazing visual arts lessons.



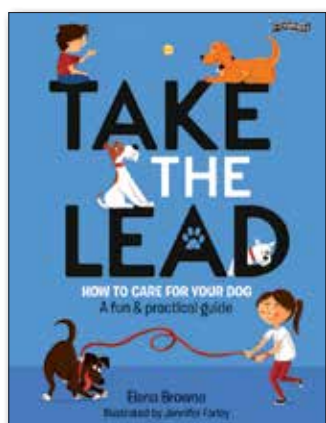
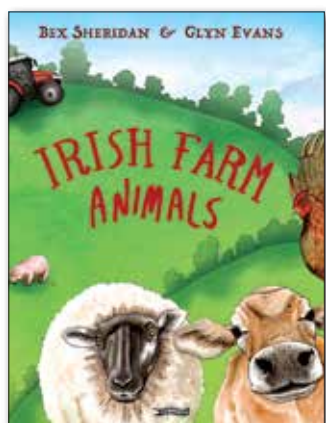
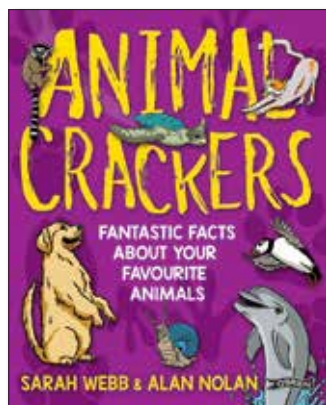
Each engaging legend takes 10–15 minutes to read, leaving plenty of time for reflection and discussion with your students about the story.



With large, accessible text, and beautiful illustrations, you and your class can enjoy each tale individually or all in one sitting – we don't mind!



Dublin Citywide Read 2021



‘a really well-researched book covering everything from dinosaurs, fossils and evolution to native Irish animals, types of habitats and protecting endangered species ... We would recommend this book for Primary School aged children, 4–12. Younger children would enjoy having this book read to them. Older children would find this book very interesting and could learn a lot (e.g. the lifecycle of a ladybird) ... We scored this book 9.8 out of 10.’ – Book Review by the Cullen children, age range 4–11, Dublin, Seomra Ranga

A book on all aspects of farming in Ireland, from all over Ireland, including traditional farm animals like cattle, sheep, goats and poultry to more unusual animals like alpacas, wild boar, rhea and fish.

Literacy Association of Ireland Award Winner
A beautiful picture book tracking nature through the seasons in Ireland. It explores nature in your back garden as well as weird and wonderful natural phenomena, such as the metamorphosis from Tadpole to Frog; the Red Deer rut in autumn; or a starling flock in winter.

‘a no-nonsense guide to animal ownership in an Irish context, balancing the joys of having a canine friend with the practicalities and responsibilities that entails’ *Evening Echo*

Children love the quirky characters and funny heart-warming stories at the Purple Flag level. With simple text and lively illustrations, these books are perfect for emergent readers who need an extra boost. They are also suitable for older, more reluctant readers.

Reintroducing Danny Brown

Now in full colour! These Danny Brown books introduce your children to a hugely popular character who is full of mischief.

‘fun and lively stories ... bright and colourful illustrations’ – *Ireland’s Own*



Panda Series & Teaching Resources

‘They are guaranteed to capture and sustain the interest of the emergent reader.’ – *InTouch Magazine*

Don’t forget that when you choose an O’Brien *Panda*, you get a whole teaching support package. Our Activity Sheets are created for teachers by teachers, with the primary school curriculum in mind. Our Reading Programme includes teaching ideas for over 30 *Panda* books, all available for free online.



Yellow Flag books take your emerging readers in hand and combine lively, silly and engaging characters with beautifully penned illustrations to support them through their first books with chapters!

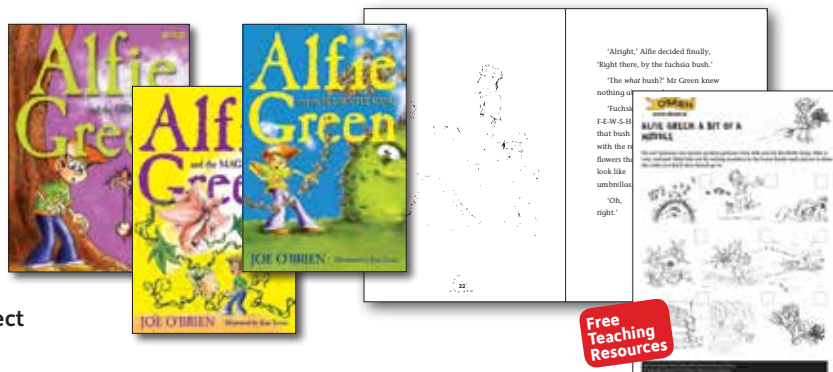


Have you got fans of Horrid Henry or Dirty Bertie in your class? The Mad Grandad books will be perfect for children who love a bit of silliness teamed with hilarious characters that just keep getting themselves into trouble!

Your students will love reading all about Lenny and his Mad Grandad’s humorous misadventures by award-winning Irish children’s author and illustrator Oisín McGann.

ALFIE GREEN

Alfie’s magical book gives him special powers and opens up a whole new, wonderful world. Read about his adventures with his friend Fitzer, his journeys to Arcania, and how Whacker Walsh just can’t get the better of him!

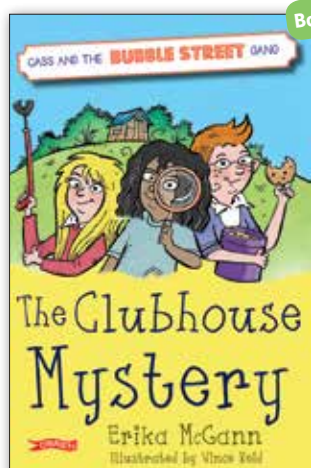


‘gorgeous books beautifully illustrated by Jean Texier. Perfect for six-to-seven-year-olds.’ – *The Sunday Independent*

Red Flag books are perfect for your students who are gaining more confidence in reading alone. With short chapters, amusing characters and quirky illustrations, these series will definitely appeal to your 8 to 10 year olds, and are a must for your classroom library.

CASS AND THE BUBBLE STREET GANG

Cass and her best friends Lex and Nicholas are the Bubble Street Gang! They investigate crimes, solve mysteries and have brilliant adventures.



Book 1

'this easy-reading, entertaining short novel is perfect for fans of Enid Blyton' – CBI Recommended Reading Guide 2017

'lively and funny ... witty and appealing, peopled by characters who jump off the page' – *Inis Magazine*

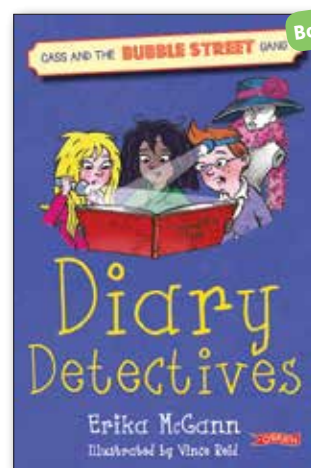


Book 2

Summer Reading Challenge 2018

Dublin Citywide Reading Campaign 2018

'I highly recommend it for ages 7–8 to read alone or for sharing with the whole family or classroom.' – *Fallen Star Stories*



Book 3

'Cass is a real force of nature, lively, impulsive, never short of ideas or the nerve and determination to make them happen.' – *lovereading4kids*



Book 4

Book 4 in the Cass & Bubble Street Gang Series!

In their 4th book in the series, Cass and the gang test their wits against other scavenging teams, and use their detective skills to solve the mystery of a golden locket.

FREE Teaching Guides written by Peter Heaney available online for *The Clubhouse Mystery*, *Making Millions*, *Diary Detectives* & *Scavenger Hunt*!



RATIONALE & THEMES

When the Bubble Street gang fail to win the scavenger hunt, Cass is unable to accept the result. Believing their bid was sabotaged she launches an investigation to identify the cheats. Despite their best efforts and lots of allegations, they are unable to identify a credible culprit.



Check out a preview of the first book in the series and a meet-the-author video online at www.obrien.ie/the-clubhouse-mystery



O'BRIEN



CBI & O'Brien Design A Cover Competition returns in Spring 2022 and will see primary school children from all around the country getting the chance to create a brand new cover for *Stand By Me* by Judi Curtin! Look for full details on how to enter at www.obrien.ie

Congratulations to last year's winner Aoibhe Devereux from Scoil Náisiúnta na Rinne, Co. Waterford for her brilliant cover design of *The Supermarket Ghost* by Gordon Snell

Any sports fans in your class? These novels would be a fantastic addition to your class library and with free online resources available, have the potential to be an excellent whole-class novel or series of novels that will engage even the most reluctant of readers.

NEW



Book 8 in the acclaimed *Rugby Spirit* series. Eoin Madden and his friends are back at school and it looks like it will be a fun year with new subjects and activities to try. After all his years on the Junior Cup team, Eoin is looking forward to a break from rugby this year; when there's a chance to play soccer instead, he jumps at it! But it's hard to set up a football team at a rugby-mad school like Castlerock – can the boys do it? And who is the ghostly footballer with links to Dalymount Park that Eoin and his friends keep meeting? From the Busby Babes of the 1950s to the Castlerock Red Rockets, football links the generations.



'Eoin Madden loves rugby, but home in Tipperary from boarding school for the summer, he's been playing hurling and football instead in the local GAA club. He and his buddies have great fun in coach Paddy's team, but there's also a gardening business to run, Eoin's grandad needs help and local bullies need to be taught a lesson. Eoin's also been seeing ghosts again, which usually means something. This becomes clear in the action-packed conclusion at the All-Ireland final, a hundred years after Croke Park's Bloody Sunday tragedy.' – *Children's Books Ireland*



About the Author

Gerard Siggins was born in Dublin in 1962. His *Rugby Spirit* series has sold over 65,000 copies and is hugely popular with sports-loving children around the world. Gerard regularly visits schools to talk about his books.

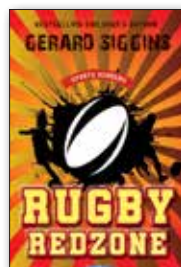
A fantastic rugby series that will thrill any rugby-mad youngster in your class!

'the world of rugby is full of excitement and intrigue in this pacy series by an author whose love for the game shines through in the writing ... a brilliant combination of sport and mystery and definitely a story to encourage reading' – *Parents in Touch*



The first book in the *Sports Academy* series from the author of the hugely popular *Rugby Spirit* series. Ideal for children who love sport but not reading!

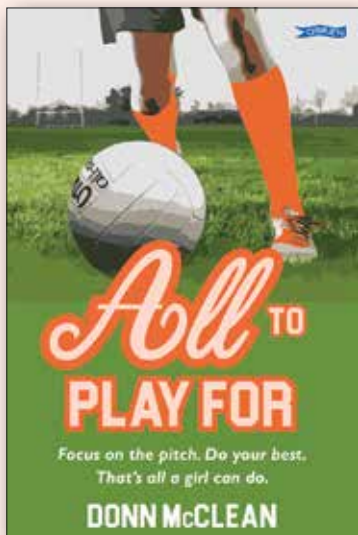
'Will appeal to all those sports fans, who dream of making it big' – *Sunday Independent*



Five kids with one dream: to become the greatest sports stars in the world!

'Short chapters and a fast-paced plot make this a good choice for reluctant readers' – *Irish Independent*

Sports fiction with a strong female lead



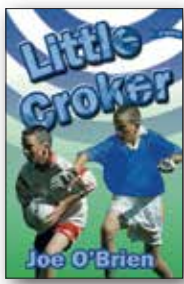
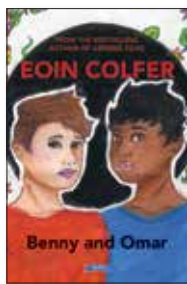
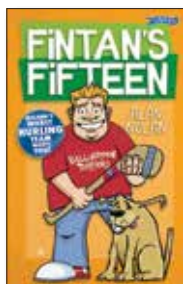
'Growing up is never easy! It's not any easier when you move to a new town and school. Anna must deal with this anxiety, as well as cope with the loss of her father. Anna and her father loved Gaelic football and her game falters without his support. All to Play For by Donn McClean tells the story of how Anna struggles with the grief of her loss, while she tries to help her new team win the county final. A moving and heartfelt story.' – *Children's Books Ireland*

'a resounding thumbs up from our 8yo boy ... about an ordinary club footballer just like him, except she's a girl. Great work by Donn McClean' – *RTE Sport's Evanne Ni Chuilinn*

Snippet of All to Play For Teaching Guide



More Great Sports Novels



Is your school participating in the Active Schools programme? Then this compendium of Irish childhood games with handy tips and 'risk' ratings will provide fantastic inspiration for you and your students! And it's great fun too!

'it will encourage children to park the remote control in the holder & engage in some physical activity in the fresh air. This book is definitely a stocking filler for the teacher or parent in one's life' – *seomraranga.com*

'easy to follow instructions for childhood games ... I think this book would definitely encourage children to engage in some physical activity away from the television!' – *InTouch Magazine*



Great Non-Fiction Books for your class library.

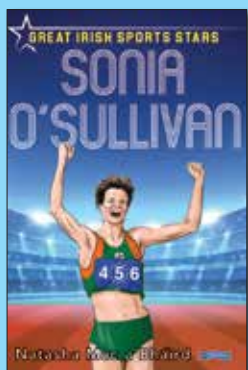
Great Irish Sports Stars Series

'For teachers, books of this genre will help you address the potential fiction/non-fiction imbalance in your classroom and school libraries ... it can only be hoped that these books are the first of many in this series.' – *InTouch Magazine*

NEW

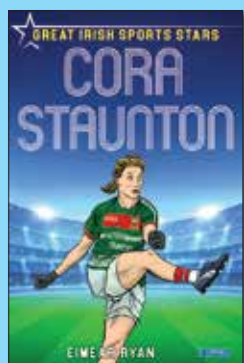


From the time he was a young boy playing with his brothers in Donegal, Shay Given dreamed of football glory. He joined Celtic and worked hard to become a world-class goalkeeper. It paid off – the boy from Donegal went on to play for top clubs like Newcastle United and Manchester City, played in the Champions League, and made some amazing saves at the World Cup and European Championships. The inspirational life story of the Republic of Ireland's longest-serving player.

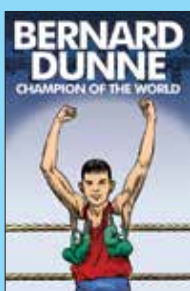


Born in County Cork, Sonia O'Sullivan is an amazing example of what hard work and natural talent can achieve: she's a real role model for girls and boys alike.

'Full-length biography giving young readers an insight into the grit and determination that turned a sporty schoolgirl into an Olympic medallist.' – *The Holly Bough*

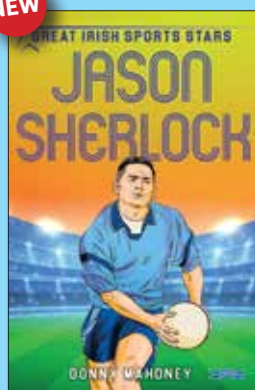


Cora Staunton is an elite sportswoman: a trailblazer in the Australian Football League, and a hero in her native Mayo for her Gaelic football skills. But it's been a long and eventful road for Cora. Discover how a girl playing with under-12 boys became a living legend.

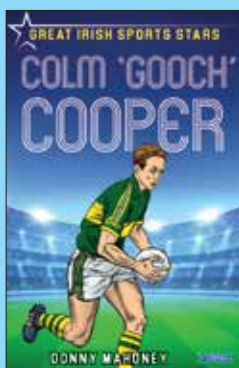


'Possibly more inspiring than all his glories in the ring, however, are the life lessons Dunne has learned from boxing, and which he now communicates to young fans' – *Evening Echo*

NEW



Jason Sherlock's journey from sports-mad boy to Hill 16 icon wasn't a straight line. As a kid he loved every sport going; he played basketball and soccer for Ireland and hurled. But he found his true calling in Gaelic football and went all the way to the All-Ireland final with the Boys in Blue. After his inspiring playing career, Jason went on to become a trusted assistant for Jim Gavin during Dublin's historic five-in-a-row run. Discover how a boy from Dublin found strength in his difference to become a Gaelic football great.



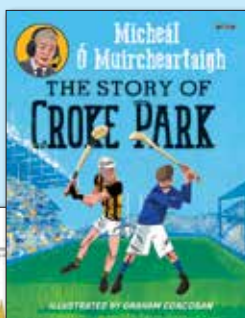
Follow Colm from his days as a tiny, freckle-faced kid – the youngest of seven in a GAA-mad family from Killarney – all the way to Croke Park, where he won five All-Ireland titles. They all said he was too small and weak to play for Kerry, but he became one of the greatest Gaelic footballers ever.

Why not try out a class project based on this series of sports biographies? They offer opportunities for exploring a diverse range of topics including:

- Healthy diet
- Importance of good social networks
- Good mental health
- Importance of resilience
- Importance of positive self-image

There are lots of teaching resources available to use with these and all our children's books at obrien.ie

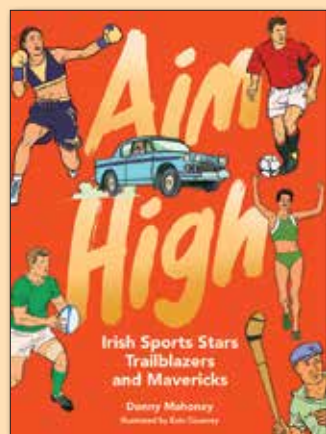
SPORTING HALL OF FAME	
Name: _____	
<p>What was your favourite sport?</p> <p>What was your favourite team?</p> <p>What was your favourite player?</p>	<p>What was your favourite moment?</p> <p>What was your favourite game?</p> <p>What was your favourite match?</p>



'a brilliant book for any sports fan and an excellent introduction to a beloved Irish landmark and the GAA, charting the history of this hallowed ground from its early days as Buttery's Field, to Jones Road and finally to Croke Park as we know it today. The fate and fortune of this plot of land and the games played upon it are heavily tied up in Ireland's history. Detailing the stands, the county colours, the cups and his own picks of memorable games and fun facts, Ó Muircheartaigh's distinctive voice can be heard throughout.' – *Children's Books Ireland*

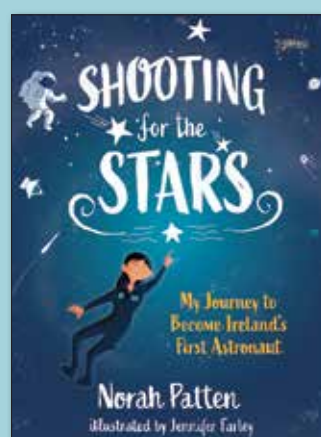


Extraordinary books for EVERYONE who is bold enough to dream of changing the world. Order these for your classroom today!

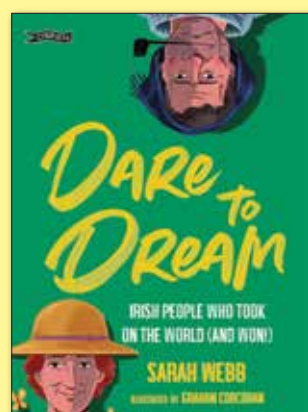


Featuring many people whose achievements have fallen from view, such as Anne O'Brien (the first Irish female professional football player) and Francie Barrett, the first traveller to represent Ireland at the Olympic Games. The remarkable stories of these trailblazers from throughout Ireland will inspire and excite children of all ages.

'A valuable collection-cum-tribute to our outstanding sportspeople over the last hundred years.' – *Irish Examiner*



In 2017, Dr. Norah Patten, from Ballina in Co. Mayo, was one of 12 participants from around the world selected to take part in a unique scientist-astronaut training programme. She is now on course to become Ireland's first astronaut! This is an empowering book, encouraging children to follow their dreams.



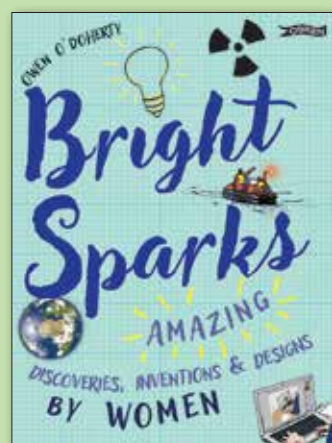
Are you ready to be inspired? Open this book and discover a world of courage, bravery and adventure from some of Ireland's most daring and fearless men and women.

'Dream big. You can't put a limit on your dreams because nothing is impossible' – Katie Mullan, Ireland Hockey Captain

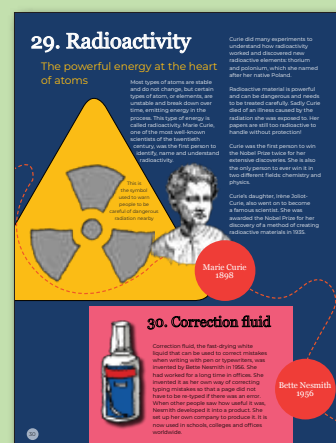


'At school I was taught that men were the history makers ... but that simply was not true. There have always remarkable women shaping our world and in this book I wanted to shine a light on some of these amazing female Irish pioneers' – Sarah Webb

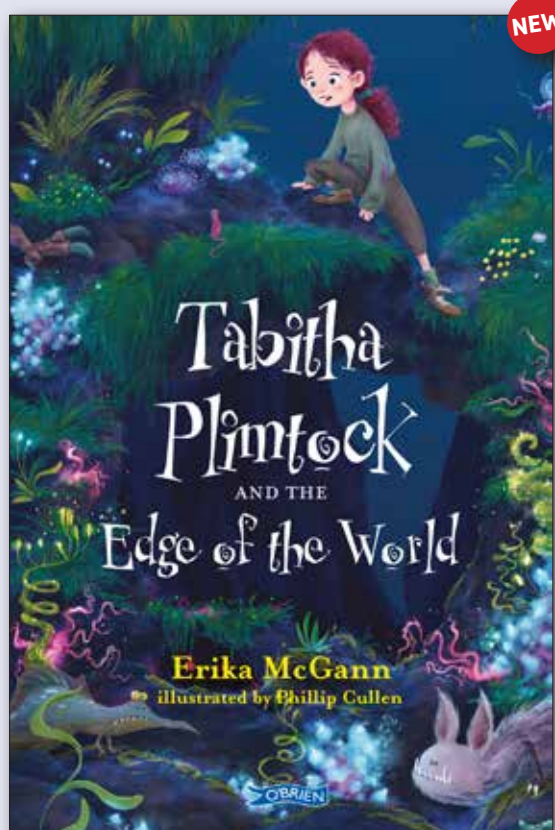
Packed with fun, fascinating facts and stunning, full-page illustrations, this book celebrates the trail blazers who have shaped the world we live in. Perfect for schools and libraries.



From windscreen wipers to the life raft; coffee filters to emergency flares; Apollo Mission software to Monopoly: this beautifully illustrated book is a guide to remarkable, practical, skilful and amazing inventions by women who have made their mark on history. With a step-by-step guide to inspire and encourage readers to come up with their own inventions, *Bright Sparks* is an empowering book that will be essential in your classroom this year.



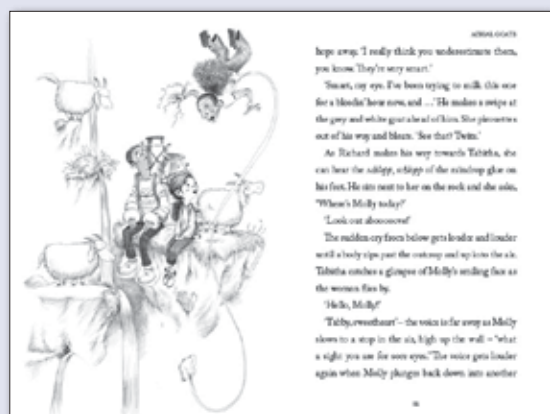
Magical and exciting stories that will captivate and inspire young readers.



'Tabitha refused to be afraid. There were monsters in the world – dangerous animals and mean people – but there were also beautiful flowers and kind friends, and goats and raindrops and sweet smells and love. If you gaze into the unknown and only ever see monsters, then surely you'll miss out on all the wonderful things hidden therein. Little Tabitha smiled to herself, then slid off the bottom of the net and down into the darkness.'

Tabitha Plimtock lives in a house at the very edge of the world. Her nasty relatives send her down the cliff face to collect nuts and eggs and other stuff. But Tabitha doesn't mind, because the people who live in the wall pockets are lovely. When rumours spread that strange creatures are climbing the wall, it's Mr Cratchley that Tabitha worries for most. Because something is stirring at the base, and it's getting very hungry ...

A charming story, full of heartwarming characters, magical creatures and daring feats of courage, this is a fantastical adventure with a timely subject – the importance of taking care of your world. The magical story of a little girl who sees beauty in the darkness, from award-winning children's author Erika McGann.



Erika McGann

FREE Teaching Guide
available from obrien.ie



Beth didn't want to move to Dublin – she misses her old life and her friends back in London. But when she discovers that Robbie, a boy from the 1950s, is slipping through time and into her room, then things start to get REALLY weird!

'a time-travelling, mind-bending domestic fantasy ... Family conflict and peer pressure are represented realistically ... a truly compelling read' – *Irish Times*

RATIONALE & THEMES

This guide has been designed to complement a class reading of the text in a way that brings the text alive whilst also enriching the students' critical abilities. The activities aim to inspire young readers by encouraging them to question the characters' motivations and the overall themes. The guide aims to develop empathy skills, stimulate discussion and encourage readers to dissect literary techniques in fresh and engaging ways. There are also activities designed to develop communication, presentation and literacy skills. The novel deals with

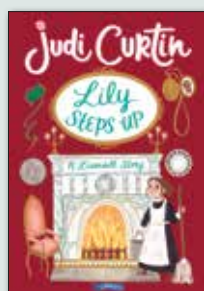


FREE Teaching Guide
available from obrien.ie

Teachers, buy these series for your classroom library! Your students will love these books from Ireland's favourite children's writer.



The further adventures of Lily: life as a maid in Lissadell House is always interesting, but with her friendship with Maeve under strain, a war in Europe starting and uncertainty about her future, she needs all her wits about her!



'Everyone needs a friend like Lily, kind, clever and tenacious, and in a difficult year, this book is like a warm hug' – *Irish Independent*



'It's 1913, and young Lily must leave school – and her dreams of becoming a teacher herself – to go and work as under housemaid at Lissadell House ... Lily is a long way from home and misses her mother, and little sisters and brothers very much. But, like many Curtin heroines, she's bright, caring, optimistic and, above all, resilient ... For all its Upstairs, Downstairs setting, the accent is mostly on how much the people in the house have in common ... It's clear that Lily is living in an age on the brink of huge change, but the overall atmosphere is one of optimism and hope.' – *Books for Keeps*

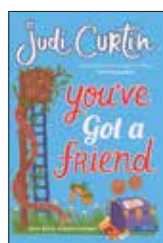
Time After Time series



Our favourite time-travelling best friends decide to travel back to the 1960s and do their best to fix a terrible accident. This is an exciting story about time-travel, family, friendship and love that your students will adore!



'An excellent read which explores the issues that face families, as well as exploring an age without today's technology. Highly recommended.' – *Parents in Touch*



'Curtin's books are heart-warming but they also deal with some thought-provoking subjects, such as Direct Provision and elder care. In this book, Molly's dad seems lonely so she and her friend Beth travel back in time to the 1970s to see if they can right some wrongs' – *Irish Independent*

The Eva series

"Funny, entertaining and a real page turner ... this book raises two very topical issues, treatment of the elderly in nursing homes and the rights of immigrants, which could be explored after a class reading." – *InTouch Magazine*



The Alice and Megan series

'Girls and boys will warm to Judi Curtin's funny stories about friendship ...' – *Sunday Independent*



Judi Curtin is the best-selling author of the 'Alice and Megan' series, the smash-hit 'Eva' series, the award-winning 'Time After Time' series, and the new 'Lily at Lissadell' series. She is an Irish Book Award Winner and multiple-time nominee.

'Ireland's answer to Jacqueline Wilson.' – *Irish Independent*

Teaching Resources

Loads of FREE teaching guides are available on obrien.ie/schools – try them in your classroom today!



The eagerly-awaited new children's novel from two-time Irish Book Award Winner Sarah Webb



Dublin 1911

When Eliza Kane and her brother Jonty move from the leafy suburbs of Rathmines to a tenement flat on Henrietta Street, they are in for a shock. Pigs and ponies in the yard, rats in the hallways and cockroaches or 'clocks' underfoot!

When they meet their new neighbour, Annie, a kind and practical teenager, and her brothers, and a travelling circus comes to town, offering them both jobs helping Madam Ada, the bee charmer, and Albert the dog trainer, things start to look up. When a tragedy happens in the tenements, Eliza, Jonty and their new friends spring into action.

A tale of family, friends and finding magic everywhere.

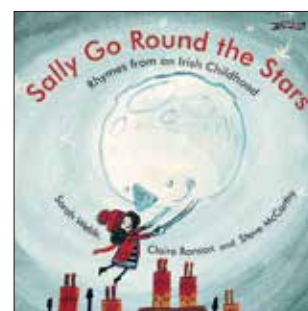
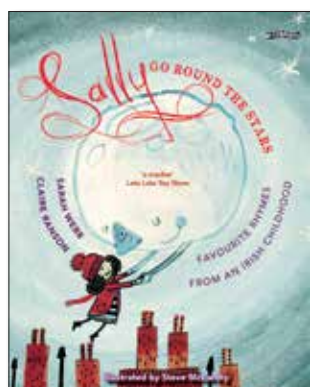
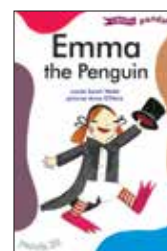
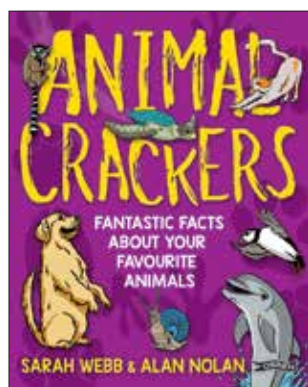
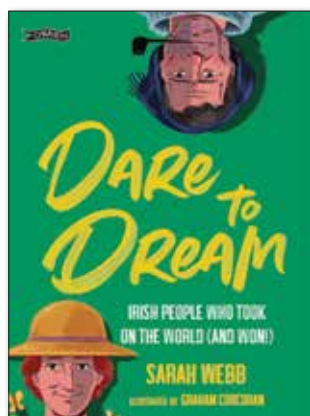
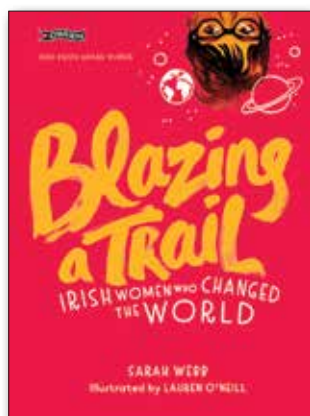
FREE Teaching Guide available from obrien.ie



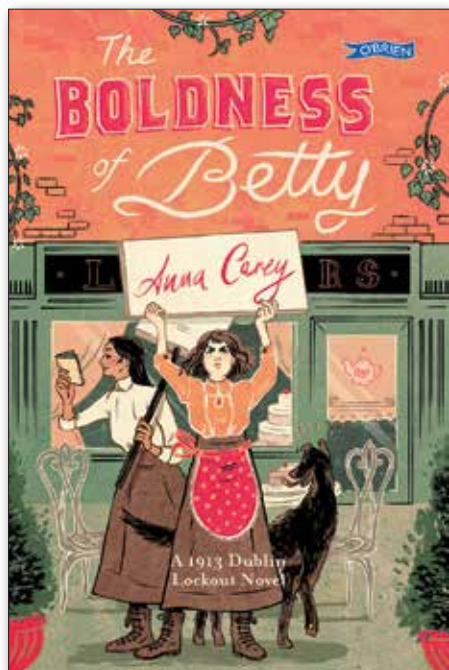
About the Author

Sarah Webb is a children's author who combines writing with schools visits, reading and giving workshops at festivals, and teaching creative writing. She has won two Irish Book Awards for her children's books (for *A Sailor Went to Sea, Sea, Sea* and *Blazing a Trail*), as well as the Children's Books Ireland Award for Outstanding Contribution to Children's Books, awarded in 2015.

Other books by Sarah Webb



With strong female protagonists, these novels would be perfect for exploring any number of themes in your classroom.



Irish Book Awards – Children's Book of the Year Senior 2020 – Shortlisted

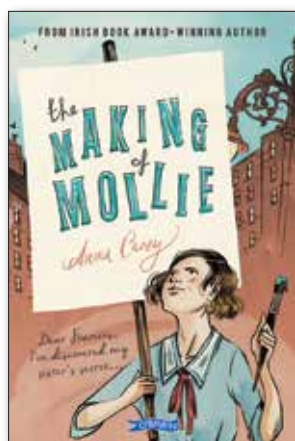
KPMG Children's Books Ireland Awards 2021 – Shortlisted

When Betty hears about a soup kitchen organised by the Irish Women Workers' Union at Liberty Hall, she's determined to help out. There, she meets other union activists, Countess Markievicz, and sympathetic suffragettes. Can Betty do her bit to help? Can she really change their fortunes?

'This is a brilliant book and I would rate it five out of five.' By Aoife, 6th Class, SN Iorball Sionnaigh, Scotstown, Co Monaghan – SeomraRanga.com



Anna's first book, *The Real Rebecca*, won the Senior Children's Book prize at the Irish Book Awards. *The Making of Mollie* (2016) was her first historical novel and was shortlisted for the Senior Children's Book Award at the 2016 Irish Book Awards; it was followed by the equally popular *Mollie on the March* in 2018.

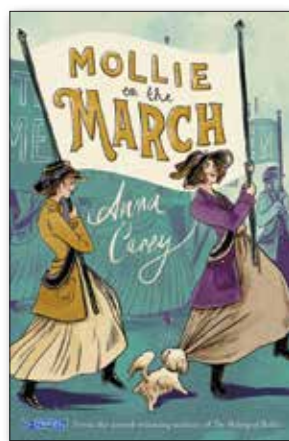


'An accessible diary-style account of the suffragette movement in Dublin in 1912 with some remarkable contemporary parallels.'

– irishtimes.com

'... although many will promote this novel to a female audience, I would strongly recommend it to boys as well, because the story is about a significant historical period that changed society ...'

– Suffolk Libraries



Mollie Carberry is a suffragette! Well, sort of. Mollie and her best friend Nora have been bravely fighting for women's rights – even though no one else really knows about it. But when they hear a big protest is being planned, they know they have to take part.

'just as charming as the first ... a deeply relatable story ... a welcome reminder that Irish history has more to it than nationalist rebellions' – Irish Times

Mollie on the March
Anna Carey

DISCUSSION POINTS

- (Read pp 9–10): What chores do you have to do around the house? Do you think it is important for children to help their parents in the house? Why do you think Mollie and Harry have different tasks at home? Is this fair?
- (Read p23): Mollie describes how horrible it is to see your enemies get humiliated. Is she right? Discuss a time when you have been surprised to find yourself feeling sympathy for someone you may have disliked? What happened? How did you feel?
- (Read p28): Mollie talks about Mollie moved to ...

Free Teaching Guides
Download **FREE** teaching guides to all Anna's books at obrien.ie/schools

With the exams now over, we hear about the politics amongst the girls at school and ...

Women's rights and roles,
Secret politics,
Secret stories in other historical contexts,
happens ... (Read p20)

The Making of Mollie
Anna Carey

Teaching Guide
By Anna Carey

SUMMARY AND THEMES

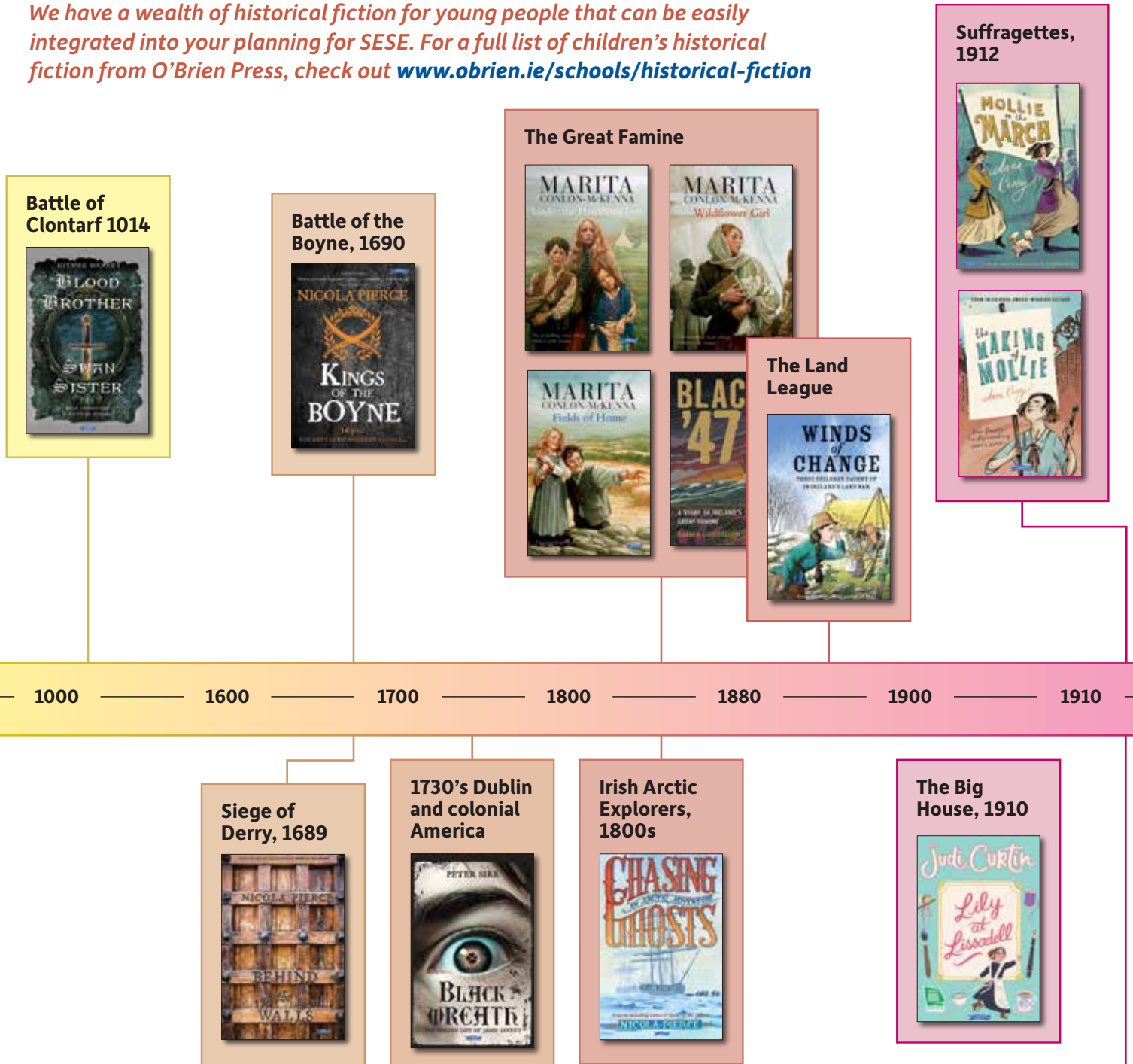
The Making of Mollie is an accessible account of the lives of women in Ireland in the early 20th century. It is a story of the struggles of women for equality and the role of the church in Irish society. The book is set in Dublin and follows the lives of Mollie and Nora, two young women who are determined to make a difference.

Unit 1
Pages 9–28

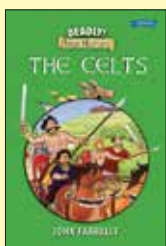
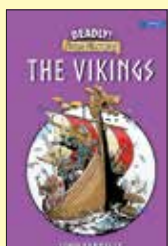
STUDY GUIDE

The Making of Mollie is a novel written from the perspective of Mollie Carberry. It is a story of the struggles of women for equality and the role of the church in Irish society. The book is set in Dublin and follows the lives of Mollie and Nora, two young women who are determined to make a difference.

We have a wealth of historical fiction for young people that can be easily integrated into your planning for SESE. For a full list of children's historical fiction from O'Brien Press, check out www.obrien.ie/schools/historical-fiction



Further Back in History



Come now on a journey to discover what these 'barbarians' were really like – what they believed in, how they lived and died and whether they were as DEADLY! as we have been told. Accessible, fun and crammed to the rafters with cartoons and wacky illustrations, this book is as deadly as Irish history gets!

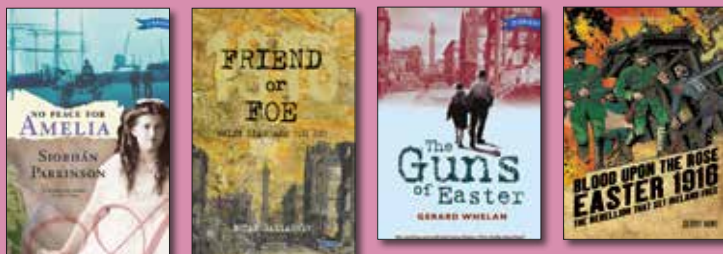
Titanic 1912



The 1913 Lockout



1916 Easter Rising



World War II



1915 — 1920 — 1925 — 1930 — 1940 — 1960 — 1980

1919



War of Independence 1919-1921



Irish Civil War



Civil Rights Movement, 1969



World War I

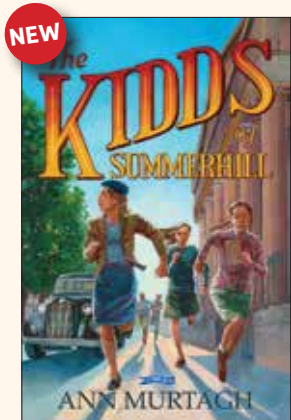


The Full Story



Irish Book Awards Children's Book of the Year 2008

These powerful and engaging novels will help your students see historical struggles first-hand. Perfect for your school library or as a whole-class novel.



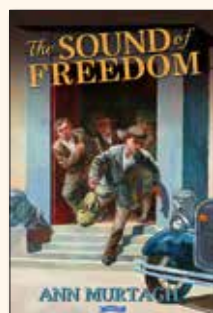
When Ma dies, Nancy is determined to keep her family together in their Dublin tenement and not in the industrial schools where the Cruelty Men believe they should be. Will she succeed?

‘a valuable insight into life in the Dublin tenements of the mid-1940s ... laden with descriptive detail of street games and songs from the period, painting young readers a colourful picture of a relatively overlooked period in Irish history’ – *Evening Echo*

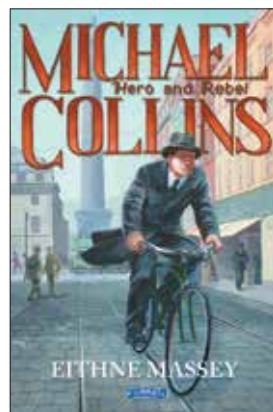


RATIONALE & THEMES

It is 1945, and the tenements of Dublin are among the worst in Europe. Those who live there are forced to endure harsh living conditions and unsympathetic treatment from a state and church that seem to be punishing them for their poverty. The Summerhill area of north Dublin city was once affluent and grand; now its tall Georgian buildings are tenements, with many families living in each one. The sudden death of their mother leaves the Kidd children teetering on the edge of disaster. However, the sun



Will Colm stay in Ireland and join the Volunteers or will he fulfil his dream of working as a musician in America? A long-held family secret comes to light, rocks Colm's world and shows him the way to go.



Hero and leader. Loyal friend and formidable enemy. A man with a mission and a legend in his lifetime. This is the story of Michael Collins.

‘Michael Collins – Hero and Rebel would be a perfect novel to accompany the teaching of these topics in Irish history, especially in senior classes. Recommended for readers ages 10+’ – *InTouch Magazine*, Gary Troy

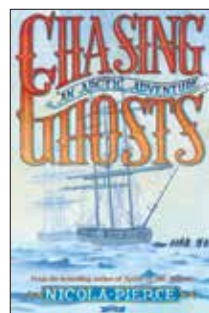


Michael Collins
Hero and Rebel
Eithne Massey
Teaching Guide
by Nicola Heaney

RATIONALE AND THEMES

This guide has been designed to complement a class reading of the text in a way that brings the text alive whilst also enriching students' critical abilities. The activities aim to inspire young readers by encouraging them to question the characters' motivations and the overall themes. The guide aims to develop empathy skills, stimulate discussion and encourage readers to dissect literary techniques in fresh and engaging ways. There are also activities included that are designed to develop communication, presentation and key skills. This fictional biography of Michael Collins

Free Teaching Guides
Download for this book
at obrien.ie/schools



Take your class on an Arctic Adventure with this excellent choice for a class novel.

‘A captivating novel ... absolutely enthralling ... Nicola Pierce brings history to life in this gripping, exciting, brutal, tragic, at times heart-wrenching, and very well-written novel ... suitable for use with fifth and sixth classes’ – *InTouch Magazine*



Brian Gallagher



In 1880's Ireland, with the Land War raging and evictions and boycotting overturning everyday life, three children from very different background form a secret – and dangerous – alliance.

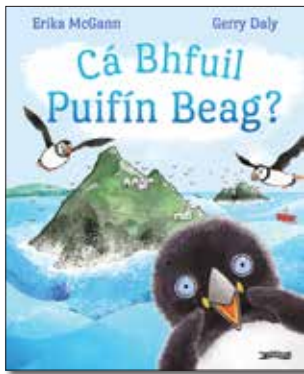
‘While the Land War rages and ultimately comes crashing in around them, ideas of friendship, loyalty and justice are battered and bruised. And when tragedy strikes ... well, nothing will ever be the same again. Genuine, intriguing, a poignant look at history from a very personal perspective; a beautiful work of historical fiction that really makes you think.’

– *Fallen Star Stories*



An alternate take on history in Ireland, this powerful and engaging novel takes the reader on an imaginative journey. What if Ireland had been occupied by Nazis? Where would you stand?





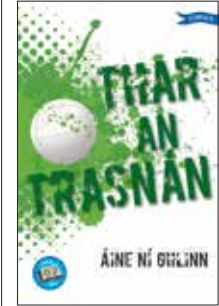
Tá puifín beag fiosrach ina cónaí ar Sceilg Mhichíl. Ach níl a tuismitheoirí in ann teacht uirthi ina bpoll. Cá bhfuil sí? Is maith an rud é go bhfuil ainmhithe agus éanlaithe na Sceilge réidh chun cabhrú. Aistrithe go Gaeilge ag Muireann ní Chíobháin



Tá Seán agus Gráinne ar a mbealach go dtí an margadh chun fainne Chladaigh a cheannach do bhreithlá a máthar. Lean an cúpla seo agus iad ar aistear draíochtúil tríd chathair na Gaillimhe agus gach cineál eachtra acu nuair a castar cairde nua agus cailleadh gránna orthu fiú! Aistrithe go Gaeilge ag Marcus Mac Conghail

Áine Ní Ghlinn Laureate na nÓg

Scribhneoir agus léachtóir í Áine Ní Ghlinn. Tá trí chnuasach filíochta foilsithe aici. Bíonn sí ag scríobh freisin don dráma teilifíse *Ros na Rún* ar TG4.



The second book in a vibrant and exciting Irish-language series from The O'Brien Press for children aged 8+ (native speakers)/9+ (others).

SCÉAL EILE books build on the success of the SOS series for younger readers, and are perfect for developing Irish language skills in the classroom.

Cluiche peile ag rang a sé. Buachaillí in aghaidh cáilíní.

Deir na múinteoirí nach bhfuil ann ach spraoi.

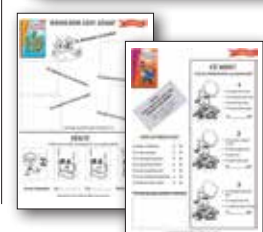
Dar le hEoghan, áfach, tá i bhfad níos mó ná sin i gceist. Bród! Onóir! Stádas na mbuachaillí!



Also in this series: *Éasca Péasca*

Billeoga Saothair

Billeoga Saothair bunaithe ar na leabhair Sos; Fíor nó Bréagach, Aimsigh na Difríochta, Deir Ó Grádaigh, Rabhlóga ...



GLAC Sos!

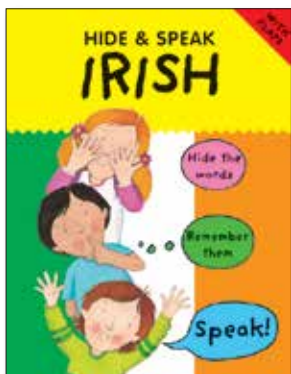
Sraith leabhar do léitheoirí óga atá maisithe go hálainn. Bealach fíorspreagúil i an tsraith seo leis an nGaeilge a shaothrú sa seomra ranga. Ais iontach í freisin do thuismitheoirí ar mhaith leo léamh na Gaeilge a chur chun cinn sa bhaile.



An enjoyable and practical way to learn the first essential words in Irish!

Age 6+ native speakers/Age 8+ others

Hide & Speak Irish goes further than most picture word books. It offers an effective and simple way to learn over 130 key Irish words, following the tried-and-tested method of 'look, cover and speak'. Using the two wipe-clean flaps at the back of the book to cover the words or the pictures, users can practise speaking or writing the words as many times as they want. *Hide & Speak Irish* is organised into fifteen popular themes, including farm, school, family, colours and food.



- Wipe-clean flaps can be used over and over again
- Combines key words and picture prompts
- Contains an easy-to-use pronunciation guide
- Engaging, humorous full-colour picture spreads illustrate each theme

'A good introduction to the language for children or adult learners.' – *Evening Echo*

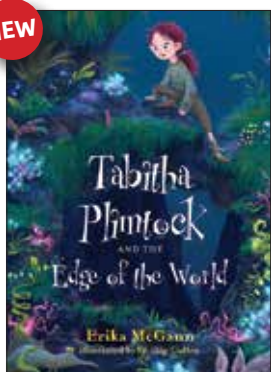
'Practical, simple and more fun for kids than it sounds!' – *Books Ireland*

Why themes? We recognise that teachers have been using our books for many years and this experience has informed our approach to using real books in the classroom. This year, we are highlighting two different themes: animal life and promoting well-being in schools. Don't forget there are FREE teaching resources available for use with many of these O'Brien Press books.

FREE Teaching resources from obrien.ie

Looking after our environment has never been more important. The following books bring our current climate crisis to light in a gentle, child-friendly way that is bound to provoke discussion and debate in your classroom and promote agents for change in our world! With free teaching resources, guidelines and online video content, these O'Brien Press books will lend themselves easily to integration with SESE, SPHE and Drama.

NEW



'Tabitha refused to be afraid. There were monsters in the world – dangerous animals and mean people – but there were also beautiful flowers and kind friends, and goats and raindrops and sweet smells and love.'

A charming story, full of heart-warming characters, magical creatures and daring feats of courage, this is a fantastical adventure with a timely subject – the importance of taking care of your world.



NEW



'As Finn searches for his Mum we get to meet a range of sea creatures and learn about the different ways they communicate. While Daly's story is not focused on the impact humans have on the environment there are elements of the story and its illustrations that touch on this theme. These will be useful conversation prompts to introduce children to the importance of looking after the planet.' – Children's Books Ireland



NEW



Flossie may be tiny and shiny, but she is tough and smart, whether it's helping to deal with litter louts in her precious forest, or helping a friend, she does her bit to look after her environment. A beautiful rhyming book, perfect for younger readers.

'charming ... practical and engaging ... Recommended for three- to seven-year-olds' – Irish Examiner

'a delightful picture book ... combines a heartwarming story with a timely message to look after our wildlife ... beautifully illustrated and sure to become a favourite with young readers' – Irish Daily Mail

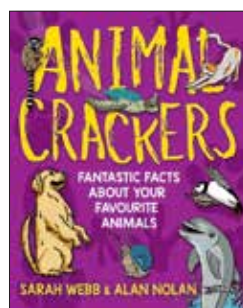


NEW



Ireland's favourite force of nature, Éanna Ní Lamhna, is on a mission to open our hearts and minds to our wonderful, wild world – to help us find the balance between our needs and the future of our precious planet.

'speaks to anyone aged nine to 90' – Sunday Independent



'Sarah Webb teams up with illustrator Alan Nolan for this great graphically attractive compilation of fantastic facts about favourite animals ... a practical guide for getting children involved in protecting wildlife as well.' – Business Post



Explore nature in your back garden as well as in mountains, rivers, forests and sea. Learn about weird and wonderful natural phenomena, this is a wonderful book to help open children's eyes to the natural world, from a real expert. An essential book to add to your classroom selection this year.



Bisto Book of the Decade winner

'would recommend this book to animal lovers, and lovers of nature and wildlife ...' – Weebitwordy

'mesmerising ... an exciting and dramatic story which offers a real insight into nature' – Parents in Touch



'full of action and suspense ... perfect for animal lovers and will leave children laughing out loud ... suitable for 3rd-6th classes' – InTouch Magazine



'There is much detail in the pictures, giving opportunity to linger page after page, pointing out the all fabulous and fun places and activities, all rich with history and the natural world. Heartwarming and humorous, this book is a delight ... and educational, too.' – Fallen Star Stories



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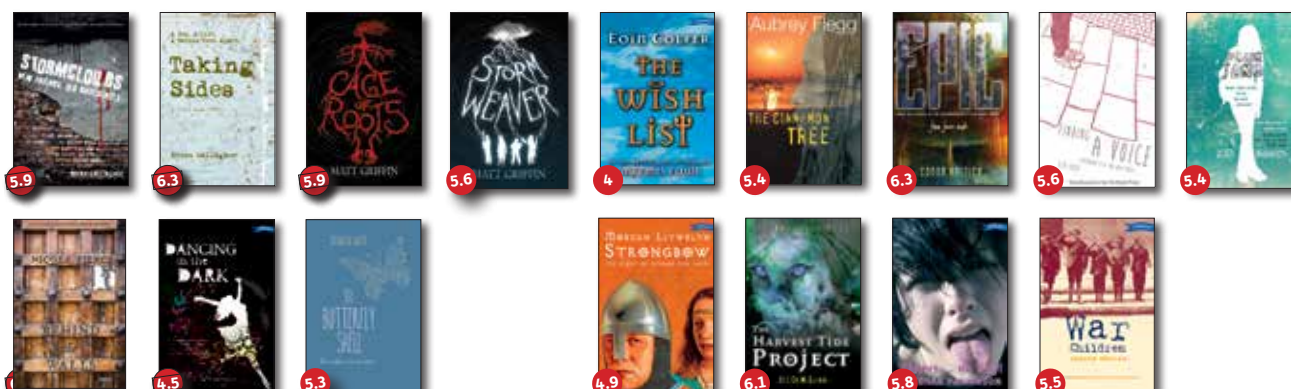
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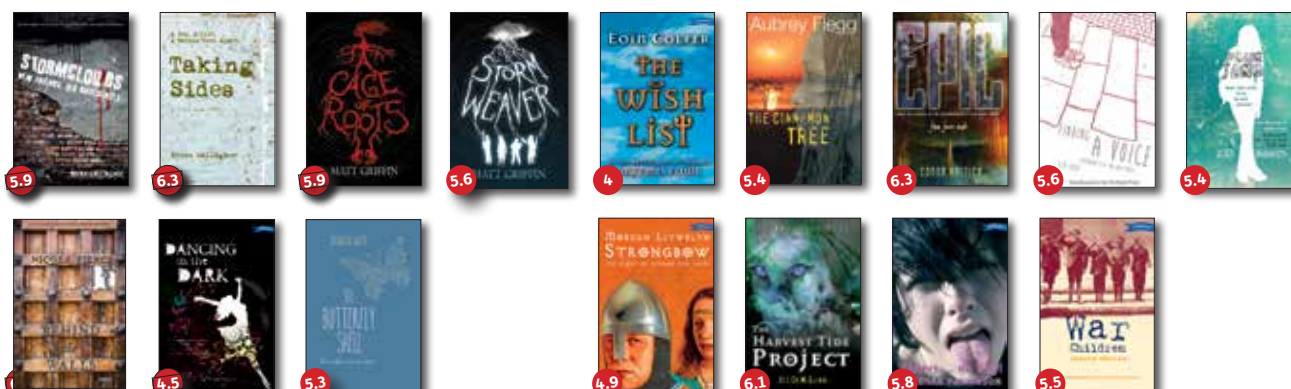
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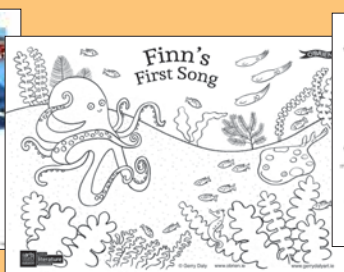
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