

Legends of Our Land: Tales from Bunscoil Chríost Rí

Written and Illustrated
by the Students of Bunscoil Chríost Rí



Foreword

Legends of Our Land: Tales from Bunscoil Chríost Rí

This book is the joyful result of a creative collaboration between the students and staff of Bunscoil Chríost Rí and artist Celina Buckley. *Legends of Our Land: Tales from Bunscoil Chríost Rí* is supported through Cork City Council by the Creative Ireland Programme, an all-of-government five-year initiative, from 2023 to 2027, which places creativity at the centre of public policy. Further information from creativeireland.gov.ie.

This book brings together stories imagined and illustrated by children — stories rooted in local folklore, fantasy, and the world around them. Over the course of several months in spring 2025, students took part in weekly illustration and storytelling workshops, where they learned how to draw, write, and bring their ideas to life. Working together, they created a book that reflects their unique voices, their vibrant imaginations, and their pride in their community.

Every child who participated contributed something original: a drawing, a sentence, a wild idea that became a tale. Their work has been compiled into a professional-quality children's book, with copies made available in the school classrooms, the local library, and readers across the world through an online e-book edition.

This project supports two key priorities of the Cork City Culture & Creativity Strategy:

- To tell our own story, by giving children the tools and confidence to express themselves.
- To promote well-being through creative engagement, by encouraging joy, self-expression, and connection through art and storytelling.

Beyond the pages of this book, the project has fostered confidence, collaboration, and a sense of achievement in every child involved. It celebrates the power of creativity to bring people together and to build lasting cultural memory.

Special thanks go to the teachers and staff of Bunscoil Chríost Rí, and especially to Ms. Yvonne Kelly and the school principal Mr. Eoin Fitzpatrick for their openness and support in making this project possible. Their belief in the power of creativity and in the voices of their students is what made this book a reality.

Also a big thanks to the families, library staff, local media and community members who helped us celebrate the launch of this work and who continue to support the creativity of young people in Cork.

These pages are filled with the imagination, talent, and heart of the children of Bunscoil Chríost Rí. I hope you find as much wonder in their stories as they poured into creating them.

Celina Buckley

Lead Artist, Project Coordinator, and Editor

Legends of Our Land: Tales from Bunscoil Chríost Rí



Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí
Cork City Council

Creative
Communities



Rialtas Áitiúil Éireann
Local Government Ireland



Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme

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THE COALMAN, GATEMAN, FLOWERMAN LEGEND



Written and Illustrated by the students of Bunscoil Chríost Rí:

Pemisire, Sophia, Connor, Elyan, Nahum, Samuel, Levi,
Luke, Emilia, Emily, Ellen H., Adwita, Rueem, Teo, Lexie.



Gateman made gates while Jeff the Pigeon watched.

One night, Coalman went to Gateman's house,
and unscrewed the gate screws.



Coalman took all the gates and put them in his car very carefully.
He drove away without Gateman noticing.



Coalman returned to his cave, furnaces lighting up the dusty walls. He placed the stolen gates into a fire from the other end of the furnace. Hot piles of iron flowed out. "Perfect for new tools!" he thought.



Jeff was on Gateman's roof one day.

In the corner of his eye he saw
Coalman stealing more gates!

He was both shocked and scared.



Jeff told the Flowerman that the Coalman was taking the gates so that
he could burn them to make new tools.

Coalman was soon **STEALING THE GATES** from **EVERYONE**
in Turners Cross!



Flowerman started thinking about how he could trap the Coalman.

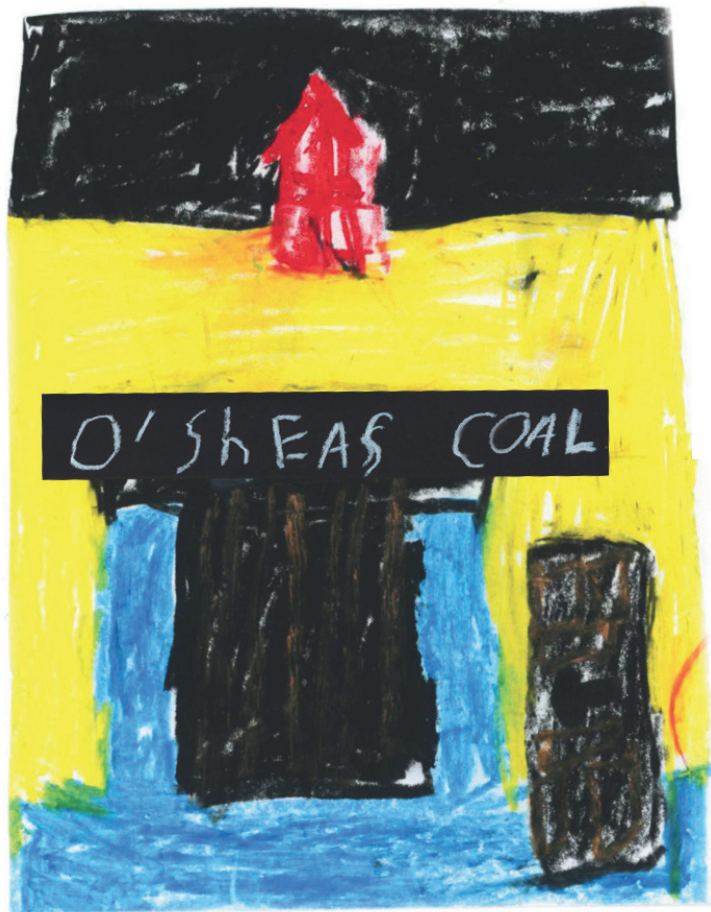


Flowerman decided to set a very sneaky trap for Coalman near his gate.

The next night,
Flowerman saw Coalman
through his camera
and at that moment
he pulled the lever
and trapped Coalman!



While Coalman was trapped, Jeff flew to Gateman and told him everything about Coalman and his plans.



After that Gateman went to Coalman's cave and melted all the tools back into gates.



All of a sudden, from over the homes and buildings, pigeons swarmed around the Coalman.



They picked him up with their talons and flew him far above the town. He went higher and higher. He felt dizzy from hours of flying.

He was happy to see a new land's beach in the distance.



Coalman landed on a tropical island near Mexico. He drank his iced water and watched the sunset. There was no need to steal gates to make tools or burn coal for warmth. This was his new home.

Eventually Gateman was able to rebuild all gates for Turners Cross in peace.



The people of Turners Cross were happy that Gateman could finally make gates and that Coalman was not in Turners Cross anymore.





THE SELKIE OF TURNERS CROSS

Written and Illustrated by the students of Bunscoil Chríost Rí:

Ava W., Anabela F., Ruslana, Nova, Leo, Arjola, Larissa, Noah,
Sam, Carrie, Olivia, Georgia, Darius, Sophie.

The Selkie is sad because it is lonely.
It lives underwater, and it is not homely.
They stay in a castle, which they call home.
It was so very shy and so very alone.







It came to the surface and cried out with fear,
It wanted a friend, but no one was near.



A man came along and couldn't believe his eyes,
Now what he was seeing was the most beautiful thing in sight.
He decided to take a video, for people all around to see.
It didn't just get a billion views, in fact it got three!



Lots of people from around, had now come to see,
The amazing new thing, known as a Selkie.
There were so many people that the ducks had been scared away.
Nobody could find the Selkie and it ruined people's day.



A search had begun and people were going crazy!
They came down to see a Selkie but instead it was being lazy.
The Lough was now trashed and people were mad,
By the time it was all over the Selkie felt more sad.



The Echo Man heard and he didn't agree,
He wrote an article in the paper, for all to see.
THE LOUGH IS NOT A ZOO, he headlined the truth!
"The Selkie needs friends, people like YOU!"

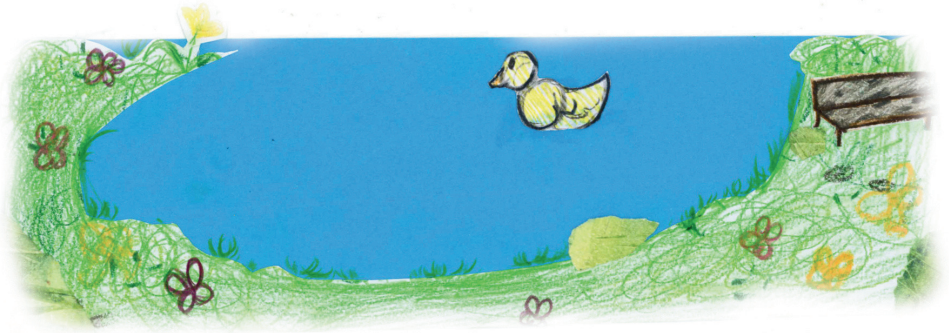


Word got out and the tide had turned,
The Selkie did have feelings, is what people had learned.
People changed their signs, and a protest took place.
The Selkie is infact, not what they needed to chase.



Instead it was being open, to new friends from all around.
Different kinds of people from different kinds of ground.

The lough was now everyone's home,
A place of respect in perfect,
Natural condition,
It was well kept.



Selkie stepped out of the water,
For the first time with pride.
But the magic of the skin it shed,
Was something it couldn't hide.



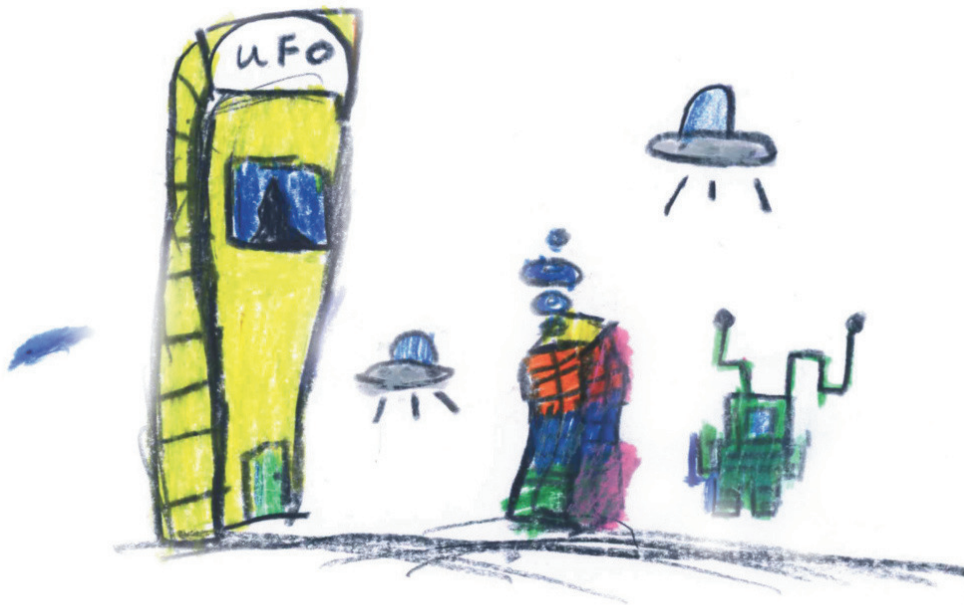
Selkie was sad, it could no longer swim,
But not when it realised what it could do with its' skin.
They gave it to people disabled, sick or diseased.
The skin was so great it could prevent as small a thing as a sneeze!



They used the excess skin to make a bench for the town ,
And rumour has it that it still heals people now.
The Selkie lived on, as normal as can be.
Look to see if you can find it, it could be you or me!



THE TALE OF EPIC VIRUSES 97



Written and Illustrated by the students of Bunscoil Chríost Rí:

Grace, Ashley, Tristan, Sally, Ryan C., Becca, Gifty, Kian,
Archie, Eoghan R., Ephraim, Shóna, Alice, Ellen O'D., Gabi.

The year was 3050. A YouTuber named EPIC VIRUSES 97 was testing a virus but he forgot to turn off his internet. This was the cause of the virus that spread across the world.



Everyday the virus grew and corrupted all the technology except for...
one SMART FRIDGE.

One day, two children Michael and Róisín decided to take matters into their own hands. Hiding in the rubble they started to make a plan. When suddenly they met this encrypted smart fridge who said...



“Of course! But if you become corrupted we’re leaving you!” they replied. With that they teamed up. As they walked past the ruins of the school, they heard a noise and turned. Air fryers, toasters, play stations and more started chasing them!



They ran and ran until they ended up in Tory Top Library.



They roamed around looking through books for anti-virus software codes when they stumbled upon a strange book.



When they opened it, the spirits came to life!

“What’s going on, why are you here?” gasped Róisín. “You opened the book and we somehow came here!” replied Fionn MacCumhaill.

“Will you help us?” asked Michael. “Well of course!” said Fionn. They all left the library heading towards Evergreen Road.

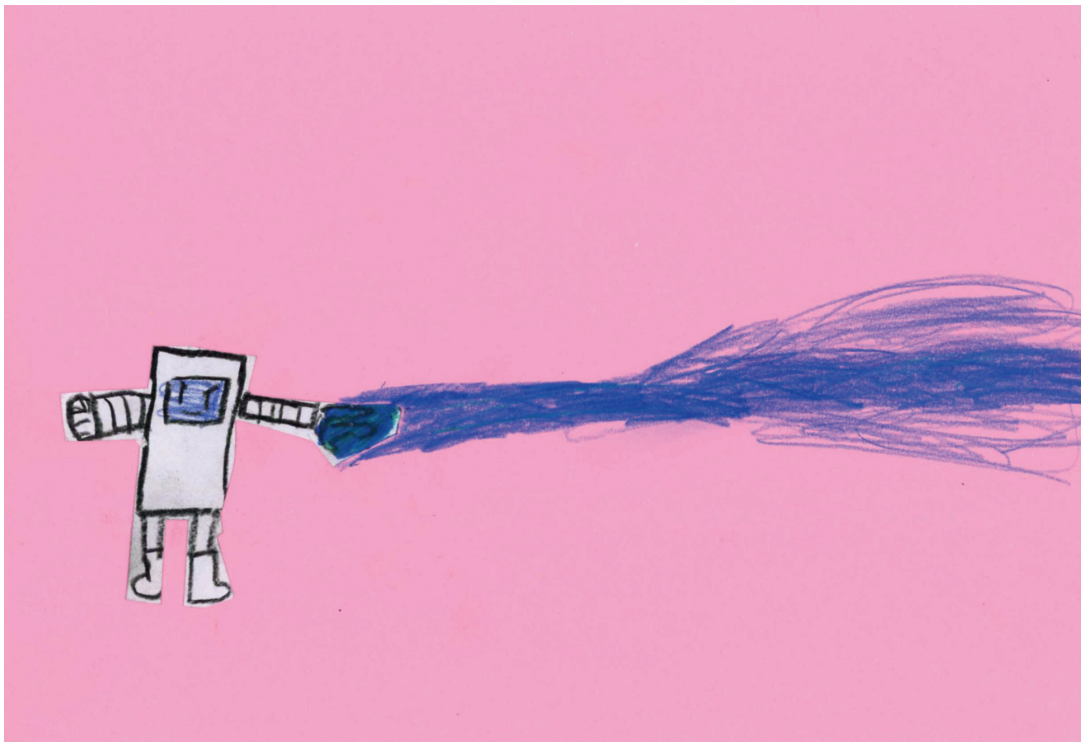


When they made it there, the technology all lined up, and behind them was a huge TV yelling
“YOU WILL NEVER DEFEAT ME!”

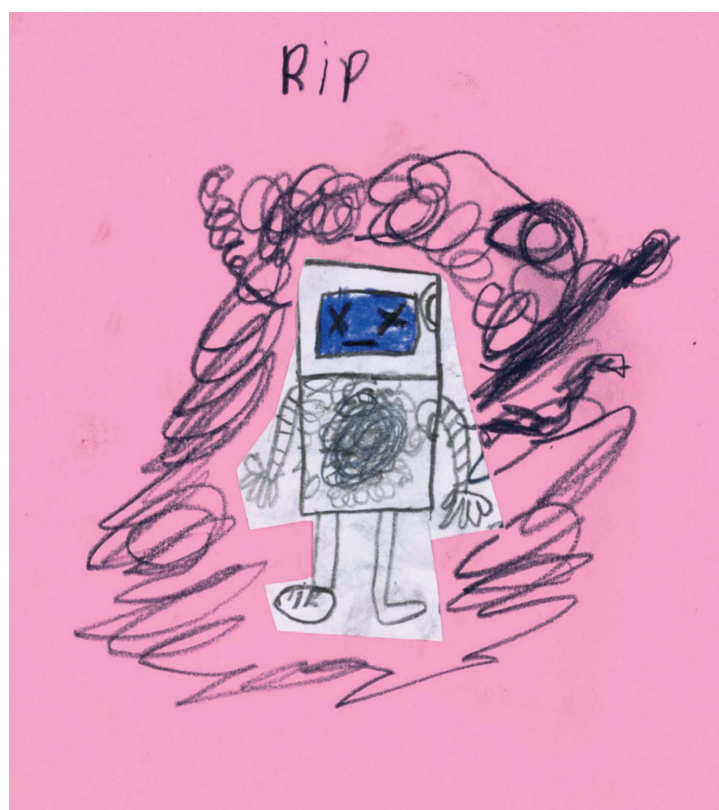
They fought bravely trying to take out batteries, dumping water on the technology and pushing them into canals.







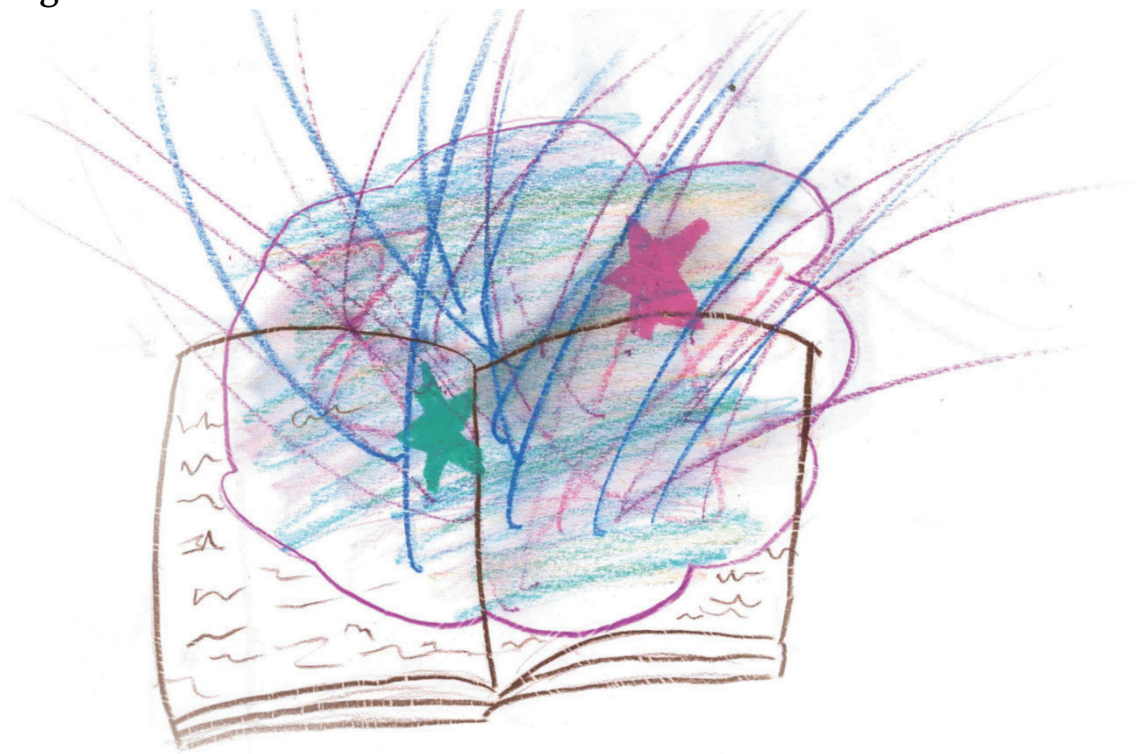
When they began to fight the TV, the smart fridge sacrificed himself by shooting a large shot of water, malfunctioning in the process.





Once the battle was done they went back to the library to say their goodbyes. The Irish Legends jumped into the book back home and Róisín and Michael closed the book.

The next week Róisín and Michael went back to the library and they saw something different, a new book filled with their story about saving Turners Cross.



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This publication was created as part of Legends of Our Land: Tales from Bunscoil Chríost Rí, a not-for-profit community project supported through Cork City Council by the Creative Ireland Programme, an all-of-government five-year initiative, from 2023 to 2027, which places creativity at the centre of public policy. Further information from creativeireland.gov.ie.

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*There's a smart fridge, a sneaky Coalman,
a selkie in the Lough... and a lot of very unexpected things.*

*Three stories, loads of adventure,
and some seriously strange moments.*

You might laugh.

You might gasp.

You'll definitely want to keep reading!

