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



# O'BRIEN for Schools 2025–2026

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

## *Where Can I Find O'Brien Press Books?*

1. **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.

2. **ONLINE**: There are lots of choices online, from bookshops to education sites such as **iesltd.ie** and **tarabookco.ie**. Or you can buy directly from **obrien.ie**.

3. **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**.)

4. **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

An order form with the ISBN of all titles in this catalogue is available at **obrien.ie/catalogue**




Front cover illustration from *A Little Birdie Told Me* by Tarsila Kruse. See page 5 for more details.

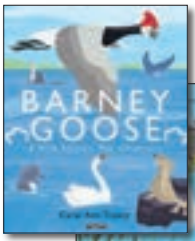
***Take a tour of Ireland from the comfort of your classroom with these stunning picture books from O'Brien Press***







Meara hunts the magical The Golden Hare with grandad. But sometimes



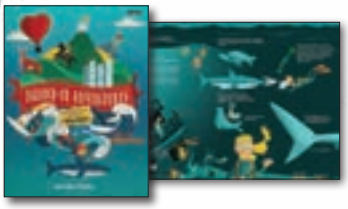



Travel the Wild Atlantic Way with Barney Goose!






Can the three kid goats gruff get past the angry troll and back home for dinner?






Legends inspired by the Boyne Valley from long, long ago, includeing 'The Origin of the Boyne', 'The Foster-child of Aonghus' and 'The Salmon of Knowledge'.

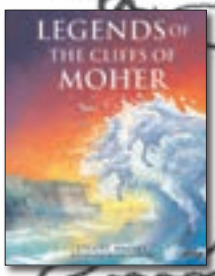




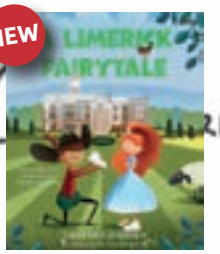

A contemporary take on Hansel and Gretel featuring the Spanish Arch, the Salmon Weir Bridge and Eyre Square.
(Also available *as Gaeilge*)

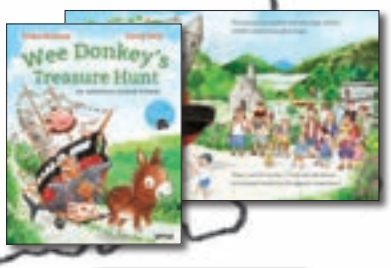





Enchanting tales of secret mermaids, lost cities, lovestruck hags and magical sea-horses perfect for reading aloud to little ones.



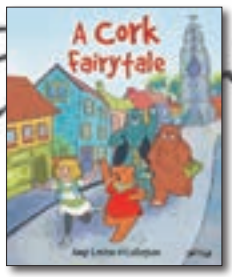




Wee Donkey travels Ireland trying to find the perfect souvenir for her Grandad.






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




A fun retelling of The Three Bears celebrating Cork.

Free Activity Sheets on obrien.ie



***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




Foxy loves to hear stories about the Wild Wood, where there are all sorts of creatures. He decides to set out on his own wild adventure. Can he learn to be a fox of the Wild Wood?
Stunning new foxy picture book by Tom McCaughren and Erika McGann.

NEW



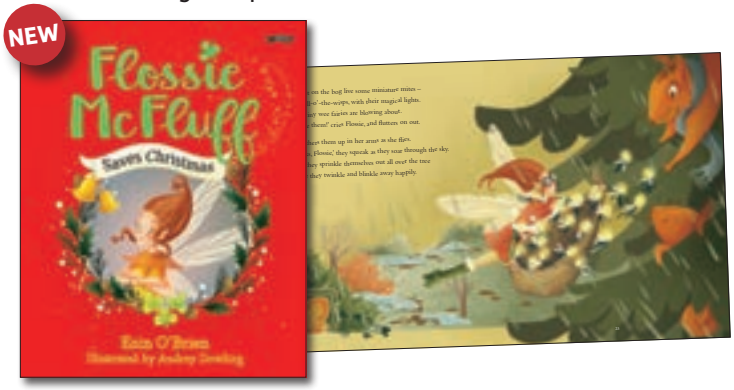

Amelia Egghart is a chicken with a dream. Ever since she was a chick she has been practicing, preparing, and training for the day she would finally achieve that dream: breaking the world record for chicken flight.
A daft and delightful picture book

NEW




Milo wants to climb the Mountain. He really does. But the Mountain is HUGE and Milo is scared. Can he ever reach the top? Yes, he can. With just a little help from his friends!
Adversity, friendship

NEW




Christmas is coming and the animals in the wood are getting excited. But when their burrows are flooded by a storm, the creatures have nowhere to sleep. Can Flossie help her friends find somewhere safe and dry before a special visitor comes their way? Gentle rhyme and Christmas fun, with an environmental message.

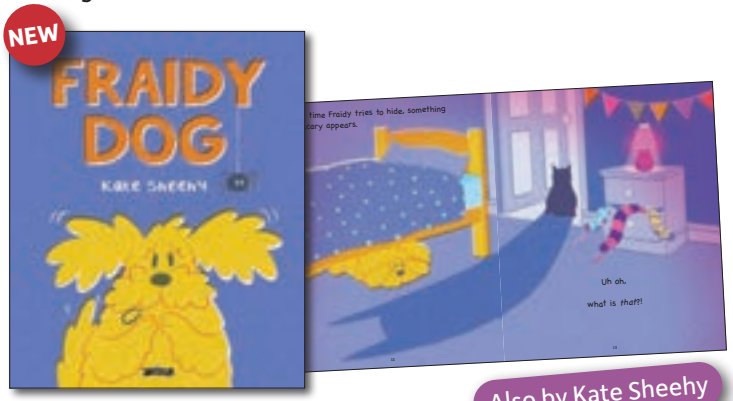
NEW




Have you heard? There's going to be a party – there's going to be games, and dancing, and cake – and some one very special is going to be there.
A book that builds page-by-page, featuring a range of native Irish birds

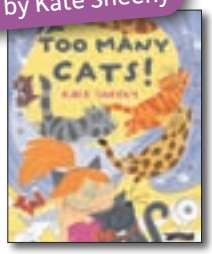
arts council ealaíon | funding literature

NEW




Poor Fraidy Dog is afraid of ... everything! To him, sofas are spooky, cupboards are creepy and houseplants are horrifying! Will Fraidy ever learn to be brave?

Also by Kate Sheehy



NEW




Another magical book featuring Rory the Fox.'Badger Books' is a bookshop, run by a badger. On its shelves, you can find books about every animal. From bears to elephants, tigers to dinosaurs and pandas to narwhals. But there's one book they don't have ... and it's one that Rory the Fox really, really wants.

arts council funding literature

Also featuring Rory the Fox




Rory's dad, Fox, is a tailer. The BEST in the business! Animals come from all over to have their tails made by him. Rory helps his dad in the shop, and one of his jobs is measuring the customers for the tails – which isn't always easy! But Rory is bored of making the same old tails. He has his own amazing ideas ...



Paddy Donnelly grew up on the beautiful north coast of Ireland, surrounded by mythical stories of giants, magical creatures and shape-shifting animals. His storytelling reflects his love of nature and animals.

WINNER Irish Book Awards Children's Book of the Year (Junior)





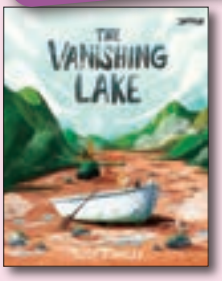


Free Teaching Resources

'The possibilities for curricular integration across the SESE subjects are endless. The opportunity to initiate lessons and jump start conversation on Irish birds, environmental conservation, habitats, bees, butterflies, spring, working as an explorer, not to mention a study of the hare, using this book are many.' Katrina Grogan, Castleplunkett NS, Castlerea, Co. Roscommon on SeomraRanga.com

Meara and Grandad set out on a journey to find the Golden Hare, a mythical, shape-shifting creature that can jump to the moon in two-and-a-half leaps! Along the way, they discover all sorts of treasures in the trees, under the ground and in the waves. And who knows where that clever Golden Hare might be hiding ...

Also featuring Meara and Grandad




Meara's Grandad lives by the mysterious lake of Loughareema. Some days it's full and shimmering, and some days it's completely empty! Grandad has plenty of stories about why it vanishes. Is it mermaids? Narwhals? Giants? Meara doesn't believe any of these stories, but with a little imagination she may eventually discover the 'real' reason ...

## Also by Paddy Donnelly





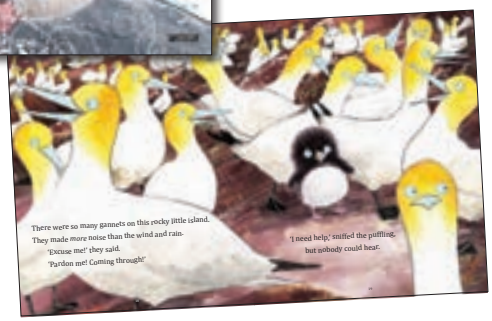


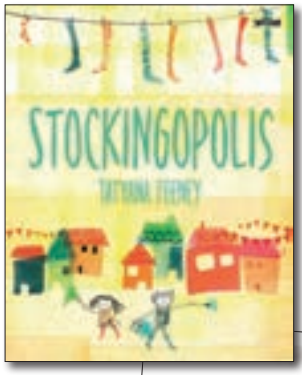
Dodos are extinct, right?
WRONG!
They're just in disguise, and they're not the only ones. This book reveals the secrets of the woolly mammoths, sabre-toothed tigers and even dinosaurs! These famous creatures are in disguise everywhere, so keep your eyes peeled! This hilarious story will keep your class giggling while also introducing children to the need to protect endangered species and our planet.

NEW

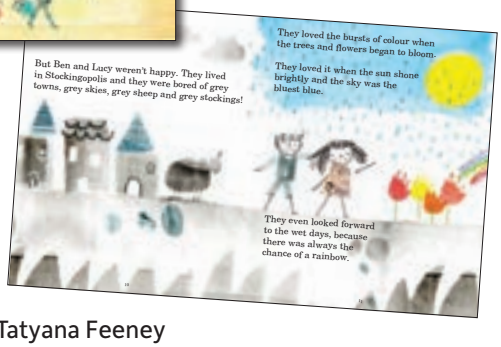



A brave little puffling lives on Skellig Michael.
It's a windy, stormy day – a perfect day for a wild adventure. But she ends up far from home! Can her new animal friends help her find her way back?




Stockingopolis is a small grey town by the grey sea. The factory is grey, and the famous stockings made in it are all grey too. But Ben and Lucy love colour – they'd love if there were MORE bright colours. So one day they set out to paint just one sheep with their brightly coloured paints ...




Also by Gerry Daly and Erika McGann




Also by Tatyana Feeney




**A wealth of wonderful picture books, perfect for the classroom. For more, visit obrien.ie**



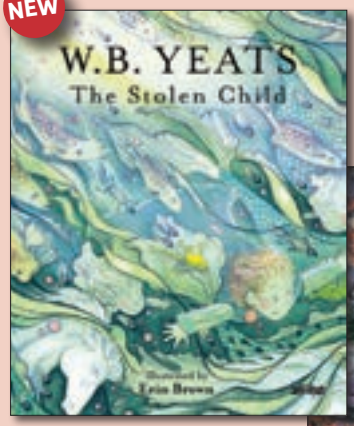




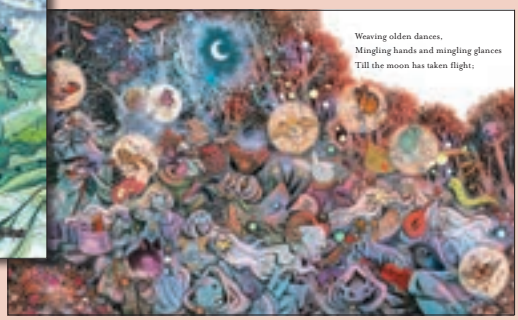


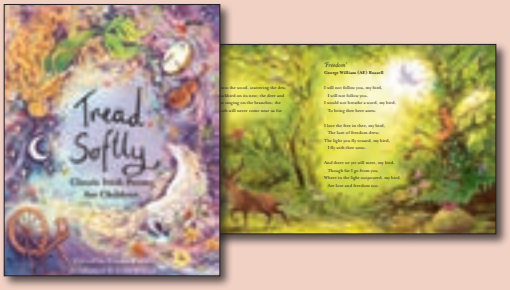
## Poetry & Nursery Rhymes

NEW

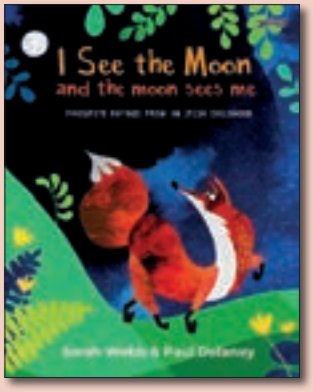



Come away, O human child!
To the waters and the wild
W.B. Yeats's enchanting poem, with radiant original art by Erin Brown




With poems by W.B. Yeats, Oscar Wilde and James Joyce, Katharine Tynan, Alice Milligan, Lady Wilde and Lady Gregory, J.M. Synge, Johnathan Swift, Austin Clarke and many others, this collection will delight readers young and old. An excellent resource for any classroom.







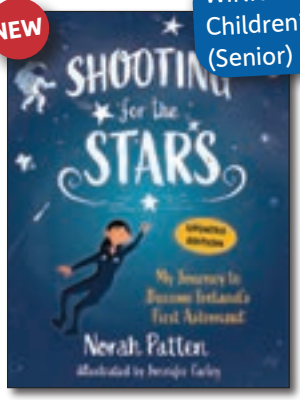
Oranges and lemons, dancing sausages, little kittens, ducks and turtles; Irish eyes, Dublin Street Boys and Old Saint Nick – they're all here, and plenty more. This wonderful collection of nursery rhymes, songs, poems and rhymes with illustrations that jump off every page is the perfect addition to any junior classroom.



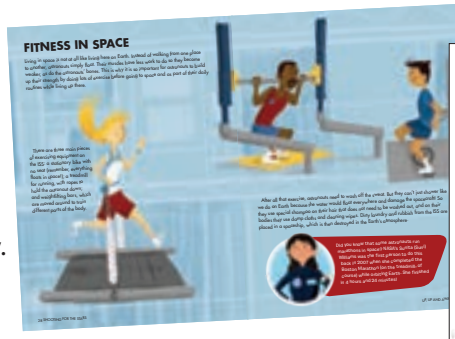

## Non-fiction

NEW

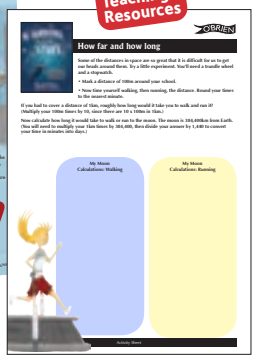
WINNER Irish Book Awards Children's Book of the Year (Senior)




An updated edition of Norah Patten's celebration of space: now that she is looks set to be Ireland's first person in space, in 2026. Learn about space travel, astronaut training and life without gravity. A fun and engaging book about space and becoming an astronaut: but most importantly this book is about following your dreams no matter how big!



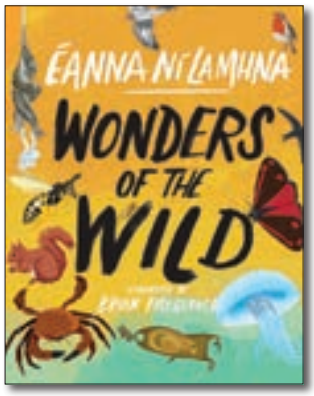

Free Teaching Resources







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.




From rabbits eating their own poo to what feeds on humans and how caterpillars burst! Discover animal-eating plants, what rises from the dead, sea life that glows in the dark and lots of other weird and wonderful surprises from nature.

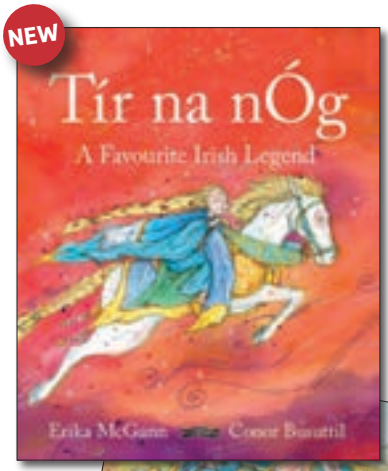



Also available for readers young and old

***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.***

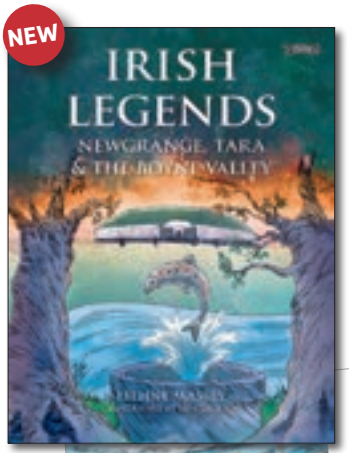
NEW




Niamh lives in the magical land of Tír na nÓg, where no one ever grows old or feels sad.
She invites Oisín to join her and they are happy until he misses his home in the human world.
When sadness strikes, Niamh learns the strength and beauty of the human heart.
A beautiful retelling of a beloved Irish legend.




NEW



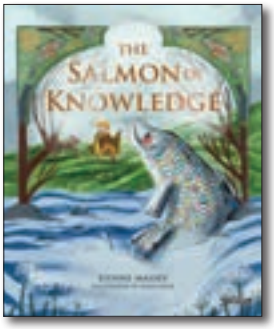

Stories inspired by the Boyne Valley from long, long ago. Legends include: 'The Origin of the Boyne', 'The Foster-child of Aonghus' and 'The Salmon of Knowledge'.
Easy to read and beautifully illustrated.




Also available




the legend of The Children of Lir, who were turned into swans by their wicked stepmother and forced to wander across Ireland for 900 years.
Written in gentle rhyme with evocative illustrations.

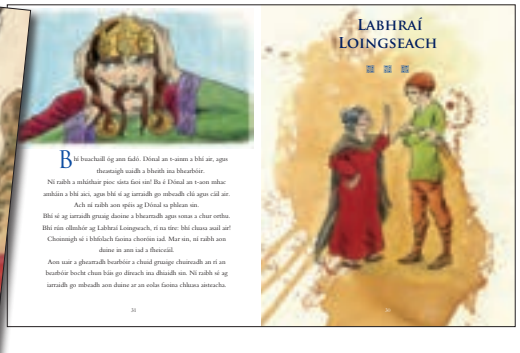



Fionn goes to live with the wisest man in Ireland, hoping to find answers to his many questions. But Finnegas has a secret. He knows how to get all the knowledge in the world, and it starts with a silver salmon swimming in the River Boyne. This is a beautifully illustrated introduction to a classic Irish tale and is sure to generate plenty of discussion in the classroom.

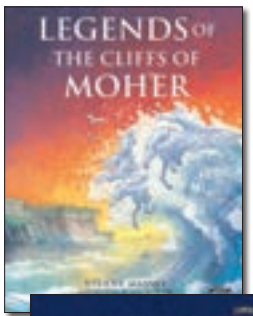









Ireland's favourite legends, beautifully illustrated and available in both English and Irish.
Includes The Salmon of Knowledge, How Cú Chulainn Got His Name, The Children of Lir, The King with Donkey's Ears, Fionn and the Giant, The White Wolfhound, Oisín





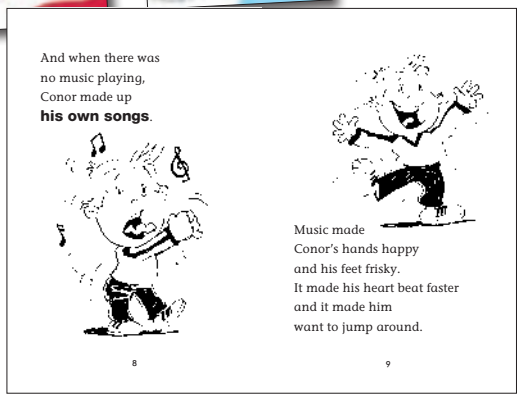







***Children love the quirky characters and funny, heart-warming stories at the Purple Flag level. With simple text and lively illustrations, these books are perfect for emergent readers who need an extra boost. They are also suitable for older, more reluctant readers.***




For almost 40 years as a class teacher and a S.E.T., **I have found myself returning time and again to the O' Brien Panda series of books**. They are exceptionally well written, hitting every phonic target you could name and work perfectly as class group readers or as parallel readers.

The reasons are simple. Irish authors talking a language every kid can relate to. Black and white pictures that add the perfect clue to a difficult word. A story from beginning to end that is enjoyable and a target to be reached for the budding or struggling reader.

As I enter the twilight of my career I find myself subbing more often, but am always armed with my trusted series of readers. Wherever I go they follow and they never fail to impress.

I even have my "Flyer" series with me too, just in case I have some readers in need of a sterner challenge.

Once upon a time, a book was for reading, for enjoying, to lose oneself within the pages. **It's time to reintroduce these timeless books in your school. They never let you down. Every schools resource library should have the Panda books available.**

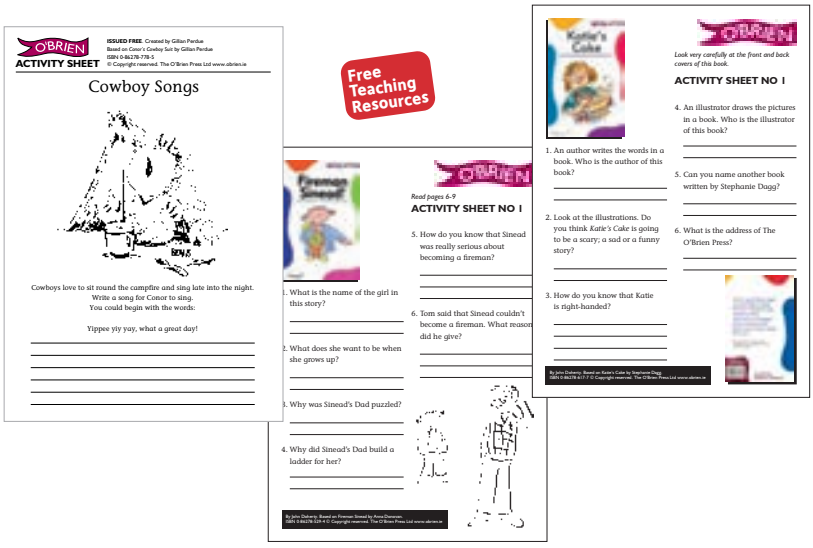
Tom Ó Brannagáin, Múinteoir

## Danny Brown in colour

One of the favourite characters from the Pandas, Danny Brown is always 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 – Reading Level 6+

***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!***

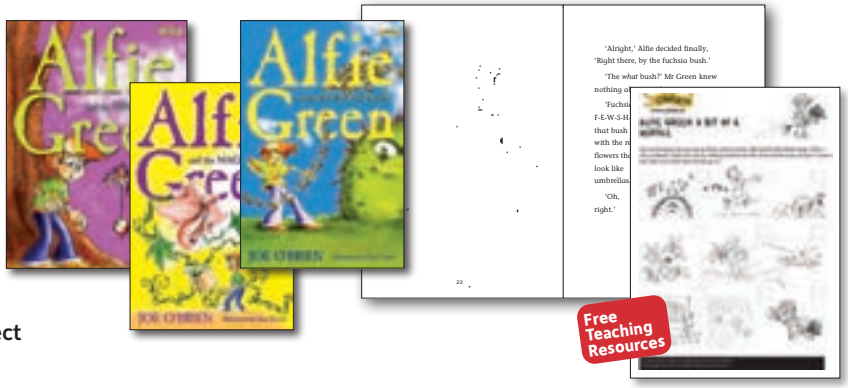



Have you got fans of Horrid Henry or Dirty Bertie in your class? The Mad Grandad books will be perfect for children who love a bit of silliness teamed with hilarious characters that just keep getting themselves into trouble!

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.

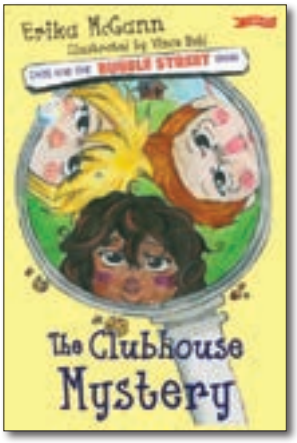
### ALFIE GREEN

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 – Reading Level 8+




***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.***




A great new edition with CBI Cover Competition winner Naomi Osibodu from Mercy Mounthawk Secondary School, Co. Kerry

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

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

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

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

***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




## A brand new title from the author of the hugely-popular Rugby Spirit series.

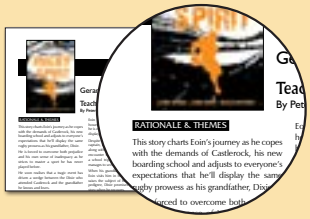
A new rugby club is just the excitement Fiona, Kevin and their friends need over the summer holidays. And it's not long before the Bally K Foxes are up and running. But the abandoned factory casts a shadow over the club. The more everyone warns them to stay away, the more the friends want to solve the mystery ... even if it means risking their new club.



**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.




**'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*



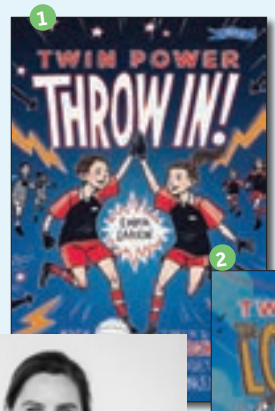

NEW



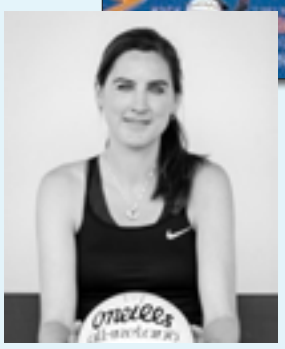

## A third tale of family, friends and gaelic football from Emma Larkin.

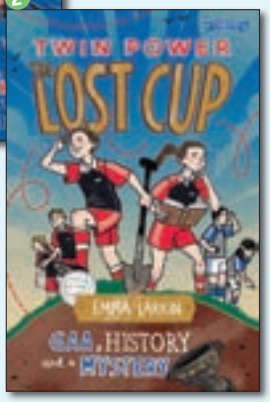
Every young Gaelic footballer dreams of playing in Féile, the biggest competition there is. Both Aoife and Aidan's teams are vying to qualify, but what will happen now that the twins are on separate boys' and girls' teams for the first time?

With secondary school to navigate, new teams to get used to, and a family mystery to solve ... it's going to be a busy season for Twin Power!




Twins Aoife and Aidan Power, along with their four best friends, love playing Gaelic football. Parish rivalries resurface and threaten to get out of hand as the children of Droichead Beag National School fight tooth and nail to get their hands on the coveted first ever Star Schools Cup.






The Droichead Beag gang are back! However, all is not rosy and things are changing for the twins and their gang, with new friendships, football injuries and tense matches.

## More Great Sports Novels

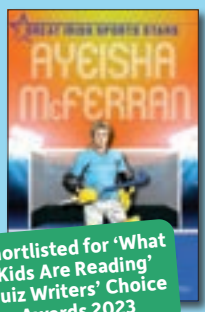



Thirteen-year-old Anna is struggling to cope with the recent loss of her father, when she discovers a forgotten gift from him - a pair of bright orange football socks. With the help of these brightly coloured good-luck charms, Anna slowly begins to gain confidence both on and off the pitch.

*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*



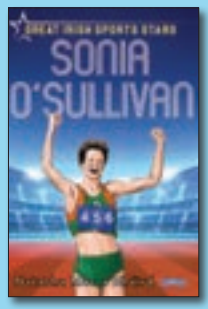

Shortlisted for 'What Kids Are Reading' Quiz Writers' Choice Awards 2023

Growing up in Larne in County Antrim, Ayeisha was fearless. If she wasn't climbing trees, she was playing soccer, Irish dancing or throwing the javelin. When Ayeisha discovered hockey, she was hooked! The inspirational story of one of the best hockey goalkeepers in the world.

**'Written in accessible, easy to read prose, it is ideal for young sports fans'** *Irish Independent*

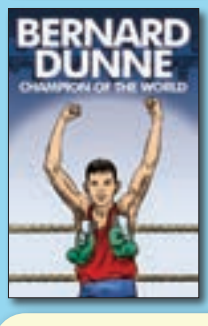



From the time he was a young boy playing with his brothers in Donegal, Shay Given dreamed of football glory. He worked hard to become a world-class goalkeeper, and went on to play for Newcastle United, Manchester City and Ireland, making amazing saves at the World Cup and European Championships. The 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.

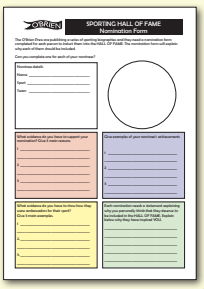
**'Full-length biography giving young readers an insight into the grit and determination that turned a sporty schoolgirl into an Olympic medallist.'** – *The Holly Bough*



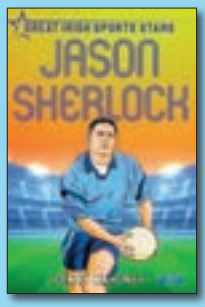

**'Possibly more inspiring than all his glories in the ring, however, are the life lessons Dunne has learned from boxing, and which he now communicates to young fans'** – *Evening Echo*

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**




Jason Sherlock's journey from sports-mad boy to Hill 16 icon wasn't a straight line. He loved every sport going; he hurled and played basketball & soccer for Ireland. But he found his true calling in Gaelic football and went all the way to the All-Ireland final with the Boys in Blue. Discover how a boy from Dublin found strength in his difference to become a Gaelic football great.

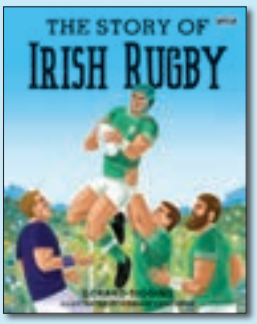



Cora Staunton was a trailblazer in the Australian Football League, and a hero in her native Mayo for her Gaelic football skills. But it was a long and eventful road for Cora. Discover how a girl playing with under-12 boys became a living legend.

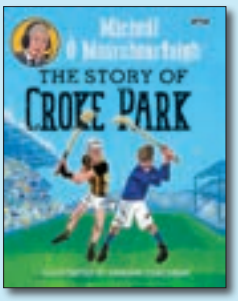



Follow Colm from his days as a tiny, freckle-faced kid – the youngest of seven in a GAA-mad family from Killarney – all the way to Croke Park, where he won five All-Ireland titles. They all said he was too small and weak to play for Kerry, but he became one of the greatest Gaelic footballers ever.

*The stories of Croke Park and Rugby, from origins to the present.*




From the rules and history of the game, to the four provincial teams and the legendary Irish players at home and abroad, to gripping matches and tournaments that showcase the sport at its finest – this lavishly illustrated book includes everything you could possibly want to know about Irish rugby.






**'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 Butterly'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*

# Blue Flag – Reading Level 9+ *Mystery/Adventure*

***Looking for your next class novel? Check out our selection of mystery and adventure books for senior classes. With comprehensive teaching guides available on our website, these novels will stimulate discussion, foster critical thinking and support a wide range of cross-curricular themes.***

NEW




Clare Rose and Molly are happy to be back at Sycamore Hill, getting ready for the school musical and training hard at hockey. When new girl Amy joins their class in the middle of term, she's a bit of a puzzle to solve.

The girls vow to use their detective skills to get to the bottom of this new mystery before it's too late.

Set in Sycamore Hill Boarding School in Donegal in 1963.

**Themes** - Friendship, Determination, Self-esteem, Bullying, Jealousy, Prejudice, Gender stereotyping, Censorship.

Praise for *The Tower Ghost*

'hugely atmospheric and very immersive - the setting seemed to come to life as I read ... deftly plotted and skilfully written' Sinead O'Hart




It's 1944. Twelve-year-old Grace Devine lives at Blacksod Lighthouse and weather station in County Mayo with her parents and little brother. When a German plane crashes nearby, she and her best friend Sibby risk their lives to save the young pilot. Grace's family take him in, but their neighbours are horrified at having an 'enemy' in their midst.

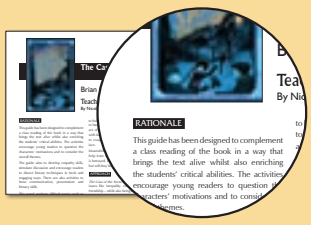
Meanwhile, the Met Office in England suddenly asks Blacksod to send them weather reports every hour. But why? As the wind and rain howl outside, Grace begins to understand that something important is happening, something to do with the war – and she is right in the eye of the storm. This exciting tale of bravery, adventure and a remarkable friendship highlights Ireland's role in World War II.

**Themes** – Courage, Friendship, War, Loyalty, Identity, Prejudice, Bullying.

NEW




On holidays with an aunt in Carlingford, friends Tim, Deirdre and Joe set out to investigate an SOS, but very quickly they are caught up in a dangerous adventure. Can they solve the case before it's too late?




**Themes** – Family & Community, Friendship, Courage, Social Equality




Praise for *The Case of the Vanishing Painting*

'Overall a very rewarding and enjoyable story that is sure to make children aged 9+ to feel part of the adventure. Highlighting the wisdom and strength of children, this is a book full of wonderful language that is sure to fuel its readers literacy and reading skills' *ChildrensBooksIreland.ie*

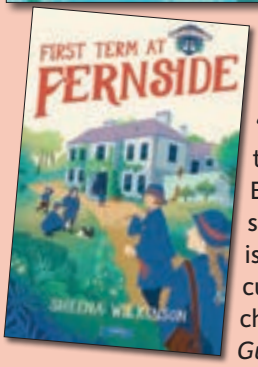
NEW




Cousins Robin and Linnet are back at Fernside. With a new mystery boarder, an anti-bullying league, netball matches, exams, and adventures with the animals at Rowanbank school life is busier than ever.

**Themes** – Friendship, Courage.




Praise for *First Term at Fernside*

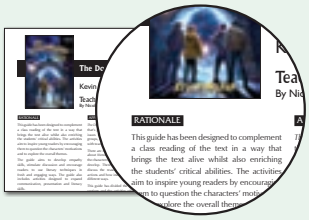
'Get ready to go back to school with the girls at Fernside Boarding School, Belfast ... In between daring rescues, secret missions and adventures there is friendship, fun and some fluffy cuddles ... a wonderful read for young children and adults alike' *A Teachers Guide to Reading*

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




**Detention can wait. Saving the world comes first!**
Jack and Conan's friendship is officially dead. Stuck in detention with Yash and Jerry after an all-out brawl, it's a terrible start to sixth class. And that's before they witness a monstrous beast step out of a portal outside their school. When it wanders into the crumbling mansion across the road, the boys follow. They have to investigate, right?

**'an action-packed mystery thriller catapulting the mundane lives of four sixth-class schoolboys into a terrifying world of heart-pounding suspense and mythical monsters, all right on their Dublin doorstep. Kevin Moran has masterfully weaved banter, bravery and wit into a class-act adventure of ferocious foes, mythical mysteries and unlikely friendships. A gold-star-sticker of a story!'** *Eve McDonnell*





Kevin Moran is a children's author and primary school teacher from Castlebar, County Mayo.

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**Winner - Children's Books Ireland's Eilís Dillon Award for Best Debut**

**Renaissance Learning Quiz Writers Awards Winner**

**Nominated for the Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing**




For the first time in over fifty years, the Trooping Fairies arrive in the small town of Clonbridge for their annual revels. With the Fairies back in town, Cat has to face real danger and use all her wits and bravery to save those she loves.

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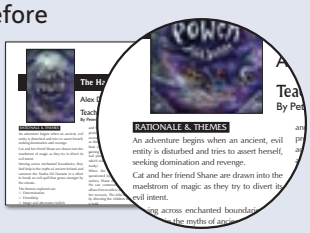
Cat and Shane are back! When the spirit of Cethlenn possesses new neighbour Becca and tells Cat of an ancient harp that once belonged to The Dagda himself she and Shane set out to free Becca from Cethlenn's clutches and destroy the harp before Cethlenn uses it to summon an army of dead Fomorians to take over the land.



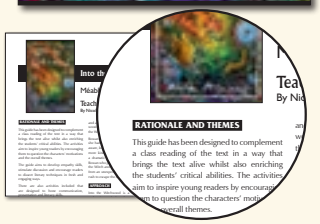
**Alex Dunne**






Surrounding Rowan's home is the dark, dangerous Witchwood. At the heart of it, sitting at the bottom of an ancient well, is a powerful Witch. Rowan's mother went into the woods – and never came back out. Can Rowan enter the Witchwood and save her mum? After all, she's a witch too...

**'a tale of love, loss and heroism ... McDonnell's debut is an assured and unputdownable read that expertly weaves folklore and a deep respect for the natural world ... the world-building is excellent, and the characters feel lived-in and real ... plenty of topics for discussion'** *Deirdre O'Sullivan, InTouch Magazine*



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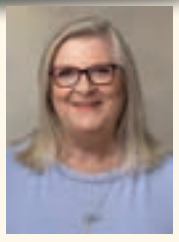
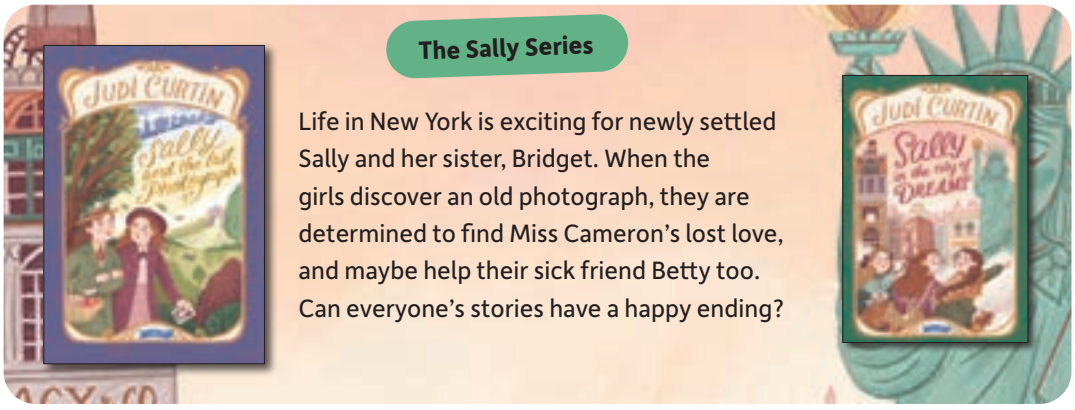
**Strange things are happening in Fairy Hill.** Thirteen-year-old Anna is upset when she is sent to stay with her dad and his new family in the west of Ireland. Anna senses she is being watched, but nobody believes her except the mysterious boy down by the lake. When her little half-brother, Jack, nearly gets lost, Anna suspects that someone is trying to steal him away: could he be in real danger?

**Also by Marita Conlon-McKenna**





***Teachers, buy these series for your classroom library! Your students will love these books from Ireland's favourite children's writer. With free comprehensive teaching guides available on our website, these novels also make great choices for whole-class novels.***



## The Sally Series

Life in New York is exciting for newly settled Sally and her sister, Bridget. When the girls discover an old photograph, they are determined to find Miss Cameron's lost love, and maybe help their sick friend Betty too. Can everyone's stories have a happy ending?



## The Lily Series

This heartwarming and engaging series about friendship in a time of change is set in Lissadell House in the early 20th century



## Time After Time series






Molly and Beth accidentally travel back in time, and lots of adventures await! They meet their own grandparents and parents as children as they try to undo the mistakes of the past. Exciting exciting stories of time-travel, family, friendship and love that your students will adore!

**'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 Alice and Megan series

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





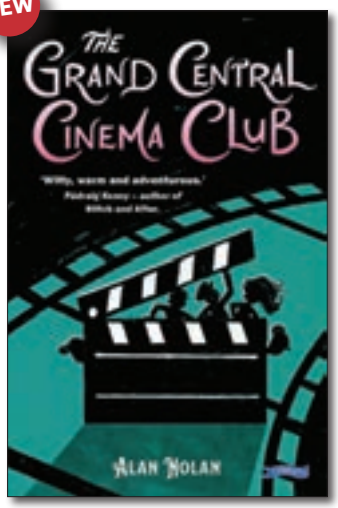
Judi Curtin is the best-selling author of the 'Alice and Megan' series, the smash-hit 'Eva' series, the award-winning 'Time After Time' series, and the new 'Lily at Lissadell' series. She is an Irish Book Award Winner and multiple-time nominee.

'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!



NEW




**Dublin 1937.**
**At the Grand Central Cinema on O'Connell Street, the children of Dublin watch their Hollywood heroes on the silver screen.**

When Sylvie meets tenement boy Jem and his daredevil sister Juno, they bond over their love of movies. But an accident means Juno will miss the latest film at the Grando, so they hatch a plot to hijack the movie reel!

'A rip-roaring story set in 1930s Dublin! Alan Nolan delivers a dazzling, cinematic adventure with friendship at its core ... Set against the golden age of cinema in Ireland, this is a perfect read for young dreamers, mystery lovers and anyone who relishes a great story' *Patricia Forde, Laureate na nÓg (2023-2026)*

FREE Teaching Guide available from obrien.ie






Alan Nolan grew up in Windy Arbour, Dublin and now lives in Bray, Co. Wicklow with his wife and three children. Alan is an author and illustrator and often runs illustration and writing workshops for children in schools and libraries.

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**'jam-packed full of colourful characters, intricate plots and plenty of excitement. There's plenty to fire the imagination here'** *Irish Times*

Free teaching guides available on obrien.ie
Ideal choices for class novels
Themes include Friendship, Courage, Social Class Divisions and Victorian Living Conditions

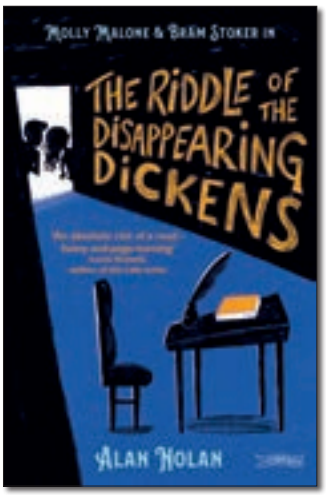
## The Molly & Bram series




**Brilliant characters, puns and wordplay galore, rotten fish, nappies, ghosts — this cracking book has it all'** *Irish Independent*




**'I really enjoyed this book It gave me a jittery feeling in my stomach. I would recommend this book to people who like pirates, treasure hunts and secrets'** *Cordelia Craig, age 10 for Tertulia Books, Mayo News*



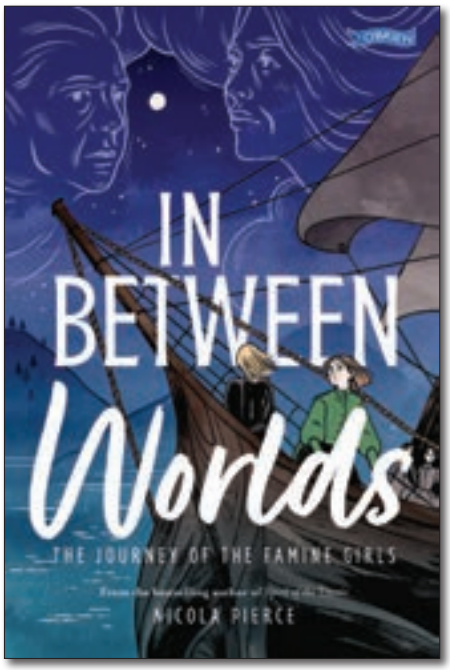

**'a page-turning treat for young readers and lucky the teacher or parent who gets to share the story'** *Books for Keeps 'Book of the Week'*

Eleven year old Bram Stoker, future author of Dracula, escapes school to 1850s Dublin City seeking adventure. There he meets Molly Malone, accomplished sneak thief and part time fishmonger.

Whether saving the Irish crown jewels from evil Count Vladimir, solving the mystery of the missing curator in the natural history museum or rescuing the kidnapped writer Charles Dickens on a trip to London, nothing is ever simple.

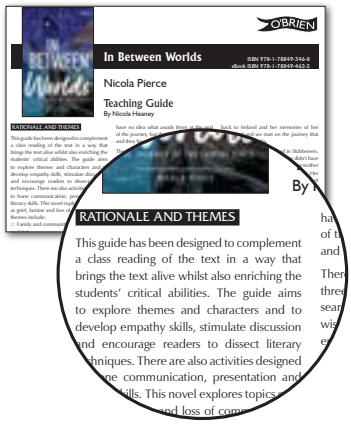
**'An absolute riot of a read – funny and page-turning'** *Louie Stowell, author of the Loki series*

**'My new favourite double act – smarter than Holmes and Watson and much funnier'** *Eoin Colfer*




*In 1849, the Thomas Arbuthnot set sail for Australia. Onboard were 194 Irish girls.*
Maggie and Sarah are on their way to Australia. Their homes and their lives have been devastated by famine, with death coming to so many. Even when they sought refuge in the workhouse, they found horror and heartbreak there.
When the girls are given the chance of a new life on the other side of the world, they know they have to say yes – no matter the price.
On the ship, they are caught in between worlds. How will they find the courage and strength to build new lives in a strange land?

FREE Teaching Guide available from obrien.ie

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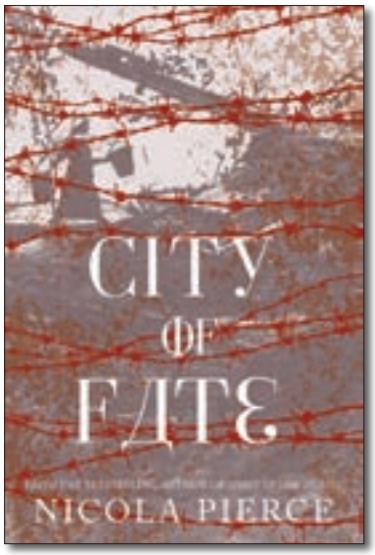
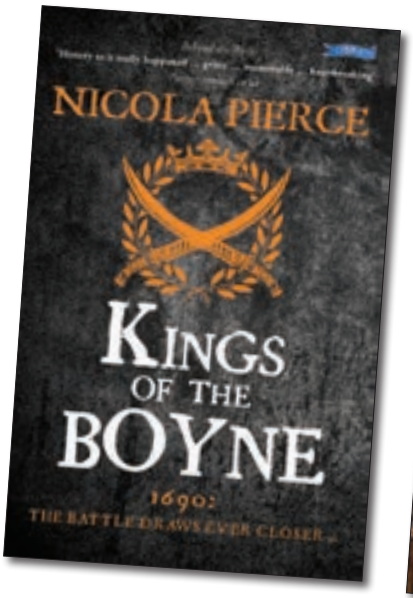
## Also by Nicola Pierce






**'this fantastically written book will hook you from the start. You rarely find books about the Second World War set in Russia, but this one is utterly brilliant and I'd recommend it to anyone! With believable characters and a fantastic story line, this is historical fiction at its best.'** *theguardian.com on City of Fate*










**'Little did I know that this book would be gripping, exciting and unimaginably shattering. Towards the end, things picked up a lot, and I realised that this would just get better and better and better.'** *Guardian's Children's Books on Spirit of the Titanic*

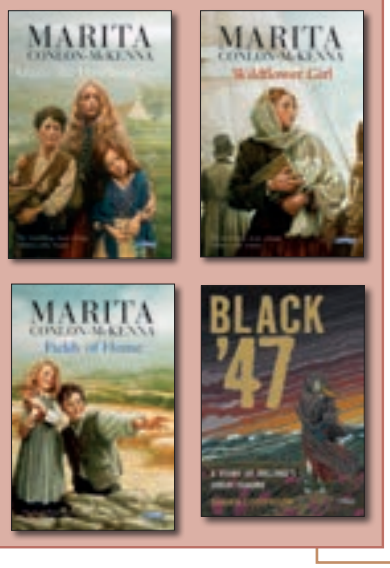
# Timeline of Irish history through fiction

*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***

**The 1913 Lockout**




**The Great Famine**




**Battle of the Boyne, 1690**




**The Land League**




**Suffragettes, 1912**




1600 — 1700 — 1800 — 1880 — 1900 — 1910

**Siege of Derry, 1689**




**Irish Arctic Explorers, 1800s**




**The Big House, 1910**




**1911**



**1910s**



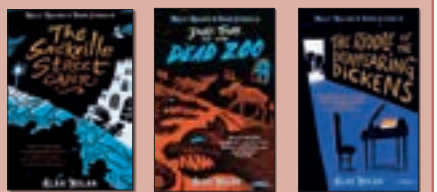
**1849**



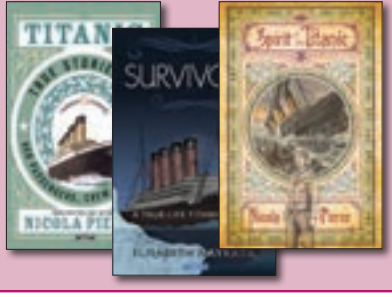

**1830**



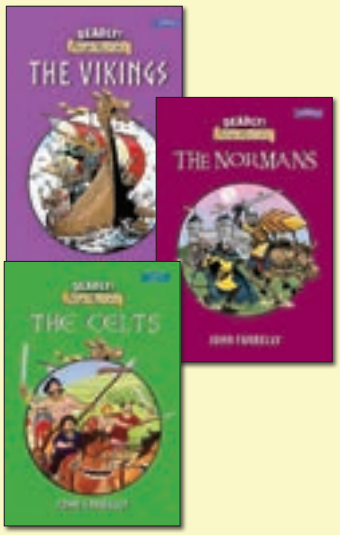

**1850s**



**Titanic 1912**



## Further Back in History




The Deadly! Irish History series is jam-packed with all kinds of well-researched and fun facts and madcap stories. Accessible, fun and crammed to the rafters with cartoons and wacky illustrations, these books are as deadly as Irish history gets!

### 1916 Easter Rising










### Irish Civil War



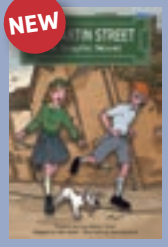




### 1930s




### World War II



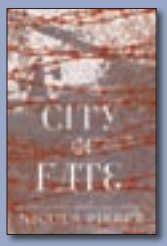

























1915 — 1920 — 1925 — 1930 — 1940 — 1960 — 1980

### 1919



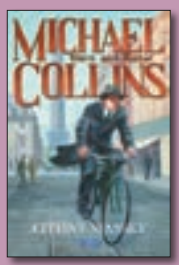

### World War I

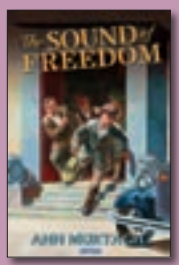






### War of Independence 1919–1921






















### 1960




### Civil Rights Movement, 1969




### The Full Story

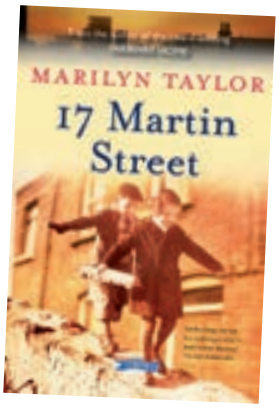


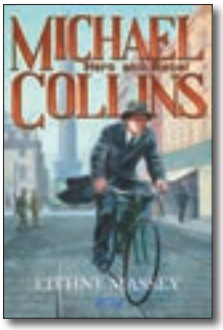

Irish Book Awards Children's Book of the Year 2008




***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.***

A new graphic novel version of Marilyn Taylor's novel about emigration and prejudice, set in the Dublin of The Emergency.
A new and important way of teaching history.



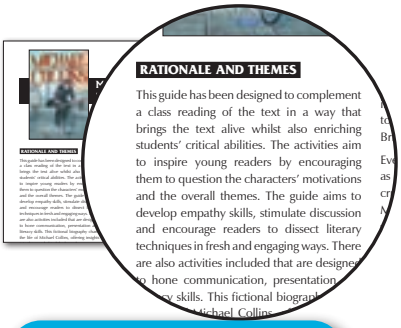

**'a perfect novel to accompany the teaching of these topics in Irish history, especially in senior classes. Recommended for readers ages 10+'** – *InTouch Magazine*




'Above the noise of the crowd, I could hear men shouting. I looked back and saw them: a line of trucks, and men with guns starting to run towards the field. That's when it happened.'

On a bright day in November, three boys joined the huge crowd heading to a Gaelic football match at Croke Park. Excitement filled the air, but also fear. Important men had been killed in their beds that morning by the IRA. The police were angry. In the middle of a cruel war for Irish independence, people were afraid of what might happen next. But that war wouldn't come to Croke Park. Would it?

**'This carefully researched book is unfailingly respectful to the memories of those who lost their lives, and the families who survived them'** *Irish Examiner*

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## Brian Gallagher




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

arts council ealaíon | funding literature




## Anna Carey

**'Carey knows how to make the past come alive for young readers'**
*Irish Independent*






NUA

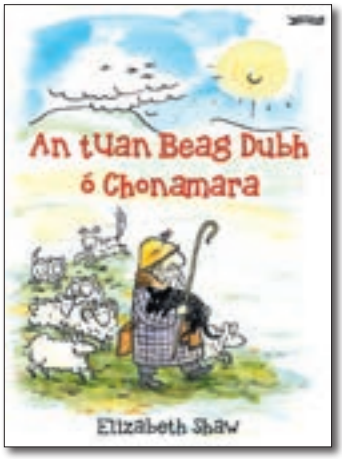



Tá cónaí ar phuifín beag ar Sceilg Mhichíl. Is breá léi a leaba teolaí faoi thalamh.

Ach, tá eagla ar a cara, an puifín óg. 'Ní maith liom an dorchadas. Tá sé ródhorcha'

An mbeidh ainmhithe an oileáin in ann iontas na hoíche a thaispeáint don phuifín óg?



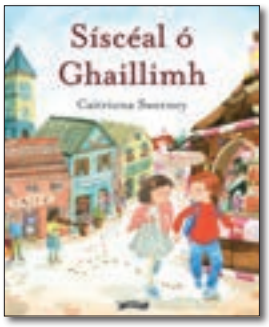




Bíonn an t-uan beag dubh i dtrioblóid i gcónaí, go speisialta le Póló, an madra caorach. Ach nuair a thagann an sneachta mór bíonn an lá ag an uan beag dubh.

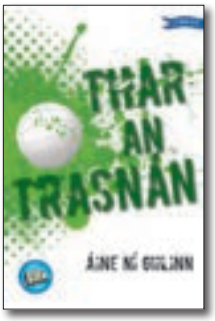



FINSCÉALTA AS ÉIRINN

An Bradán Feasa
Conas Mar a Fuair Cú Chulainn a Ainm
Clann Lir
Labhraí Loingseach
Fionn agus an Fathach
An Cú Faoil Bán
Oisín




Tá Seán agus Gráinne ar a mbealach go dtí an margadh chun fáinne 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 cailleach gránna orthu fiú! Aistrithe go Gaeilge ag Marcus Mac Conghail




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

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*



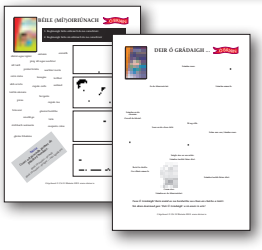

# GLAC Sos!

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






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



***Wellbeing is central to enabling children to achieve their full potential. Why not check out some of our recommendations to support your school to promote wellbeing this year?***

FREE Teaching resources from obrien.ie

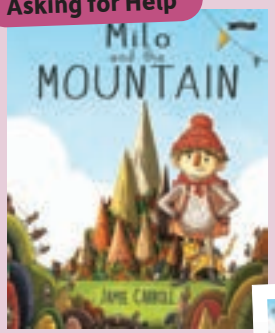
## Wellbeing

### Fears




Poor Fraidy Dog is afraid of ... everything! To him, sofas are spooky, cupboards are creepy and houseplants are horrifying! Will Fraidy ever learn to be brave?

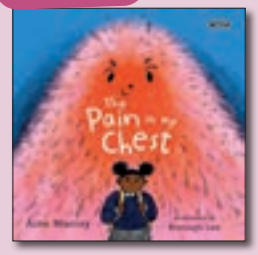
### Asking for Help




Milo wants to climb the Mountain. He really does. But the Mountain is HUGE and Milo is scared. Can he ever reach the top? Yes, he can. With just a little help from his friends!




### Anxiety




An uplifting story by primary school teacher Áine Murray about how children can beat those anxious feelings.

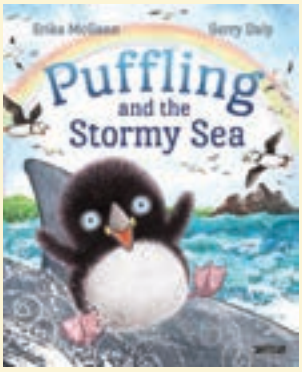
## Nature and Outdoors




A spectacular new picture book from Paddy Donnelly. Grandad tells Meara about the mythical, shape-shifting Golden Hare that can jump to the moon in two-and-a-half leaps. And together they set out to find this magical creature.
A story of the unexpected magic of nature.




Tom McCaughren and Erika McGann combine to tell a tale of exploration: all in a suburban garden!
Foxy loves to hear stories about the Wild Wood, where there are all sorts of creatures: rabbits and badgers, squirrels and owls, and the tall, thin deer, with antlers like tree branches.
He decides to set out on his own wild adventure. Can he learn to be a fox of the Wild Wood?

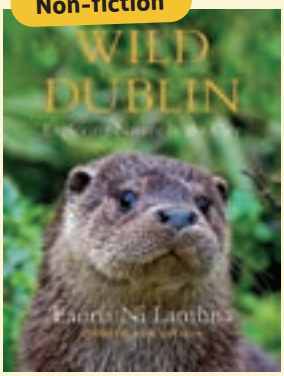



The wildness of nature and Irish native sea creatures and birds.
A brave little puffling lives on Skellig Michael.
It's a windy, stormy day – a perfect day for a wild adventure. But she ends up far from home!
Can her new animal friends help her find her way back?




Have you heard?
There's going to be a party – there's going to be games, and dancing, and cake – and some one very special is going to be there.
A gentle build-up to a whole lot of fun, featuring native birds of Ireland.

**Non-fiction**




Richly-illustrated guide to exploring nature (animals, birds, plants, parklands and the rest) in the capital, from Éanna ní Lamhna.

*There are over 200 O'Brien Press books in the Accelerated Reader programme across lower, middle and upper years, with more on the way. Given the importance of Irish books to Irish schools, we are working with Renaissance Learning to ensure that there are enough titles to choose from at all levels. See below, or go to* ***obrien.ie/accelerated-reader*** *for a full list*

Accelerated™ Reader




Each book is displayed with its own ATOS book level score.

## Lower Years 5 to 8

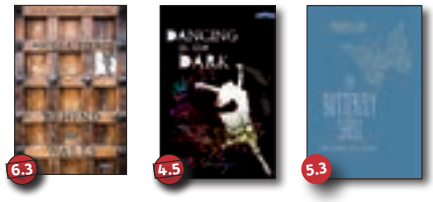



## Middle Years 9 to 13



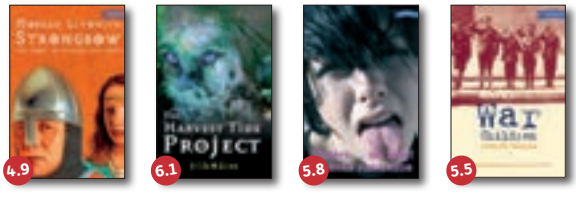

## Middle Years +




## Upper Years 14+



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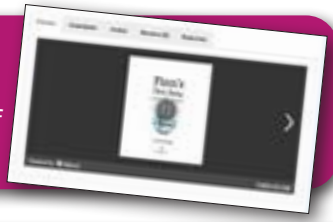

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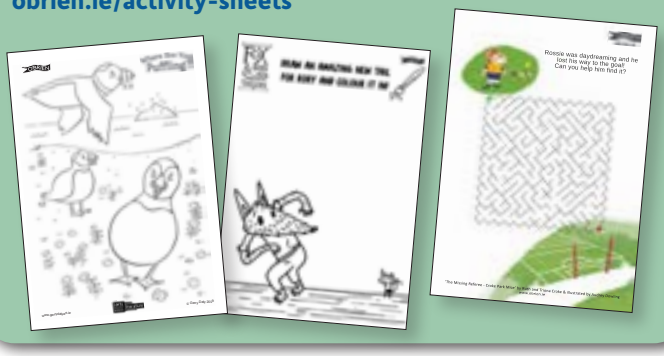

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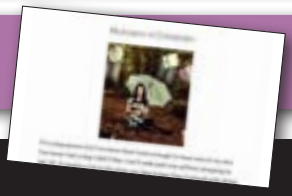
## AWARD WINNING BLOG



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The O'Brien Press Ltd, 12 Terenure Road East, Rathgar, Dublin 6, D06 HD27, Ireland. T: +353 1 4923333; F: +353 1 4922777; E: books@obrien.ie; W: obrien.ie
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