

Irish Children's Stories

(Each of these books is available from
the Monroe County Library System)

Fiona's Lace – Patricia Polacco

An Irish family stays together with the help of Fiona's talent for making one-of-a-kind lace in this heart-warming immigration story. (ages 4-8, good for sharing)

Jubilee-Alicia Potter

As a young boy, Patrick Gilmore loved music. He emigrated to Boston in 1849 and became a band leader. During the Civil War, it kept his spirits up. After the war, he planned to create the biggest, boldest, loudest concert in the world to celebrate the 1869 World Peace Jubilee. (grades 9-12)

Finn McCool and the Great Fish-(a traditional Irish myth)

Finn McCool was the tallest giant in all of Ireland. The story is an affectionate and amusing tale of Finn's search for wisdom, and how he attained wisdom, not through violence but through kindness.

Leprechaun in Late Winter-Mary Pope Osborne

In Ireland, Jack and Annie are searching for creative people to bring happiness to others through the arts (Mozart and Louis Armstrong so far). They meet an Irish girl who grows up to be Lady Gregory who helps bring back the Irish legends, starting a theater, and helped the Irish people regain their heritage and their pride. (early elementary)

Blue Like Friday-Siobhan Parkinson

Not everyone sees the world through the same lense. Spunky Olivia and Eccentric Hal are an unlikely pair. Hal associates things through colors while Olivia tends to see the world in black and white. Still, these two are friends through thick and thin, (middle school)

The Hunter's Moon-O. R. Melling

Gwen and her Irish cousin, Findabhain have planned a summer backpacking around Ireland, visiting sites out of old legends of fairy folk. Little do they know that this is the summer of the hunter's moon—a dangerous time for mortals who meddle with the kingdom of Faerie. (middle school)

The Leprechaun's Gold—Pamela Duncan Edwards

(a classic Irish legend) Who is the finest harpist in all of Ireland? Count on the clever trickery of Old Tom, the mischievous leprechaun. (interest level K-3)

Maggie's Door—Patricia Reilly Giff

The story of the journey from Ireland to America told by both Nory and her neighbor and friend Sean Red Mallon Two different stories with the same destination—the home of Nory's sister Maggie on 416 Smith St., Brooklyn, NY. (grades 3-7)

Feed the Children First: Irish Memories of the Great Hunger—Mary E. Lyons, Editor

This non-fiction book combines first person accounts of those who remembered the Great Hunger with artwork that evokes the times and places of the voices themselves. (middle school)

Nory Ryan's Song—Patricia Reilly Giff

Nory Ryan's family had lived on Maidin Bay on the west coast of Ireland for generations. While it had never been an easy life for the Ryan family, a blight on the potato crop added to their concerns. Twelve-year-old Nory must summon the courage and ingenuity to find food, to find hope, to find a way to help the family survive. (middle school)

Tim O'Toole and the Wee Folk—Gerald McDermott

Tim O'Toole and his wife Kathleen are so poor they have not a penny or a potato between them. When Tim goes out to find a job, he stumbles on “the wee fold” who give him gifts, but then.... (grades 1-3)

Viking Ships at Sunrise—Mary Pope Osborne

Jack and Annie are taken to a medieval monastery in Ireland to find a lost book. Viking raiders come ashore, hoping to make slaves of the monks. (grades 3-5)

Child of War—Mary Ann Sullivan

Thirteen-year-old Maeve grapples with feelings of revenge when her little brother is killed by British soldiers. She discovers an arsenal in the church basement, steals a machine gun and plans to take action..... (Middle and high school)

Fin M'Coull: The Giant of Knockmany Hill—Tomie DePaola

Fin is one giant coward who needs his wife and a little bit of magic to thwart the giant bully, Cucullin. (ages 4-6)