



## Legend of Queen Mebd & the Brown Bull of Cooley

Long, long ago...

About 2000 years ago, there was a warrior queen named Queen Mebd (pronounced Mave) who ruled over the province of Connaught.

*Select a girl to be the queen*

*Select a boy to be the king*

One day, the queen and king were comparing their wealth. At the time in Ireland, whoever had the most wealth was more powerful in the marriage.

As they compared, all was equal in every way except for one bull difference. The king had a magnificent white bull and the queen did not.

*choose a boy to be the white bull; he goes to the back of the room on the side*

Queen Mebd was not willing for her husband to be more powerful than she was. She searched for a bull that was better than her husband's. Queen Mebd found there was a bull in Ulster, across Ireland, and set out to get it.

Queen Mebd marched her army...

*Select half the class to be Mebd's army on one side of the room (the side of the white bull)*

...up and over the bog lands to the other side of Ireland.

*march the "army" halfway across the room to the front of the class to the side, led by Queen Mebd; the king marches along as well*

Now the king of Ulster gathered his army, the Red Branch Knights...

*Select all the rest of the kids to be the Ulster army, except one boy who will be the Brown Bull, the Brown Bull goes to the back of the room, on the side of the Ulster army*

... to meet Queen Mebd's army.

*Ulster army moves to the front of the room on the other side from Queen Mebd's army*

On the way, all the knights were struck down by a strange and magical sickness, except for one, Cu Chulainn

*All kids lay down on the front side of the room, except for Cu Chulainn who moves to the front center of the room*

When Queen Mebd's army arrive  
*Move army to the center of the room*  
Only Cu Chulainn was there to face her armies.

It was decided that the battle would be fought in single combat. Mebd put her best warriors up to face Cu Chulainn  
*Select 4-5 kids as the "best" warriors. Send one kid at a time to fight Cu Chulainn; keep one boy back*  
But Cu Chulainn defeated them all.  
*Each kid falls to the ground as they fight Cu Chulainn*

The greatest of all Queen Mebd's warriors did not fight, Ferdia.  
*Choose a boy to be Ferdia from Queen Mebd's army*  
Ferdia and Cu Chulainn were best friends and foster brothers. Ferdia would not fight. But Queen Mebd told Ferdia...  
*Mebd and Ferdia chat*  
...that Cu Chulainn called him a coward which made Ferdia mad, and he finally agreed to fight.

Ferdia met Cu Chulainn on the battlefield  
*Ferdia moves to front center of room*  
And the two begin to fight.

By day they fought, and by night they comforted and healed each other.  
*Stop fighting and sit down together bandaging each up*

Finally, on the fourth day, Cu Chulainn became distracted by the crowd watching...  
*Queen Mebd's army makes lots of noise*  
... and Ferdia thrust his sword at Cu Chulainn hitting his mark. Cu Chulainn went into a supernatural rage and using his magic spear, the gae bolga, killed Ferdia.

Cu Chulainn was very sad at killing his friend.  
*Ferdia and Cu Chulainn move to the side of the room sitting down... Ferdia laying down*

Soon after, the Red Branch Knights broke free of the magic spell...  
*Ulster army wakes up / stand up*  
*Brown Bull moves to the front side of the room*

But Queen Mebd stole the Brown Bull of Cooley  
*Queen leads the bull over to her army*

The Red Branch Knights drove Queen Mebd's army away from Ulster

*Ulster army moves towards the Queen, she leads her army away to the back of the room. Ulster army and Queen's army sit down  
King/Queen and the two bulls go to front of the room, separate sides*

Once back in Connaught, the two bulls fight.  
*Queen/King on opposite sides of front room, bulls in the middle fighting*

The Brown Bull of Cooley (the Queen's bull) killed the white bull but received a mortal wound.  
*White bull sits back down*

The Brown Bull left to go back to Ulster, but died on the way.  
*Brown bull sits back down  
Queen/King move to center of front*

In the end, the Queen and King were exactly even in wealth and power.