



Legend of the Fionn mac Cumhaill

Long, long ago...

About 2000 years ago, a boy was born in the province of Leinster. His name was Fionn mac Cumhaill.

Choose a boy to play Fionn – he will act out all to do with Fionn

Choose two girls to play a woman warrior and woman druid. They stand to the side of the room.

Fionn's father was killed so his mother...

Choose a girl to play his mother

... took him when he was a baby

Mother and Fionn walk over to where the other girls are.

... to be raised in secret by a woman warrior and a woman druid in what is today known as the Slieve Bloom mountains.

Mother sits down.

From the warrior he learned weaponry and battle and from the druid he learned wisdom and strength.

When Fionn grew up he studied with a poet and druid named Finnegas

choose a boy to be Finnegas; stand at the front of the room

Fionn walks to him, girls sit down.

Finnegas lived by the River Boyne and spent many years trying to catch the Salmon of Knowledge, believed to hold all the knowledge in the world.

Finnegas pantomime's fishing

One day, Finnegas caught the Salmon of Knowledge and had Fionn cook it for him, warning him not to eat of it.

Finnegas gives Fionn the salmon and Fionn starts "cooking" it over a fire

Both continue to act out what is read

As the fish cooked, it slipped and Fionn caught it to save it.

He burned his thumb in the process. To stop the pain, he put his thumb in his mouth.

Fionn brought the salmon to his master and Finnegas asked Fionn if he had eaten any of the salmon.

Fionn said no and explained what happened.

Finnegas knew that all the knowledge had been given to Fionn, just through that little bit of fish oil. It was the fulfillment of a prophecy. So Finnegas gave the entire salmon to Fionn to eat.

Finnegas sits down at desk

Fionn grew to be a powerful warrior and decided to take his rightful place as the leader of the Fianna – the warriors to the king. In order to prove himself, he had to eliminate a powerful faery prince.

choose a boy to be the prince

Fionn moves to the side of the room

For 23 years every Samhain, the Gaelic festival marking the end of the harvest and the beginning of winter, the powerful faery prince would play his music and lull everyone into a magical sleep.

Faery prince pantomimes playing music; entire class lays down their heads on their desks as if they are asleep

Once everyone was asleep, he would burn down the roofs of Tara (the place of the High King). *Faery prince "burns" down roofs*

This year was different.

Class wakes up; Fionn moves to the front of the room

When the faery prince lulled the people to sleep

Plays music

Fionn kept pricking himself with his spear to stay awake.

class sleeps, Fionn stays awake

When the faery prince had put everyone to sleep, he stopped playing his music to burn the roofs, but Fionn was there and killed him.

faery prince sits down

Dawn broke and everyone woke up...

Class wakes up; Choose a boy to be king stand at the side of the room.

Fionn went to the king and showed him the faery prince's head and that the roofs of Tara had not been destroyed.

Fionn walks over to king

The king was very happy and made Fionn the commander of the Fianna.