



Setanta Joins the Boys Troop

(all boys acting)

Long, long ago...

About 2000 years ago, a boy was born in the province of Ulster...

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

His name was Setanta, later known as CúChulainn, and he wanted to be a warrior for the King of Ulster.

One day, when he was quite young, Setanta set out on a journey to Emain Macha which had a training school for young warriors. Setanta wanted to be a part of The Boys Troop.

Pantomime walking

When he arrived, he saw about 150 boys playing a game of hurling.

choose 10 boys from the class, 5 on each side, to the front and pretend to play: sticks to hit a ball on the ground or in the air to the goal

Setanta did not hesitate, nor ask to play, and jumped right in the middle of the game.

Setanta joins in the front of the room with the other boys

He took the ball, no one could get the ball from him and he scored a goal.

The boys chase Setanta but cannot catch him

The Boys Troop was not happy with a stranger messing up their game so they all attacked him.

Setanta in the middle with all the boys around him, hiding him from view

Choose two boys one Conchubar and the other Fergus; have them at the side of the room

Now the King of Ulster, Conchubar and the former King of Ulster, Fergus were playing a game of chess when they heard a terrible noise. They thought the boys must have something and were killing it.

So the two kings went down to the field...

King and Fergus get up and go the front where the “boys” are

...and found that Setanta was holding his own against the entire Boys Troop.

King Conchubar stopped the ruckus and recognized Setanta (he was his nephew).

Boys open up and Setanta and king talk

The king told Setanta that he could not just rush in, he must first ask them to take him under their protection.

King pantomimes words

So Setanta asked and the boys agreed.

Setanta turns and asks the boys.

Suddenly, Setanta started hitting them with his hurling stick.

Shocked, the king stopped Setanta. What are you doing???

King and Setanta talk again

Setanta replied that he had to ask their protection, so they should ask for his.

One by one all the boys asked for Setanta's protection.

Each boy lines up and Setanta nods his head to each boy.

And so, Setanta became a part of the Boys Troop.