



# Legend of Cú Chulainn

## How he got his name - All boys

Long, long ago...

About 2000 years ago, young Setanta, who was part of the Boys Troop, was playing various field games with them.

*Choose a boy to play Setanta*

*Choose 4-5 boys to play the boys troop*

The Boys Troop prepared boys to become warriors. That day King Conchubar...

*Choose a boy to play Conchubar*

...was walking by and stopped to watch the boys play.

The king was so impressed by Setanta (who was also the king's nephew), he asked him to join him for dinner at the smith Culainn's house when he was finished.

*The king moves to the side of the room*

It was late when Setanta was finished playing with the Boys Troop.

*Boys troop sits down at their desks*

*Setanta goes to the back of the room*

*choose a boy to be the smith Culainn*

*choose several kids to be guests of the smith*

*choose a kid to be the wolfhound*

*all except Setanta are in the front of the room with the king*

Because it was so late, the king forgot that Setanta would be joining them. He told Culainn the smith that all were there. So Culainn set his guard dog, a large wolfhound, outside to guard the door.

*All move to the side with the wolfhound in the center*

Setanta made his way to the smith's house

*Setanta walks to the front of the class*

When Setanta arrived for dinner...

...the wolfhound attacked him and Setanta killed the dog in self-defense.

*Pantomime the attack and Setanta's victory*

Hearing the sounds, the people from inside the house came out to see what was happening. The King remembered that Setanta was coming late and thought for sure Setanta would be dead.

But Setanta was alive and the hound was dead. The guests celebrated, but the smith was very sad.

*Smith goes to Setanta*

The smith Culainn told Setanta that although everyone else in his family was welcome, Setanta was not. He thought he was ruined because he had no guard and thieves would come and steal his livelihood away from him.

Setanta felt bad, and said he would guard the smith's house personally until another puppy could be trained to be Culainn's guard dog.

A druid named Cathbad...

*Choose one of the guests to be Cathbad- he/she moves to Setanta*

...was listening and said that from now on, Setanta would be known as Cú Chulainn, which means hound of Culainn.

*Only the smith and Setanta stay up front, all others go back to their desks.*

*Setanta/ Cú Chulainn walks around the room; the smith moves to the side, but still at the front*

Every night for a year, when night began to fall, Cú Chulainn walked around the smith Culainn's land to make sure it was secure

*Cú Chulainn gets back to the front of the class*

and then laid down at the door, guarding the smith Culainn and all his belongings until the wolfhound puppy was trained to take his place.