

1: Irish Folklore & Mythology Stories From Ireland - Myths & Legends

Strange Irish Tales for Children has 6 ratings and 0 reviews. This volume contains four traditional stories to amuse children of all ages.

Contact Author Themes in Irish Folk Tales Irish folk tales are very different from the fairytales of mainland Europe which were gathered together in collections by Hans Christian Anderson and the brothers Grimm. Irish folk stories centre on a very different group of characters - heroic warriors, deadly goddesses and mischievous supernatural creatures, rather than the fairy godmothers, talking animals and wicked stepmothers of European folk tales. Irish folk tales are steeped in the unique celtic culture of Ireland and can be divided into the following main themes: Medieval Irish monks were the first to write down the ancient Irish myths and fairy tales. Development of Irish Folklore Tradition The Irish storytelling tradition has always been essentially an oral tradition. This is why many different variations of the same fairy tale can exist in different parts of Ireland. It also explains why famous fairy characters in Irish mythology can become confused and interlinked as storytellers concentrated on staying true to the essence of the story, while changing the details to suit their audience. An interesting example of how characters could become confused with each other is the case of the celtic goddess Aine and the early Christian Saint Brigit. Aine was associated with fire, and was credited with acting as an inspiring muse to poets. Saint Brigit was an early Irish Christian who founded a convent in Kildare but popular legend associates her with fire - there was a sacred fire reputedly kept burning at her convent from her death in AD until the Dissolution of the Monasteries in the s, and she is also considered to be the patron saint of poets. This easy mixing of native Irish stories and culture with historical Christian figures helps to illustrate how Irish fairy tales adapted to social changes and survived ,albeit in altered form, until the present day. In fact, despite their heretical nature, the earliest Irish myths and fairy tales were written down by Irish monks. From the eighth century on, Irish monks seemed to have felt secure enough in their Christianity to value Irish fairy tales as an interesting historical legacy, rather than as a threat to Christian doctrine. Irish fairy tales have held on stubbornly into the modern age, even finding a place in Irish Catholic doctrine as people described the nature spirits they feared and respected as angels which had fallen from heaven but been saved from hell. If there is one thing which has augured the end of the Irish fairy tale it has been the dawning of the age of television. TV more than anything else has damaged the oral tradition of sharing stories round the Irish hearthside. That said, Irish fairy tales have been laid down for posterity in a variety of excellent books. And there are also modern Irish writers who have been heavily influenced by Irish mythology and they are, in there own way, creating a new body of Irish fairy tales for the current generation. There has even been a recent animated film inspired by Irish mythology - The Secret of Kells Scene from the story of how C Chulain got his name - because he accidentally slew the hound of Cullen he offered to take the guard dogs place. Ever after he was known as Cu Chulain, the hound of Cullen. Ancient warrior myths Celtic Irish society revolved around the cult of warrior heroes. The most important people in early Irish society, equal even to the kings, were the Seanachie or storytellers. Irish wars at this time consisted mainly of targeted raids aimed at stealing cattle the measurement of wealth in Irish society before coins were introduced by the vikings , and individual contests of strength. The two great heroes of Irish warrior myths are Finn MacUail, leader of a band of warriors known as the Fianna, and hero of the Fenian cycle of legends, and Cu Chulain a warrior of supernatural strength and abilities, the hero of the Ulster cycle of myths. Although the tales surrounding these two figures are warrior stories, and may even be based on real historical figures, they also have many fantastical elements which allow them to be classified as fairy tales. Both heroes use enchanted weapons and magical abilites as part of their success. And both must contend with hostile supernatural beings such as the Morrigan, the Irish Goddess of death and destruction who wants to claim them for her own. These warrior heroes face not only human enemies but an array of supernatural forces - from druids and sourceresses to mythical gods and goddesses. Romances and Tragedies The other major theme of early Irish legends is romance. Even the most hardened of warrior heroes, had a single true love, a woman who could bring them to their knees. These early romances offer an intriguing insight to the position of women in Irish culture at the time. Some are out-and-out sexual

predators like Queen Maeve, who use their wiles to gain political power and economic status - and who lose their temper when a man refuses to play their game. Others are beautiful but ultimately tragic figures like Deirdre who are victims of a society where young girls were offered in marriage to powerful but old and unattractive men. Soul-mates are common in Irish stories. One such in the story of Midir and Aileen where even magic cannot break apart their love. Emer is widowed when Cu Chulainn dies in a heroic battle and the flight of Diarmuid and Grainne ends in a tragedy to equal Romeo and Juliet. There are heart-wrenching tales but beautiful also, and a powerful warning about the cost of human greed and envy. Many of my Irish friends swear they have seen a ghost at night, or have had a strange experience of ghostly premonition just before a relative died. Ghost stories have only become common later in Irish history. In early Celtic times it was believed that the dead passed onto eternal life in the Otherworld - they did not come back to haunt the living. It is most likely that ghost tales became more popular in the late Medieval and Early- Modern period, in line with the rest of Europe. Ghost stories have also had a great influence on Irish literary figures. For example there is a tale told near where I live of an evil man who came back from the dead three times before he was finally successfully buried under a stone slab with his head cut off. Oscar Wilde and WB Yeats have also written ghost stories, among others. Irish ghost stories are very much rooted in particular places. There is no ruined castle, no ancient building that does not have at least one tale of a ghost that haunts its walls. Often they are also morality tales - the tragedy which led to the haunting is a result of some sin or crime committed, and these tales offer a stark warning against such acts. An example from the area of Ireland where I grew up is the tale of Princess Maeve who is said to haunt Dunluce Castle on the north coast. It is believed her ghostly white face can still be seen at times in the window of castle tower where she was kept imprisoned by her own father. There are also much Irish folklore dating from the medieval period and beyond which concerns dark fairies as harbingers and bringers of death. The legend of the Banshee is the most famous. This dark fairy woman is said to give a heart-stopping scream when someone is about to die - if you hear that cry then the person who is going to die soon is you! The Banshee is a classic example of how Irish fairy tales have grown and changed over the years. This legend is rooted in the Celtic goddesses of death and destruction, such as Magda or the Morrigan who would appear as an old crone in stories just before the warrior hero was about to die. Another dark figure of Irish folklore is the Dullahan, a headless horseman who rode the countryside on certain nights of the year bringing death in his wake. These tales may have been a mythological interpretation of the highway men who were very real and who haunted the roads of Ireland in the 17th and 18th century, making journeys hazardous and sometimes deadly. Local folklore tales The little people, such as Leprechauns, Pookas, and changelings, and also the sea people such as the merrows and selkies populate local legends the length and breadth of Ireland. This folklore was gathered together by the likes of WB Yeats and Lady Gregory at the end of the nineteenth century, and reveal that the Irish mindset, despite centuries of christianity, had not lost its fascination with nature spirits. There are countless tales of leprechauns who gave tricky riddles, pookas who upended water pails and turned milk sour, local people who fell asleep near a fairy mound and were transported to the otherworld for a thousand years, and peaceful babies who were stolen by the fairies and swapped for a changeling who did nothing but fuss and cry. These tales of local folklore helped Irish people to explain phenomenon in a supernatural way, before the advent of modern science. They remain fascinating and lively tales, full of wit, wisdom and supernatural surprises.

2: Strange Irish Tales for Children by Eddie Lenihan

*Strange Irish Tales for Children [Eddie Lenihan] on www.enganchecubano.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. A collection of four exciting stories: How the First Blackbird Came to Ireland, The Strange Case of Sean na Sul.*

There are loads of Irish facts for kids to discover about this wonderful location. This little island, which is located just off to the west from Great Britain, is well known for its castles, knights, leprechauns, pots of gold and also the famous Irish jig which is fun to watch. The history and culture of the Irish people is rich, and they often like to stay true to their traditions, passing them on to the newer generations. Ireland has a history that has been around for many thousands of years. Enjoy all these wonderful snippets of information that children, and even adults too, can discover about this tiny place that has captured the hearts of so many people. Why is Ireland Called the Emerald Isle? Ireland is called the Emerald Isle really because of its lush greenery. This island is so beautiful and green with lots of rolling hills, trees and green grass. Green is a color which is really in abundance across this European island that sits just off the west coast of Great Britain. The climate and also the fair amount of rain that falls in this location help to keep the grass growing nice and tall. This island is also well known for its tall, rocky cliffs which reach high above the ocean waters. Because of its green and splendid nature, Ireland is often compared with the dazzling green jewel called the Emerald. It is a real gem of a place surrounded by the waters of the Atlantic Ocean and also the Irish Sea. There is Northern Ireland which is under the rule of the United Kingdom. There is also The Republic of Ireland, this has its own governing nation who won independence from the British back in 1922. These divisions mean that the people who live in this country have not always got along particularly well with each other. However, this is thankfully improving over time. The Stunning Tralee Bay with Fishing Boats Source One interesting fact about these two separate areas is that the Northern region, which is still under British rule, has red post boxes to match in with Great Britain. The Southern area of Ireland has green post boxes which reflect the Irish independence by using their own national color instead. Why does Ireland Have Castles? Castles are located throughout this country. When castles were built, they were made specifically for protection. At that time, there were often wars going on. Ireland had many invaders moving through the country. The Irish people made large and strong castles so that they could protect themselves. This helped them to defeat the invaders who kept on trying to force their way into their cherished country. Around the ninth century, Ireland was invaded by the Vikings. However, Ireland proved to be strong and kept the country from being taken over by the Viking people. The Famous Blarney Castle Source The larger castles were often used to house local people and possessions during wartime periods. The smaller castles were owned by large noble and rich families. This image shows the Blarney castle in Ireland which is about 800 years old. This castle is very famous, mostly because of people coming to visit and kiss the Blarney Stone. The sacred Blarney stone is meant to give people the gift of the gab. This funny saying means to make people particularly good at being charming and being able to flatter other people with their words. Maybe that is why the people who live in Ireland are often said to be so good and easy to talk to. What Language do Irish People Speak? The people in Ireland mostly speak English as their first and primary language. They are also taught Irish in schools and this is called the Gaelic language or Gaeilge. Gaelic is mostly spoken in the west side of this country. It is also used throughout the country with some very small regional differences. If you are ever lucky enough to travel to this wonderful country, you should be fine if you can speak English well. Fairies and Leprechaun Facts The fairies are female creatures. Many people in this area do actually believe in magic and fairies. Fairies are tiny creatures that have magical powers. Some of them are good and bring nice and happy things along while others are not so good and make bad things come to pass. Not all the Irish people claim to have ever seen a fairy. However these creatures are recorded in many written and verbal legends and also stories which have been passed down through the years. Source Fairies gave the leprechauns some magical powers to perform if they are ever captured by humans like you and me. They can grant three wishes, give their pot of gold to whoever captured them or, if they are quick enough, simply disappear into thin air. If you ever catch one, be sure to make a very good wish. Leprechauns are a really big part of the Irish fairy folklore. These are tiny male creatures, similar to fairies but without wings. It

is said that leprechauns are small enough to sit upon your shoulder. While they are thought to be mostly harmless to the Irish people, leprechauns have been known to play many tricks and silly games. Mostly they seem to enjoy playing tricks on land owners and especially farmers. It is told that leprechauns have pots of gold buried throughout the land. Of course, these pots of gold have been buried and hidden very well. They are especially hard for humans to find because leprechauns do not like to ever lose their treasure. One birthday tradition involves young children. The kids are turned upside down and have their head tapped against the top of their birthday cake. They get one birthday bump like this for each year of age that they now are. This old and very strange tradition is meant to bring lots of good luck and also fortune to the birthday child. Anyone who is born on the date of St. This is because St. Children born on this day are literally born lucky because of the date. You can learn more about St. Patrick himself further down this page. May you live a long life Full of gladness and health With a pocket full of gold As the least of your wealth May the dreams you hold dearest Be those which come true May the kindness you spread Keep returning to you About Irish Music and Dancing For many people in this country, traditional music is a must. The knowledge is of playing these instruments is passed on to the younger generations. Traditional dances in Ireland include set dancing which is very similar to the style of square dancing. This dance is just full of music and movement. The Irish Jig is a dance with a very quick pace and a type of hop and skip dance. You can see an example of dancing and traditional music with the video shown here below. I hope you enjoy it. Boxy is a type of potato pancake. Soda Bread is a very popular type of Irish bread which is normally eaten along with a main meal. Traditional meals are very hearty foods that are designed to fill you up. About Saint Patrick and the Shamrock The people of this country are mostly Catholic, if they have any religious beliefs at all. There are also Protestants which follow another branch of Christianity. Saint Patrick became a missionary to the Catholic religion after being taken as a slave to Ireland while he was a young boy. This Saint was said to have made use of a three leaf clover as a teaching aid. This clover is called a shamrock and it is a special type of clover that only has 3 leaves. Saint Patrick used it because he could then easily explain about the Holy Trinity: This day was made to remember the Saint who did so many great things for the people of Ireland in the fifth century. Saint Patrick is widely associated with Irish history as well as the Shamrock plant which is now a very famous 3 leaf plant and symbol. This is a beautifully illustrated book designed for kids. Children big and small will be captivated by the charming pictures inside. This book is filled to the brim with artful and playful illustrations that my daughter and I love to look at. Children can also discover a lot about this beautiful and charming country by investigating the imaginative scenes and short narratives included on each page. This is a classic book and one not to be missed. We also love this sweet paper doll book. The little book comes with 8 traditional Irish costumes for the paper doll to wear. My little girl and her play friend both love dressing up paper dolls. This little book is a perfect introduction to the traditional costumes of this country for children and should make a great little gift for St. This is a great picture book on Leprechauns. Kids can enjoy hunting for the hidden 4-leaf clovers too.

3: Joseph Gervin (Illustrator of Strange Irish Tales for Children)

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Share Shares 3K Far from being the magical, Disney-style fairy tales we imagine, the very first folk stories collected were filled with the downright weird, wonderful, and woeful. Often gruesome and nightmarish, this list retells 10 creepy fairy tales your parents hopefully never told you. Like any good mother, she made a charm out of her own blood to protect her daughter and sent her off accompanied by a maid and a talking horse, Falada. After a short time, the princess became thirsty and asked her maid to fetch her a drink of water from a nearby river. Seeing the princess left unprotected, the maid forced her to swap clothes and horses and to swear an unbreakable oath that she would tell no one her true identity. If the princess had refused, the maid would have murdered her and left her body in the deep woods. Desperate to cover her tracks, the imposter had Falada slaughtered. However, the real princess, distraught at the loss of her last friend, bribed the butcher to hang his head over the city gate, so that she could still talk to him every day. Annoyed, the boy told the king about the strange girl who talked to horse skulls and controlled the weather. The king, curious, begged the princess to tell her story, but she explained that she could not. The king, now even more curious, suggested she might feel better if she talked about her problems to the stove, but secretly lurked outside and eavesdropped on the whole story. He then married his son to the real princess and had the imposter flung naked into a spiked barrel and dragged around the city until she died. In desperation, the man prayed to God, saying that he was so desperate for a child, he would even be content with a baby hedgehog. His wish was granted—his unfortunate wife gave birth to a half-hedgehog child that they named Hans. Horrified by their child apparently the top half was hedgehog and the bottom half human, the parents put it behind the stove and left it there for eight years. Surprisingly, Hans did not die, but instead asked his father to shoe a rooster so he could ride it off to live in the woods. There he tended sheep and played bagpipes in the trees. One day, a king got lost in the woods and asked Hans to show him the way home. Hans agreed, but only if the king promised, in writing, to award Hans the first thing that greeted him when he returned. But the king, who somehow knew Hans was illiterate, tricked him and actually wrote down an order for his guards to attack any rooster-riding hedgehog-boys who appeared in the kingdom. Shortly afterward, a second king found himself in a similar situation, but decided not to trick Hans and promised him the first thing he saw when he returned to his kingdom—which happened to be his beautiful daughter. Afterward, he returned to the second kingdom and married the princess. On their wedding night, he tore off his hedgehog skin and ordered the guards to burn it on a huge fire, thereby becoming a real human boy. Seeing his miserable face, the old man laughed and offered him all the riches in the world in exchange for whatever was standing behind his mill. Thinking that only an old apple tree stood behind the mill, the miller quickly agreed and the old man promised to return in three years. But when the miller returned home, he found his daughter standing under the tree. Unsurprisingly, the girl decided to leave home after this. After walking well into the night, she was struck with a terrible hunger. Eventually, the girl came to a royal garden filled with delicious pears and apples and guarded by an impenetrable moat. After a quick prayer, an angel appeared to drain the moat and the girl crossed and ate her fill—a single pear. The next day, the royal gardener reported seeing a mysterious spirit with no hands, who had crossed the moat and stolen a pear. Intrigued, the king hid in the garden and saw the girl cross the moat and take another pear the following night. The king was smitten and immediately decided to marry the girl, making her a pair of beautiful silver hands to replace her old ones. But the devil was still furious at being prevented from claiming the girl as his own. When the king had to go away to war, the devil intercepted his letters home. Instead, he forged a letter from the king ordering his mother to have his wife and their young child put to death. When the king realized what had happened, he was heartbroken and pledged not to eat or drink until he had found his lost wife and child. When battle was joined, most of his comrades were slaughtered, but the boy rallied the survivors and led them to victory. For his bravery, the king rewarded him

with priceless treasures and made him a knight. The two lived happily for many years, until the princess became ill and died. Both snakes disappeared, but the leaves remained on the ground and the boy used them to bring the princess back to life. The two escaped from the vault and boarded a ship back to the castle. They plotted to throw the boy into the sea so that they could marry. A servant saw the act and rowed after the boy, saving him. Somehow the two got back to the kingdom before anyone else and told the king the whole story. When the princess and captain returned, the king sentenced them to death by sending them out to sea in a ship pierced full of holes. Visiting the home of three sisters, he persuaded the oldest to let him inside. As soon as the beggar touched her, she was forced to jump into his pack. He carried her away to his golden house, where he promised to give her everything she desired if she would stay and become his wife. After he left, curiosity overcame his reluctant bride-to-be, and she entered the forbidden room. There, she found a basin filled with blood and the mutilated remains of dead girls. A large axe and a chopping block lay conveniently nearby. Out of fear, the girl dropped the egg, which became covered in blood and could not be cleaned, no matter how hard she tried. When the beggar returned and saw the bloody egg, he dragged her into the forbidden room and chopped her up. He then returned to the house and stole away the next sister—who suffered the same fate. Finally, he returned for the youngest. But this time the beggar had met his match. Suspicious, the youngest sister hid the egg before entering the forbidden room. Discovering the dismembered bodies of her sisters, she quickly put the pieces back together, resurrecting them. When the beggar returned and saw that there was no blood on the egg, he announced that she had passed the test and would be his true bride. As a wedding present, the girl asked him to take a basket of gold to her father, but secretly hid her two sisters inside the basket instead. She then placed a skull in the window, so it would seem like she was watching him, and covered herself in honey and feathers, in order to hide in the trees disguised as a bird. In desperation, the king offered his only daughter to whoever killed the beast. Two brothers volunteered, one out of pride and the other out of kindness. To improve their chances of finding the demon pig, they split up and entered the forest from opposite sides. Walking to the castle with the beast on his back, the boy found his brother drinking in a tavern. Seeing that his brother had won the challenge, the older brother offered him some wine to celebrate. Once his sibling had become good and drunk, the older brother murdered him and buried him under a bridge, before taking the boar to the king and claiming the princess. His brother, he claimed, had been torn to pieces by the boar. The murderer and his new wife lived happily for many years. Then, a wandering shepherd came across a weathered bone, which he decided to fashion into a mouthpiece for his horn. Of course, the bone belonged to the betrayed brother, and when the shepherd blew into it, the horn began singing a terrible song of murder. The shepherd took his creepy new instrument to the king, who ordered the earth beneath the bridge to be dug up, discovering the body of the younger brother. As a punishment, the wicked brother was sewn into a sack and thrown into the sea to drown. One, her biological daughter, was ugly and lazy; the other, her stepdaughter, was beautiful and kind. For this, the widow despised her stepdaughter, forcing her to sit by a well, spinning cloth until her fingers bled. One day, the stepdaughter accidentally dropped her spindle into the well. Not knowing what else to do, she jumped into the well after it. But instead of finding herself trapped in a well, she awoke in a beautiful meadow full of sunshine. Finally, the girl arrived at the house of Mother Holle, an old, ugly lady, who asked her to clean her cottage. The girl did everything Mother Holle asked and was rewarded by being covered from head to foot in gold, given her spindle back, and returned to the human world. However, the lazy daughter refused to take the bread out of the oven or shake the tree. Her work for Mother Holle was so lazy she was asked to leave. Instead of gold, the old fairy coated her from head to foot in burning pitch, which stuck to her for the rest of her life. The first two daughters asked for a new coat, while the youngest sketched a picture of a flower. But as the merchant picked the flower, a monstrous snake with three heads appeared before him. The merchant begged for mercy, but was made to promise that he would give the daughter who greeted him on his return to the snake as a wife. First, he demanded that she move her bed outside his room, then next to his bed, and finally that she sleep next to him—throughout this, the snake continued to disappear every morning and not reappear until nightfall. The snake comes to love the girl very much, and seeing that she misses her family, allows her to go visit them on the condition that she returns the same evening. But when she returns home, her sisters become jealous of her happiness and force her to stay

one more night by rubbing onions on their eyes to pretend they have been crying. On returning to the castle, she finds not a snake but a beautiful prince, dead from grief. Eventually they came to an inn in the middle of a secluded forest where the innkeeper, understandably skeptical, asked them to prove their talents. To his surprise they cheerfully agreedâ€”the first surgeon hacked off his own hand and pledged to reattach it in the morning, the second did the same thing with his heart, and the third ripped out his own eyes. The surgeons could afford to be confident, since they secretly had a magical lotion that reattached severed body parts. The impressed innkeeper gave the hand, heart, and eyes to a serving girl, ordering her to watch over them until morning. When the serving girl discovered the missing pieces, her soldier promised to replace them, beginning by cutting the hand off a recently hanged thief in the town square. He then sliced the heart out of a slaughtered pig. Finally, he caught up with the cat and ripped out its eyes. The next day, the three surgeons magically reattached their body parts as promised.

4: Irish Short Stories: Fairy Tales and Wonder Tales – Buried In Print

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The strange, haunting tale of the Children of Lir. Many are the stories, good and bad, that are told of the ancient people of Ireland, and not only of the people but of the Gods and more than human beings who lived in our country in the distant past. Some of the stories told and passed down to us from these people were real classics, and one of the most beautiful of them all was the story of the Children of Lir. We may have heard this story several times but I wonder did we hear the full story or just a shortened version. Let us start by telling who we are talking about, this is the strange tale of Transformation of the Children of Lir. He had married in succession two sisters, the second of whom was named Aoife. She was childless, but the former wife of Lir had left him four children, a girl named Fiounala the maid of the fair shoulder and three boys, the intense love of Lir for the children made the stepmother jealous, and she eventually resolved on their destruction it should be remembered that the people of Dana, conceived as unaffected by time, and naturally immortal, were nevertheless subject to violent death at the hands of each other or even of mortals. With her wicked plan in view, Aoife went on a journey to a neighbouring Danaan king. Bov, taking the four children with her. Arriving at a lonely place by lake Derryvaragh in County Westmeath she ordered her attendants to slay the children. They refused and rebuked her. Then she resolves to do it herself but her womanhood overcame her and instead of killing the children she transformed them into four white swans, and laid on them the following doom, three hundred years they are to spend on the waters of lake Derryvaragh, three hundred on the Straits of Moyle between Ireland and Scotland and three hundred on the Atlantic by Erris and Inishglory. She flies north shrieking and is heard of no more in the story. Lir and Bov seek out the swan-children, and find them not only have they human speech but have preserved the characteristic Danaan gift of making wonderful music. From all parts of the island companies of the Danaan folk resort to lake Derryvaragh to hear this wondrous music and to converse with the swans, and during that time a great peace and gentleness seemed to pervade the land. But at last the day came for them to leave the fellowship of their kind and take up their life by the wild cliffs and ever angry sea of the northern coast. Here they knew the worst of loneliness, cold and storm. Forbidden to land, their feathers froze to the rocks in the winter months, and they were often buffeted and driven apart by storms. Our bath is the frothing brine, In bays by red rocks guarded, For mead at our fathers table, We drank of the salt, blue sea. Three sons and a single daughter, In clefts of the cold rocks dwelling, The hard rocks, cruel to mortals, We are full of keening to-night. At last the time comes to enter on the third and last period of their doom and they take flight for the western shores of Mayo. Here too they suffer much hardship, but the Milesians have now come into the land, and a young farmer named Evrie, dwelling on the shores of Eris bay, finds out who and what the swans are, and befriends them. To him they tell their story and through him it is supposed to have been preserved and handed down. When the final period of their suffering is close at hand they resolve to fly towards the palace of their father Lir, who dwells, we are told, at the Hill of the White Field in County Armagh, to see how things had gone with him. They do so but not knowing what has happened since the coming of the Milesians, they are shocked and bewildered to find nothing but green mounds, whin-bushes and nettles where once stood the palace of their father. We are told that it still stood there but that they could not see it because their eyes were holden, and a higher destiny was in store for them than to return to the Land of Youth. On Eris Bay they hear for the first time the sound of a Christian bell. It comes from the chapel of a hermit who has established himself there. Arrived at her presence, an awful transformation befalls them. The swan plumage falls off, and reveals four withered snowy-haired and miserable looking human beings. And so it was done and they went to heaven, but the hermit it is said, sorrowed for them to the end of his earthly days.

5: A Guide to Irish Folk Tales | Owlcation

Strange Irish Tales for Children is a collection of four exciting stories: *How the First Blackbird Came to Ireland*, *The Strange Case of Sean na Sul*, *Taoscan MacLiath* and *the Magic Bees and Fionn MacCumhaill* and *the Making of the Burren*.

Share1 Shares 3K Here are ten lesser-known but fascinating stories which I hope will illustrate the many different aspects of the twisted little land of Fairy Tales—a world full of impossible situations, mythical creatures, bizarre happenings, violence, vengeance and greed. Originally fairy tales were designed to entertain and to teach morals and reflected the spiritual and cultural beliefs of the time but some of these stories—like *The Red Shoes*—are all too clearly designed to put the fear of god into little children and many of them emphasize the fact that it is okay to react with violence when violence is done unto you. Because the glass that cut him was enchanted his wounds will not heal. Nella is heartbroken upon hearing of her mortally wounded prince, and goes out into the wild to find a remedy that will heal him. Luckily, she overhears two ogres telling each other that the only thing in the whole world that will heal the prince is to smear the fat from their own bodies all over the prince. Nella, pretending to be lost in the woods, begs the ogres to let her into their house. The ogre husband, fancying a bit of human flesh, lets her in eagerly but sadly he drinks so much alcohol that he passes out before he gets to eat her. Nella quickly gets to work and slaughters him then collects all the fat from his body in a bucket. She then rubs dirt all over her face to disguise herself and makes her way to the prince's palace. They are burned alive of course. You can read the first volume of *Il Pentamerone* here. Suitors come from far and wide, but none can guess the origins of the pelt. Then a hideously ugly old ogre decides to try his luck—he sniffs the pelt and identifies it immediately as that of a flea. The king, true to his word, hands over his daughter. The princess is horrified to find that her new home is made from human skeletons, and more horrified still when her new hubby prepares her a feast made from human carcasses. She begins to vomit repeatedly and the ogre promises to catch her some pigs to eat until she can stomach human flesh. While the ogre is hunting, an old woman hears the maiden wailing and sends her seven sons who are all endowed with magical powers to rescue the princess. They eventually defeat the ogre, by shooting out his eyeball and beheading him, and the princess returns home to her father who is surprisingly overjoyed to see her returned home safe to him. The witch convinces the husband to slaughter the sheep to prevent it from wandering again. Their daughter weeps, but her mother still a sheep tells her not to eat of her flesh once she is slaughtered and to bury her bones at the edge of the field. The father slaughters the sheep and the witch makes soup from the meat and bones. The witch hates her new step-daughter, but eventually her and the husband have a daughter of their own. One day a king declares that a festival is to be held for three days. The step mother sets the girl an impossible task, threatening to devour her if she is unable to complete it before they return from the night's festivities. The girl weeps over the birch tree, and the spirit of her dead mother completes her task for her and sends her off to the feast in beautiful garments—the prince falls instantly in love with the maiden. As they dine the witch's daughter gnaws bones under the table and the prince, thinking she is a dog, boots her so hard he breaks her arm. The beautiful sister flees before her family can return home to find her missing, but her ring is stuck on the palace door handle which the prince has spread with tar. The next two nights go the same way, with the prince breaking the witch's daughter's leg on the second night and dislodging her eyeball the third night. The beautiful girl loses her bracelet, then her golden shoe in the tar the prince spreads to trap her. The prince wishes to marry the woman who will fit the lost items, and the witch forces her ugly daughter into them. However, when the prince discovers who the real bride is, they throw the ugly sister across a river to act as a bridge so they can escape the clutches of the witch. Read *The Wonderful Birch* story here. The young king and his faithful servant Johannes travel to the golden kingdom, trick the princess into coming onto their boat and then set sail when she is below deck. Initially she is terrified, but when her kidnapper reveals he is a king all is forgiven and she agrees to marry him. As they are sailing, faithful Johannes overhears three ravens conversing with each other. They predict three misfortunes that will befall the king: A fox-red horse, a poisoned shirt, and the death of his wife. The only way to save the king is if someone shoots the horse in the

head, burns the poisoned shirt, and takes three drops of blood from the right breast of the new queen. However, the saviour must not utter a word of his tasks or he shall turn to stone. When they arrive ashore, the king leaps onto the back of a fox-red horse which faithful Johannes promptly shoots in the head. When they arrive at the palace, the king finds a shirt that looks to be made of gold, but faithful Johannes throws the shirt in the fire. At the wedding dance, the queen falls down as if dead on the palace floor but faithful Johannes quickly takes three drops of blood from her right breast, saving her life. Johannes reveals the plot, but turns to stone. The king and queen eventually have two children and one day the statue of Johannes tells the king that if he will slaughter his own children, his trusty servant will be brought back to life. You can read the full story of Faithful Johannes here. The sparrow steals meat and bread for the dog and when the dog has eaten his fill he goes to sleep on the road. A wagon drives by, and the sparrow flutters about the drivers head telling him to watch out for the dog, but the driver pays no heed and runs the dog over, killing it. The sparrow pecks out the eyes of the other two horses and the unfortunate beasts also get their heads chopped open as their master swings his axe at the sparrow. The sparrow flutters from room to room as the driver, blind with rage, smashes up his entire house in his attempts to kill the bird. The driver catches the sparrow in his hand, and wanting it to suffer a fate worse than death, he swallows it whole but the bird begins to flutter about his body and pokes its head out of the drivers mouth. The driver tells his wife to kill the sparrow with the axe as the bird sits in his mouth, but as the wife swings the sparrow flutters away and the wife chops open the drivers head instead, killing him. Here is the above version of The Dog and the Sparrow. An old woman then gives the terrified girl an enchanted bit of wood that will turn her into a bear when she puts it in her mouth. Preziosa now a bear flees into the forest and resolves never again to reveal her true form lest her father learns of her whereabouts. A prince discovers the wonderfully friendly she-bear in the woods and takes her home to be his pet. One day when she believes she is alone, Preziosa takes the bit of wood out of her mouth to brush her hair. The prince looks out his window, spies a gorgeous maiden in his garden and rushes out to find her, but she hears him coming and quickly puts the wood back into her mouth. The prince searches throughout the garden but he cannot find the maiden anywhere in her place is only his pet she-bear. The prince becomes sick with lust for the bear-girl and begins to waste away. The prince becomes overcome with lust for the bear, and begs his mother to let him kiss the animal. While the mother watches and encourages them enthusiastically, man and bear lock lips. Rejoicing, they get married, and presumably everybody lives happily ever after.

6: Celtic Fairy Tales - Connla and the Fairy Maiden - Kids St. Patrick's Day Short Stories

Children into swans: fairy tales and the pagan imagination, since i read a lot of urban fantasy novels i've noticed the same names popping up rather often irish, celtic, norse, all types of gods, goddesses and strange folk appear over and over.

One day as he stood by the side of his father on the height of Usna, he saw a maiden clad in strange attire coming towards him. There we keep holiday alway, nor need we help from any in our joy. And in all our pleasure we have no strife. And because we have our homes in the round green hills, men call us the Hill Folk. For save Connla alone, none saw the Fairy Maiden. Then the maiden answered, "Connla speaks to a young, fair maid, whom neither death nor old age awaits. I love Connla, and now I call him away to the Plain of Pleasure, Moy Mell, where Boadag is king for aye, nor has there been complaint or sorrow in that land since he has held the kingship. Oh, come with me, Connla of the Fiery Hair, ruddy as the dawn with thy tawny skin. A fairy crown awaits thee to grace thy comely face and royal form. Come, and never shall thy comeliness fade, nor thy youth, till the last awful day of judgment. A task is upon me too great for all my skill and wit, greater than any laid upon me since I seized the kingship. A maiden unseen has met us, and by her power would take from me my dear, my comely son. And none heard her voice again, nor could Connla see her longer. For a whole month from that day Connla would take nothing, either to eat or to drink, save only from that apple. But as he ate it grew again and always kept whole. And all the while there grew within him a mighty yearning and longing after the maiden he had seen. But when the last day of the month of waiting came, Connla stood by the side of the king his father on the Plain of Arcomin, and again he saw the maiden come towards him, and again she spoke to him. But now the folk of life, the ever-living ones, beg and bid thee come to Moy Mell, the Plain of Pleasure, for they have learnt to know thee, seeing thee in thy home among thy dear ones. So Conn of the hundred fights said to him, "Is it to thy mind what the woman says, my son? Come with me in my curragh, the gleaming, straight-gliding crystal canoe. I see the bright sun sink, yet far as it is, we can reach it before dark. There is, too, another land worthy of thy journey, a land joyous to all that seek it. Only wives and maidens dwell there. If thou wilt, we can seek it and live there alone together in joy. And then they all, king and court, saw it glide away over the bright sea towards the setting sun. Away and away, till eye could see it no longer, and Connla and the Fairy Maiden went their way on the sea, and were no more seen, nor did any know where they came.

7: 10 Unusual Little-Known Fairy Tales - Listverse

Irish Folktales for Children. March 12, Cinderella is told in an age-old Irish tale of a about an old woman with strange powers and mysterious plans, or.

8: Irish fairy stories and folk tales â€“ Ireland Calling

These are some of the best known Irish fairy stories, taken from Joseph Jacobs' collection, Irish Fairy Tales published between and The Children of Lir The children turned into swans by their evil stepmother and made to wander for years.

9: 20 fantastic fairy tale facts - www.enganchecubano.com

A collection of Kids Celtic Fairy Tales and tales from Children's Literature. Irish short stories for children for St. Patrick's Day.

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