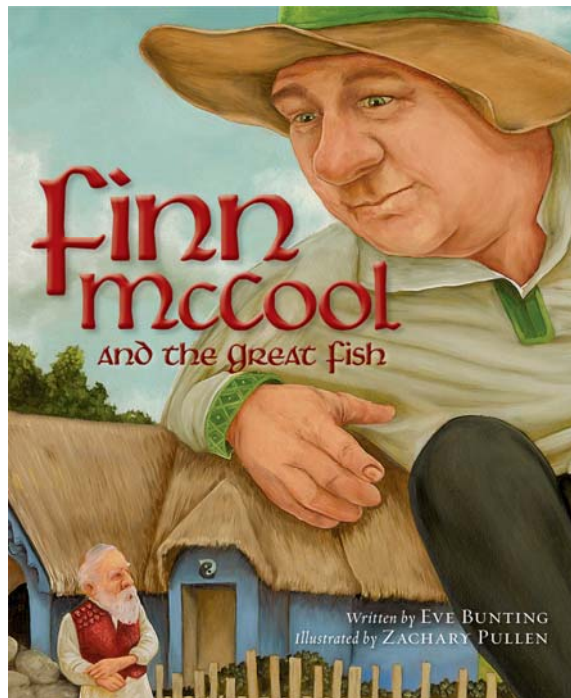


# **Teacher's Guide**



## **Finn McCool and the Great Fish**

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**Illustrator: Zachary Pullen**

Guide written by Cheryl Grinn

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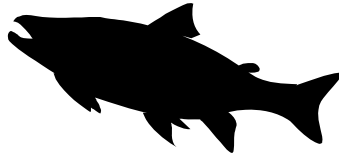
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# Finn McCool

## All About Finn



Finn McCool was a folk hero. Folk heroes are bigger than life. They are able to do fantastic feats that regular people can't do. Have fun reading the story *Finn McCool and the Great Fish*.

Circle the sentences below that are true about Finn McCool.

1. Finn was the biggest giant in Ireland.
2. Finn has hair the color of grass.
3. He could make it stop raining by clapping his hands.
4. He could lift horses to carry them out of the rain.
5. Finn wasn't very smart.
6. Finn knew all the answers.
7. A fish helped Finn become wise.
8. Finn wore size 22 shoes.
9. Finn lived in Nebraska.
10. Finn enjoyed eating the salmon who gave him wisdom.

# Finn McCool

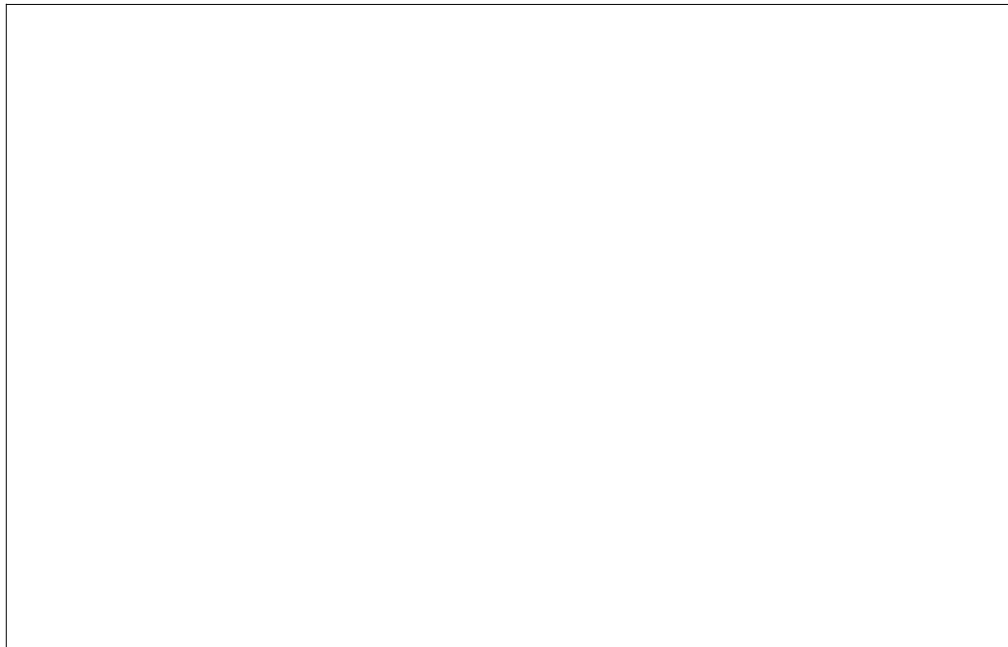
## IRELAND'S GEOGRAPHY

The story of “Finn McCool” takes place in the country of Ireland.  
Use a map, globe, or computer to help you answer these questions about Ireland.

Ireland is an island.

1. Define island \_\_\_\_\_
2. Name the bodies of water surrounding Ireland. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Name the capital of Ireland. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Name the capital of Northern Ireland. \_\_\_\_\_

Correctly color the flag of Ireland.



# FINN McCOOL



## The Price of Salmon

Finn McCool used a salmon to help him become wise. He caught his salmon, but most people buy their salmon at the market.

Answer these salmon money problems.

Salmon sells for \$7.50 per pound.

1. Finn caught a salmon that weighed 3 pounds. He sold it in the market. How much money did he get for his salmon? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the cost for 2 pounds of salmon? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Jill needed  $\frac{1}{2}$  pound of salmon for her salad. What was her cost? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Mike caught salmon weighing 5 pounds, 2 pounds, and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  pounds. How many pounds of salmon did he catch? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Three friends split 9 pounds of salmon. What was the cost for each friend?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Finn McCool



# JOB APPLICATION

When a person wants to get a job they need to fill out a job application. The application gives information about them to the employer.

Pretend Finn McCool wanted to get a job in town. Help him fill out his job application.

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Age** \_\_\_\_\_

**Height** \_\_\_\_\_

**Weight** \_\_\_\_\_

**Strengths** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Weaknesses** \_\_\_\_\_

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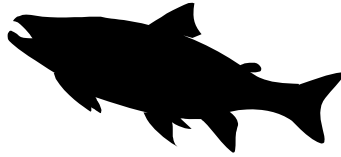
**Describe the type of work you would like** \_\_\_\_\_

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FINN McCOOL



## FINN HAS FEELINGS!

Have you ever had your feelings hurt? Have you ever hurt someone's feelings? Put yourself in Finn McCool's place when people said he wasn't smart. How would you feel if you were Finn?

Answer in complete sentences.

1. How do you think Finn McCool felt when people said he wasn't very smart? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. How do you think Finn felt when he was helping people?

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3. How do you think kids at school feel when they are teased?

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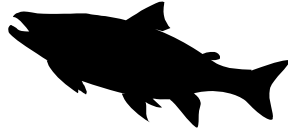
4. What should you do if you see someone being teased by others?

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FINN McCOOL



# CREATE A FOLK HERO

Finn McCool is probably a new folk hero. Folk heroes are fun because they are bigger than life and can do miraculous tasks.

Create your own folk hero. Give your hero a name \_\_\_\_\_

Draw your folk hero below.

# Finn McCool

# IF I HAD A POT OF GOLD!



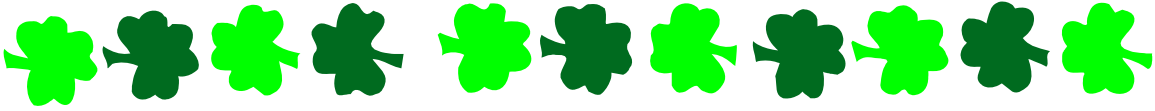
One of the most famous Irish tales is that there is a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. Do you believe this is true? Is it fun to dream about?

Write a story about what you would do if you discovered a pot of gold.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



Finn McCool



## Lucky Charm Graph

Finn McCool was Irish. The Irish have many legends about magical people and things like leprechauns and fairies. Do you believe in magical people and things?

Have fun graphing your Lucky Charms!

Teacher- Prepare and distribute bags of mixed Lucky Charms. 1 bag per pupil.

Students- Sort the Lucky Charms into piles by type.

**Red Balloons**

**Horseshoes**

**Cloverleaf**

**Heart**

**Moon**

**Shooting Star**

**Rainbow**

**Pot of Gold**

Use the data you collected to make a **bar graph** showing the results.

FINN McCOOL



YOU WON'T BELIEVE WHO I MET!

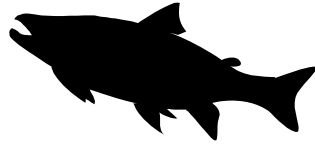
Pretend you were visiting Ireland and met Finn McCool. You were just in time to go on a spectacular adventure with him. WOW! What a time you had!

Write a letter to a friend at home describing your adventure with Finn McCool.

Dear

[illegible]

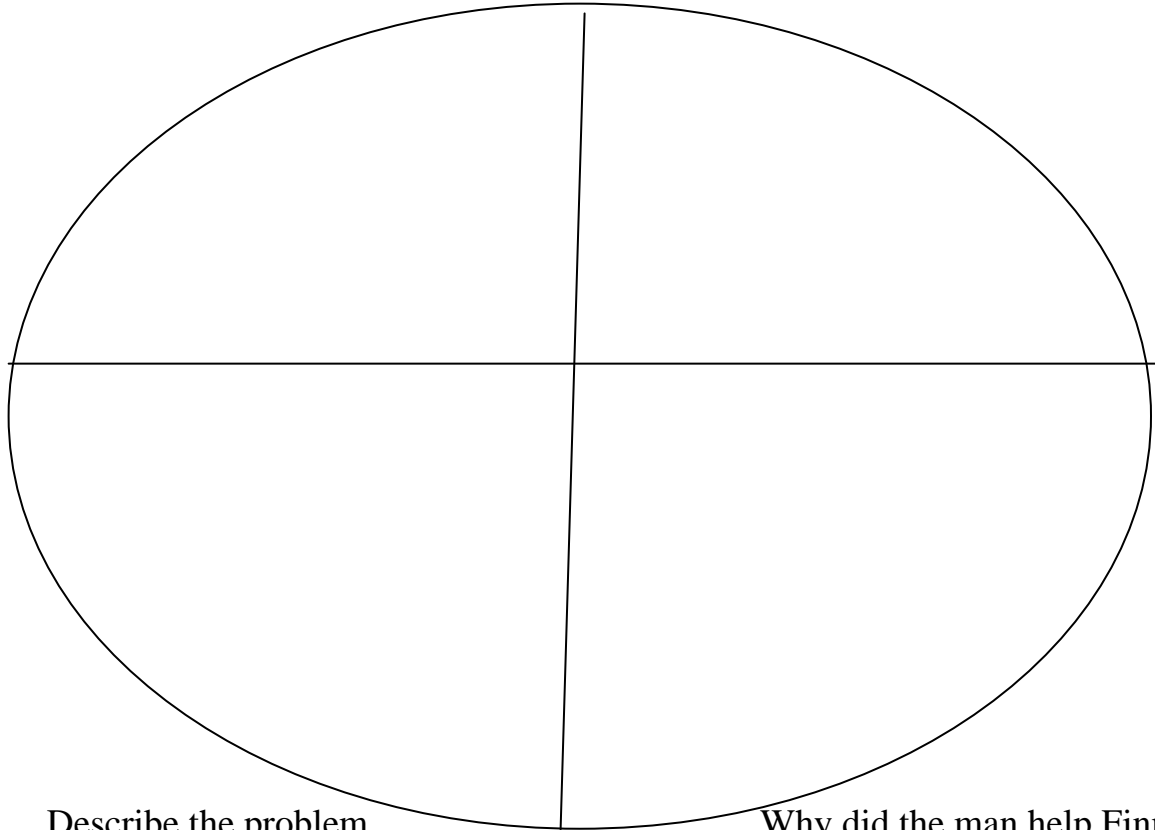
FINN McCOOL



## PIECES IN THE FINN McCOOL PIE

What is the setting?

What is the most exciting part?



Describe the problem.

Why did the man help Finn  
become smart?

# FINN McCOOL

## IRISH SODA BREAD RECIPE

Pretend you are Finn McCool and enjoy making and eating this popular Irish bread.

### **Ingredients**

1¾ cup buttermilk

1 egg

4 cups unbleached flour

1 teaspoon baking soda

1 tablespoon baking powder

1 teaspoon salt

1 cup raisins- you can mix ½ golden raisins and half regular raisins or all of either type of raisin.

### **Directions**

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

Spray two 8-inch round cake pans with vegetable oil.

In a small bowl beat the buttermilk and egg, salt, and raisins.

In a large bowl combine flour, baking soda, and baking powder.

Add buttermilk and egg mixture to ingredients in the large bowl and stir.

Turn dough onto a floured board and knead dough until smooth.

Divide dough in half and press into cake pans.

Slash into pie wedges (this will make it easy to cut after it's baked).

Bake for 30-35 minutes or until golden brown.

COOL.

**EAT AND ENJOY!**

# FINN McCOOL

## CREATE YOUR OWN FOLK TALE

Finn McCool is a wonderful example of a folk tale. It's fun to read and put your imagination to work. It's even more fun to create your own folk character and write a story about him/her.

1. Decide if your folk hero will be male or female, young or old.

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2. List the special powers your hero will have.

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3. Describe the way your hero will be dressed.

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4. Where will your story take place? Be specific.

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5. What problem or problems will your hero have to solve?

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6. How will the problem be solved?

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Write a first draft of your story!

FINN McCOOL



# WHAT IF?

Have you ever read a story and wondered what would have happened if just a few things had been different? Read *Finn McCool* and think about things you think might have been changed.

Answer in complete sentences.

1. What if Finn had not become wise?

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2. What if Finn had eaten the salmon?

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3. What if Finn couldn't find the fish?

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4. What if Finn suddenly appeared at your classroom door?

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# FINN McCOOL



## McCool's Wisdom!

Read and enjoy the book *Finn McCool and the Great Fish*. After reading the book answer the following questions.

Answer each question using a complete sentence.

1. How did Finn McCool gain his wisdom?

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2. What was the relationship between the old man and the salmon?

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3. Do you think it was the fish that really gave Finn his wisdom?

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4. How did Finn use his wisdom?

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5. Who is the wisest person you know? \_\_\_\_\_

FINN McCOOL

## ANSWER KEY

**All about Finn-** 1, 4, 5, 7

**Ireland's Geography-** 1) surrounded by water 2) Irish Sea, Atlantic Ocean  
3) Dublin 4) Belfast Flag colors- green, white, orange

**Price of Salmon-** 1) \$22.50 2) \$15 3) \$3.75 4) 11.5 pounds 5) \$22.50