**The Salmon of Knowledge**

This story is about a boy called Fionn Mac Cumhail’s. His father was killed when he was very young so his mother sent him to live in the Slieve Blue mountains with two wise old women. They taught him how to use a sword and spear and track wild animals in the forest, everything he needed to learn to become leader of the Fianna in his father’s place.

Fionn grew brave and strong but he also needed to be wise. The wise women sent Fionn to Finneigeas, the bard to learn poetry. Fionn needed to learn twelve books off by heart.

Finneigeas lived on the river Boyne in County Meath. Everyday he tried to catch a famous silver salmon the salmon of knowledge. The first person to taste the magic fish would be given the gift of great knowledge about everything.

At last Finneigeas caught the salmon of Knowledge he lit a fire and told Fionn to watch the fish and he warned him not to taste even the smallest bit. After a while Fionn saw a blister on the side of the fish he pressed it with his thumb and burnt his thumb he put it in his mouth without thinking to stop the pain and he became the first person to taste the salmon.

When Finneigas returned he looked into Fionn’s eyes he knew at once that Fionn now had the gift of knowledge. The old bard was sad but wished Fionn well.

From that day on whenever Fionn put his thumb in his mouth he was filled with knowledge and knew everything.



