

# Dare to Dream

ISBN 978-1-78849-127-3

Sarah Webb, Illustrated by Graham Corcoran

## Teaching Guide

By Nicola Heaney

### RATIONALE AND APPROACH

Filled with beautiful illustrations, this stunning collection profiles those Irish people who took on the world. It tells the stories and struggles of twenty-eight individuals and how they overcame obstacles to pursue their dreams and ambitions. From backgrounds in sports to medicine, adventure to politics, these Irish people and their exploits and endeavours shaped history and helped to create the Ireland of today. This teaching guide is designed to stimulate young readers and inspire them to explore their history through a range of suggested activities including debate, design, research skills, extended writing and other elements of the curriculum. There is also a range of activities and discussion based on the stories of the individuals.

### William Parsons

#### Activities

- Star Project: Research the constellations and choose three favourites. Where are they in the sky? Why are they named the way they are? Are there any myths or legends linked to them? Show them to someone one night – your parents, a friend or someone else – and explain your research. There is an app called 'StarChart' that you can download for free that you might find useful.
- William Parson's drawings are said to have inspired Van Gogh's painting 'The Starry Night'. Find an image of this painting and either write an extended piece of descriptive writing or create your own image – this can be a collage or simply your own piece of artwork.

### George Boole

#### Activity

- George Boole became a maths professor even though he didn't have a university degree. Can you find an example of

someone else who has been successful without a university qualification? Write a similar piece outlining their life story to share with the rest of the class.

### Agnes Mary Clerke

#### Activity

- Agnes was not taught at school because she was a girl. Why do you think this is? Why is it so important that girls are allowed to go to school? There is still a lot of inequality in education around the world. In small groups, research the inequality in education and create a presentation on why it is so important that girls are educated. You might find the following helpful:
  - [care.org/work/education/girls-education](http://care.org/work/education/girls-education)
  - [right-to-education.org/girlswomen](http://right-to-education.org/girlswomen)
  - [malala.org](http://malala.org)
  - [youtube.com/watch?v=05qZyoznfwk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=05qZyoznfwk)
  - [youtube.com/watch?v=1e8xgF0JtVg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1e8xgF0JtVg)

### Albert DJ Cashier

#### Discussion Point

- Do you agree that it was very unfair that Albert had her pension stopped? What arguments do you think were made to reinstate her pension? Why do you think they succeeded? What arguments would you have made?

#### Activities

- Write a persuasive speech that may have been made to reinstate his pension – use the detail from the text that shows his bravery and why he was so deserving.
- Create a poster like the illustration in the book – but use a female soldier. Your poster should have a slogan suggesting that women are as brave as men.

### Lady Gregory

#### Discussion Point

- We're told at the bottom of the page that performances of *The Playboy of the Western World* had people rioting because underwear is mentioned. Why do you think this is? Can you think of any protests against certain films or plays or books? What happened? Do you think we should be allowed to ban things if someone finds them offensive? Why?

#### Activity

- Lady Gregory published new versions of famous Irish myths and legends. What is your favourite Irish myth? Rewrite it in no more than 700 words. Be as creative as you like – even if this means putting it in a modern setting (like with the stories of Percy Jackson)

### Douglas Hyde

#### Discussion Point

- Douglas Hyde is praised for doing 'all he could for our national language and culture'. Do you think this is important? Why? What sort of things could be done today to promote our national language and culture?

#### Activity

- Do some research on all the Irish presidents and create a set of Top Trumps cards. What categories will you use (think about qualities important in a good president)?

### Roger Casement

#### Activities

- Casement fought slavery for years, particularly in the Congo. Do some research to find out how badly slaves were treated and then, imagining you

are Casement, write a persuasive speech or letter on why slavery needs to be abolished. *Extension: Do some research into modern slavery (e.g. fruit pickers) and write a persuasive speech on how we can help these people.*

- Write an obituary for Roger Casement. He had a very full and exciting life, so you won't be able to include everything. Choose what you think are the most important details from his life story. Once you have finished, share your obituary with the rest of the class. How are they different? Are there any elements of his life that *everyone* chose to include? Why was this?

## Lena Rice

### Discussion Points

- In tournaments, women do not win the same amount of money as their male counterparts. Why is this? How should it change? Have there been any changes in the last few years? Is it the same in all sports?
- Journalist Harry Scriveney describes Lena as having 'Irish drive ...' What do you think this means? Could you explain it to someone from a different country? Is it a good thing? Can you think of any other people who might have this 'Irish drive'?

### Activity

- Go back in time to 1890 when Ireland did spectacularly well at Wimbledon. Write the newspaper story (or create a TV news report) of the success. Think about interviewing some of the players and some of the spectators (but remember that the tennis world was very different then!).

## Maude Delap

### Discussion Point

- Why do you think creatures in the sea are so interesting? Have you ever watched an animal? What did you 'deduce'?

### Activity

- Create your own poster, using either that quote or a different quote from the poem 'Maude Enthralled' by Doireann Ní Ghríofa

## Lily and Lolly Yeats

### Discussion Point

- Had you heard of Lily and Lolly's brothers? Why do you think we haven't heard of

these two sisters? Can you think of any other examples where in a family only the brother is famous? Why do you think this is? What can be done to change this?

## Inventors and Discoverers

### Activities

- Read through the short biographies on pages 24–25. Which of these is the best invention/discovery? Why? Write a speech to persuade the rest of your class.
- John Holland designed a submarine – have you ever been in one? Design your own submarine – be as adventurous as you want.

### Discussion Point

- Which would you rather explore – space or the deepest seas? Why? What are the benefits/dangers of each?

## Tom Crean

### Activities

- Imagine you are Tom Crean. Write a diary entry from his time on the *Endurance*, using as much information from the book as you can. Can you describe the world of Antarctica?
- Shackleton said, 'The only true failure would be to not explore at all.' Can you create a poster that uses this quote?

## Gretta Cousins

### Discussion Point

- Gretta was a strong-willed and determined suffragette. Why do you think some people did not believe that women could have the vote? Why do you think some people believe that certain people should not have the vote?

### Activity

- In pairs or small groups, create a couple of speeches on why everyone should have the right to vote. Be prepared to use your most persuasive skills in a debate with the rest of your class.

## Patrick Pearse

### Activities

- Pearse is famous for his speech at O'Donovan Rossa's graveside. (If you haven't heard this, do a little research.) Imagine you are writing a speech at Patrick Pearse's graveside. What would you say? Be prepared to perform your speech.

- Work in groups to create your own vision for a better Ireland. What would you like to see? What will make a better world? What laws are fundamental to this? Write your own Proclamation (no more than twelve points).

## James Joyce

### Activities

- Joyce called his homes 'those haunted inkpots'. What sort of an image does this create for you? Can you sketch his childhood home? Think about your own street. What metaphors could you use to describe it? Create three that best describe elements of your street. Show these to a friend – can they understand what you are trying to say?
- In *Finnegans Wake*, Joyce created ten 'thunderwords'. One example is: **'klickaklakkaklaskaklopatzklatschabatt acreppycrottyGraddaghsemmihsammi hnouithappluddyappladdykonpkot'** to describe the sound of applause. Write a paragraph of description and include your own 'thunderword' – something that creates a sense of the noise you are describing.
- Every year, people celebrate Joyce on Bloomsday. Work in small groups to create a 'tour' for Bloomsday. Do some research on the sorts of places people visit and design a travel guide with the top six stops.

## Elizabeth O'Farrell

### Discussion Point

- We are told that there is a famous photograph of O'Farrell standing beside Pearse, but she is airbrushed out. Why do you think this is? Do you think that photographs in newspapers and magazines should be photoshopped? Why?

## Rex Ingram

### Discussion Point

- Why do you think that directors are not as famous as actors? Do you have a favourite director? Who is it? Why?

## Rosanna 'Rosie' Hackett

### Activity

- Rosie was involved in the Dublin Lockout. What was this? Research the event and create a news report outlining the details of it. This can either be a written report or a drama piece with interviews.

## Cynthia Evelyn Longfield

### Activity

- Cynthia loved butterflies, becoming an expert and writing many books. Do some research on butterflies and create encyclopedia entries for five different butterflies. Your entry should include a history, a picture, where they live and anything else you think might be important. If there is a different type of animal or insect you're interested in, you could create five different entries for this species. *Extension: Create a poster like the one in the book where, instead of a picture of Cynthia, you are at the centre of the image. Remember, if your 'specialism' is not butterflies, you'll need to make sure the poster reflects your chosen animal.*

## Ernest Walton

### Discussion Point

- What do you think has been the most important scientific discovery? Why? What questions would you like to see solved? Why? Do you think this is a realistic hope?

## Mary Elmes

### Activity

- Many films have been made about brave and courageous people who risked their lives to save others during the Second World War. Imagine a film has been made about her life. Create either a film poster or a trailer for the film.

## Jack Kyle

### Discussion Point

- Not only was Jack a rugby player, but he also devoted part of his life to helping others. Do you think that sportspeople should be good role models? Why should they? Can you think of any other sportspeople or any celebrities that have given a lot to help those less fortunate than themselves?

### Activity

- Can you think of any other famous Irish rugby players? Work in groups to create a set of at least 20 top trumps. Think about what the different categories are – should you add a category for their charitable work outside the sport?

## John Hume

### Discussion Points

- John Hume's slogan was 'one man, one vote'. Why was this so important? What do you know about the civil rights movement in Northern Ireland? Do you think it's important to learn about this in schools? Why?
- In the image, Hume is quoted as saying 'The answer to difference is to respect it. Therein lies a most fundamental principle of peace – respect for diversity.' What do you think of this quote? Do you think it applies today? Why?

### Activities

- John Hume won the Nobel Peace Prize, the Gandhi Peace Prize and the Martin Luther King Award. Write a speech on why he deserved all three of these awards – you may need to do some research into his involvement with the civil rights movement and the peace process in Northern Ireland to find out why he was seen as such a brave man.
- Many figures were involved in achieving peace in Northern Ireland over the years. Choose one or two and write a similar piece on their lives and what they achieved.

## Professor Susan McKenna-Lawlor

### Discussion Point

- Do you believe in life in space? Do you think other life forms exist? Why do you think this?

## Bob Geldof

### Activity

- Bob Geldof is renowned for his humanitarian work. What can we do to raise money? As a class, choose a charity and organise an event to raise money. This could be through a cake sale, a sponsored silence or organising any other sort of event. You'll need to think about posters, advertising, how much money to charge, etc.

## U2

### Discussion Point

- U2 went through a number of names before deciding on U2, like Feedback and The Hype. Which do you think is the best? Did they make the right decision? Why? Why do you think the name is so important for a band?

## Activities

- Choose a U2 album and redesign the cover. Write a paragraph explaining your choice and your choice of design – think about the overall message of the album and the meaning of certain songs.
- Ireland has produced a number of excellent singers and musicians over the years – some are listed on page 57, but can you think of any more? Create either a set of top trump cards or design posters for a wall display on the Irish 'Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame'. Your posters should include information about their life and background, their musical style and influences and the songs/albums that have made them successful.

## Philip Treacy

### Discussion Point

- Why do you think fashion is seen as important? Why do you think some people take so much care over their appearance? Do you think they are right?

### Activity

- Imagine you are a milliner. Design a hat for someone to wear at the races. Remember, they need to stand out and the hat needs to say something about the person wearing it. As well as your design, write a paragraph explaining why you have designed your hat in this way.

## Cora Staunton

### Activity

- How do you think girls should be encouraged to become more involved in sport? Create a series of posters / TV adverts that encourage girls to be involved. Use famous sportswomen in your designs.

## Dreamers of Tomorrow

### Discussion Point

- Which of these is your favourite? Why? Do you think there are any others that should be on the list? Have a group discussion and debate on why your person should be included.

## Whole Text Activities

### 1. Advice for Ireland Today

Having read the whole book, what advice do you think these people would give to the young people of Ireland today? Create five slogans based on the exploits and adventures of these people, e.g. 'Even if everyone else is saying you'll fail, never give up on yourself.'

### 2. Judging a Book by its Cover

What do you think of the front cover? Do you think Tom Crean and Cynthia Longfield deserve to be on the front cover? Why? If you were to redesign the book, who would you place on the front cover? Why? Who do you think has made the biggest impact on today's world, and helped the most people? Why? Is this enough to put them on the front cover? Sketch your design and write a few paragraphs explaining your ideas.

### 3. Class Awards

As a class, imagine you were giving out awards to the people in the book. Who would win:

- most curious
- most inventive
- most compassionate
- most determined
- most brave
- most creative?

Consider the illustrations used to show these people. Using the same style and the same objects, create a poster for each of the winners.

### 4. Your Dreams

The people in this book have one thing in common – they followed their dreams. What dreams do you have? How can you make them come true? Imagine you have achieved them. Write a page about yourself, imagining all the things you achieved by following your dreams.

### 5. Dreamers of Tomorrow

Who from the Dreamers of Tomorrow would the other people in the book most admire? Why? What similarities lie between them? Write a piece in defence of the person you think they'd choose, stating why they're the most impressive so far.

### 6. Most Like to Meet

Of all the characters in the book, who would you most like to meet? Why? What would you do? What do you think their impressions

would be of today's world? Write a short script imagining a conversation you would have.

### 7. Best Dinner Guests

Think about female role models today. They don't have to be from Ireland; they can be from anywhere in the world. Imagine you have an opportunity to invite five incredible women from different fields to a special meal. Choose one each from art and literature, politics, science, sport and entertainment. Who would you choose? Why? Is it an easy decision? How do you decide – do you draw up criteria? Write a paragraph for each woman arguing why she should be seated at the table.

### 8. Letter Writing

Write a letter to someone of your choice from the book, asking them about something not mentioned in the book. Do you ask for advice? Inspiration?

### 9. Inspirational Poster

The book is filled with inspirational quotes, such as, 'To the human mind nothing is so fascinating as progress.' Choose your favourite and create a poster. Perhaps you could create a wall display for the classroom.

### 10. New Banknote

Choose the person from the book who you admire the most – maybe it's because of their achievements or maybe it's because you feel more of a connection to them than the others. Before the introduction of the euro, banknotes had images of famous Irish people. Write a persuasive speech to deliver to your class on why this person should be on a new Irish banknote.

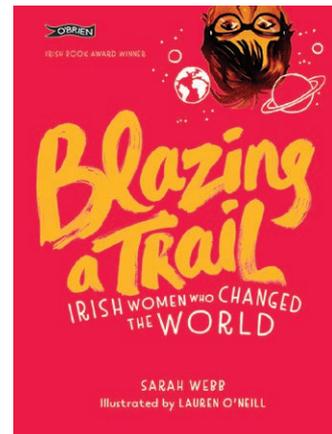
## Also by Sarah Webb



### Blazing a Trail *Irish Women who Changed the World*

Winner Irish Book Awards: Children's Book of the Year (Senior)

A book for everyone who dreams of changing the world.



From fearless aviator, Lady Mary Heath, the first woman in the world to parachute from an aeroplane, to Margaret Bulkeley, the 18th-century surgeon who lived as a man, meet 28 remarkable Irish women who have taken the world by storm.

You may have already heard some of their names, like Countess Markievicz and Mary Robinson, but others, like Anne Sullivan, Lilian Bland or Anna Haslam, may be new to you.

Packed with fun, fascinating facts and stunning, full-page illustrations, this book celebrates the trail blazers who have shaped the world we live in.

Ready to walk in their footsteps? A world of bravery and discovery awaits you.

Made by two remarkable women, author Sarah Webb and illustrator Lauren O'Neill.

[www.obrien.ie/blazing-a-trail](http://www.obrien.ie/blazing-a-trail)