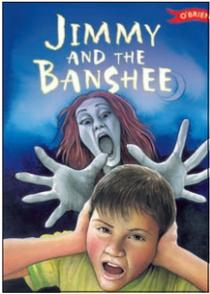


# JIMMY AND THE BANSHEE



by Dan Kissane, illustrated by Angela Clarke

ISBN: 0-86278-549-9 • €5.95pb • 112 pages

When Jimmy throws a coin into a local well and makes a wish, he little imagines the consequences. A strange young woman appears beside the well and then another, more terrifying woman greets him on the bridge. With a dreadful smile, she hisses a warning that sends Jimmy running for the safety of home and Grandfather's advice. When friend Katie makes a miraculous recovery from a serious illness, it appears that the forces of good may have conquered, but the Banshee has more important business in hand – and Jimmy figures prominently in her plans.

## LANGUAGE – ENGLISH

- ◆ Vocabulary extension: Besieging, beseeching, gist, anguish, infernal, gingerly, sullenly, disrupt, trance.
- ◆ Descriptive language: 'One of those faces that looks as though someone has sat on it ...' (pp.7–8); '... more hair on the shell of a new-laid egg than there was Irish on Mikey McGrory's tongue' (p.7); 'enough milk to colour their tea ...' (p.16); 'that cake-eating smile ...' (p.52).
- ◆ Humorous language: Children examine the text for examples of humorous writing, such as those on pp.16, 19, 34, 44 and 64.
- ◆ Creative: Finish the story: 'One Hallowe'en night, I was walking late and alone when I heard a piercing wail. Starting to run, I was astonished to see ...'
- ◆ Discussion: 'Be careful what you wish, for it might come true.'
- ◆ Debate/discussion: 'There's too much in this world of people telling other people what they should and shouldn't do. If he wants to [smoke his pipe], let him!'

## LANGUAGE – GAELIGE

- ◆ Irish words in common use in English, e.g., bean sí/banshee; bóithrín/boreen; tobar in placenames such as Tobercurry (Tobar an Choire) Co Sligo, Toberbunny (Tobar Baine) Co Dublin, Ballintober (Baile an Tobair), Co Roscommon

## SPHE

- ◆ Myself: Taking care of my body. Identifying harmful substances such as nicotine, discuss Grandfather's smoking habit and the doctor's concern for his health and welfare (pp.19, 61, 69), being aware of the dangers in using tobacco and exploring the reasons why people choose to smoke. Developing strategies to cope with worries and difficulties such as disappointment and illness. Differentiating between a healthy and unhealthy diet, and identifying the nutrients necessary in a balanced

diet. Discuss the foods described on pp.45, 55, 56 and 61, categorise into main food groups.

- ◆ Myself and others: Myself and my family. Recognising that each family member has a contribution to make, discuss Jimmy's relationships with his grandfather and parents. Understanding that families often experience unpleasant and difficult changes such as a death or illness, discuss the family's reactions to the doctor's warnings about Grandfather's health.
- ◆ Myself and others: My friends and other people. Examining different types of friendship, best friends such as Jimmy and Mikey; boy/girl friends such as Jimmy and Katie/Jimmy and Julia.

## SESE – GEOGRAPHY

- ◆ Human environments: People at work. Exploring, from descriptions on pp.10, 18, 24 and 34, the work of the farmer and his/her family, their homes and other buildings.
- ◆ Environmental awareness: Identifying and discussing the beauty of local plant and animal life from Jimmy's descriptions on pp.11, 34, 46, 48, 55 and 69.

## SESE – HISTORY

- ◆ Myths and legends: Analysing and discussing the role of the *bean sí* in ancient times. See 'Death and Burial', *Celtic Way of Life*, pp.78–79.
- ◆ My family: Examining changes in the lives of immediate family. Using *Everything Irish*, p.69, examine early Irish coins, collecting examples if possible, with reference to p.12. Discuss coins in current use and compare with Euro coins.

## VISUAL ARTS

- ◆ Thatched cottage: See *Everything Irish*, pp.10–11 and/or *Starting Art*, Book 1, pp.28–29.
- ◆ Pipe-cleaner banshee: See *Starting Art*, Book 1, pp.34–35.