

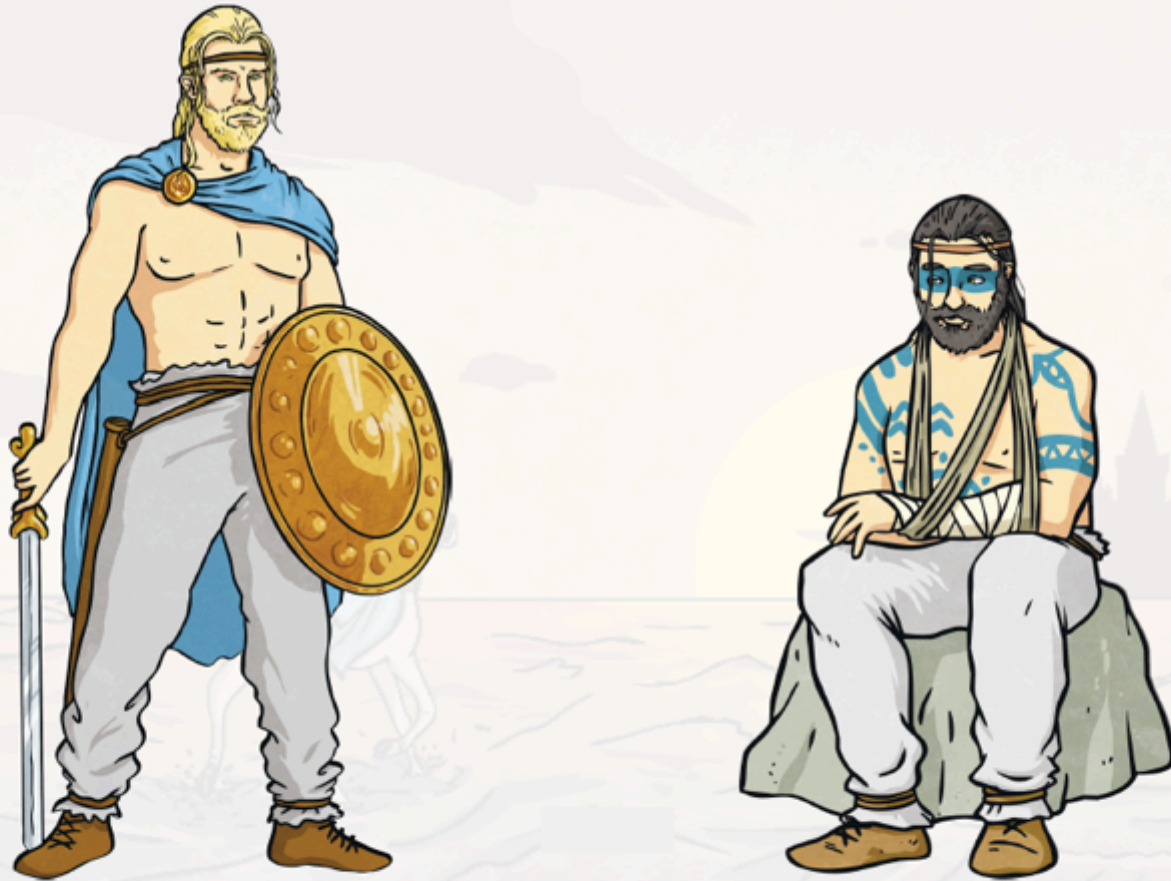
Tír na nÓg

The story of Tír na nÓg, Oisín and Niamh



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Once upon a time, many years ago, there was a group of brave and elite warriors called the Fianna. They protected and guarded the High King of Ireland.



The members of the Fianna were fierce in battle but were also wonderful poets and beautiful singers.



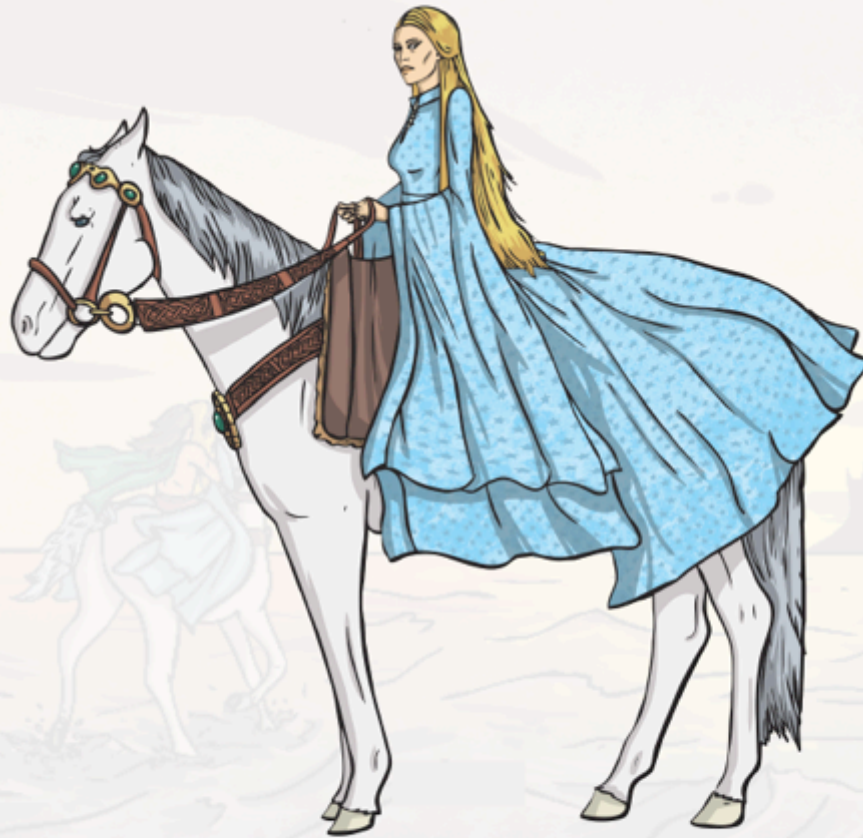
Fionn mac Cumhail was the leader of the Fianna and he had a son named Oisín. Every day, Fionn and Oisín would explore the stunning green hills of Ireland as they hunted the land.



One day, Fionn and Oisín saw a figure in the distance, out on the waves, and prepared themselves for battle.

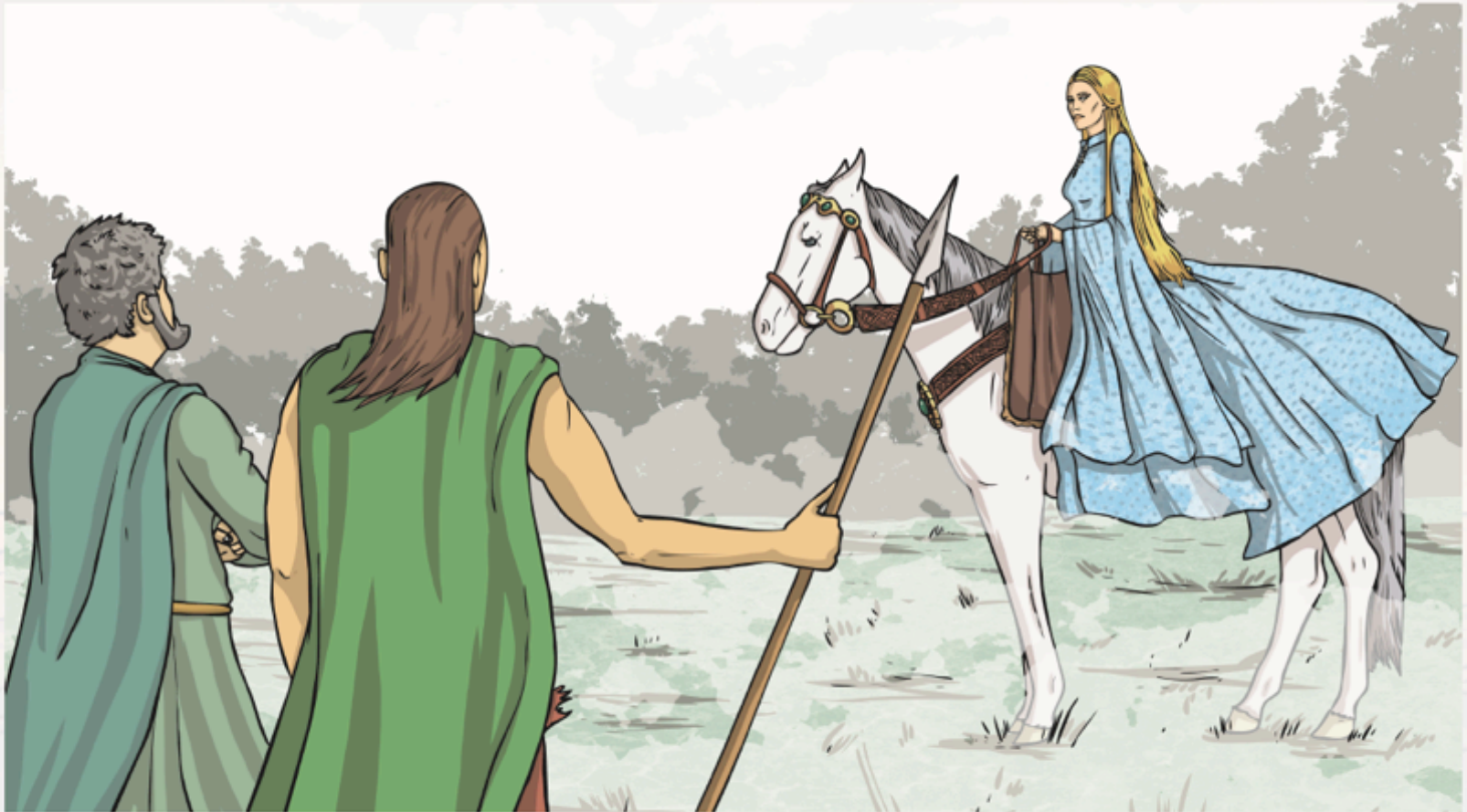


As the figure drew closer, Oisín saw that it was a beautiful young woman on a white horse. They were in awe as the young woman approached. She had flowing golden locks, which gleamed in the Sun, and had emerald green eyes.



The woman began to speak.

“My name is Niamh and I come from the land of Tír na nÓg. I am a princess and my father is the king of the land.” Tír na nÓg was the land of eternal youth, where no one would ever grow old.



Oisín fell in love with Niamh the minute he saw her and, even though he would be sad to be leaving his father, the Fianna and Ireland, he got up on Niamh's horse to go with her to the land of Tír na nÓg. He promised his father Fionn that he would return to Ireland to see him again soon!



Oisín and Niamh galloped over the waves of the ocean, until they arrived at the magical land of Tír na nÓg. Like Niamh had promised, everyone in the land was young and sadness never came into their lives.

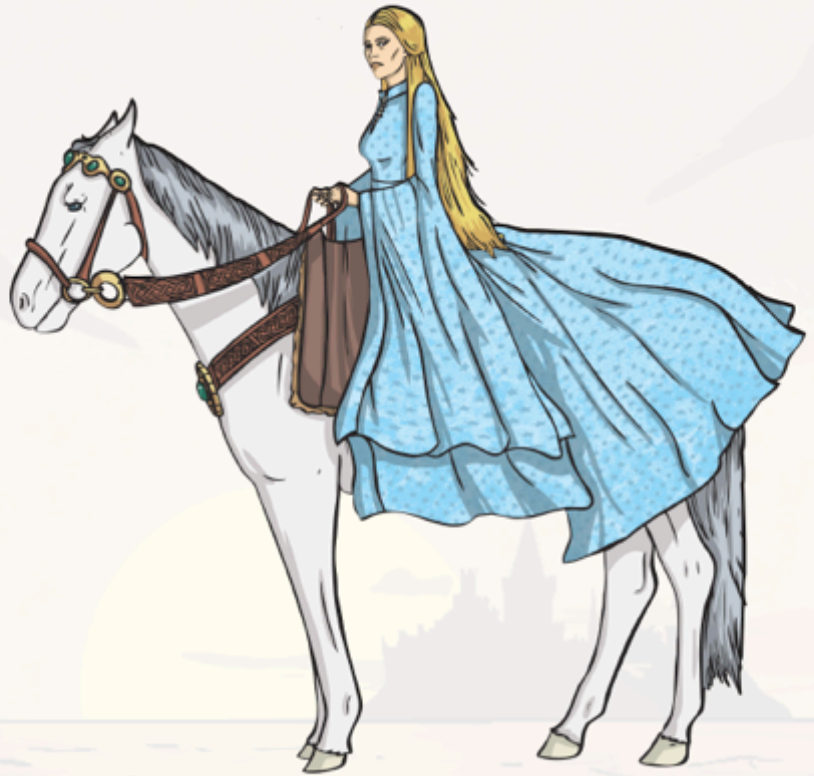




Oisín and Niamh spent many happy times together, but a part of Oisín had always missed Ireland. He begged Niamh to let him return to Ireland to see his family and, even though she was reluctant, she finally agreed to let him go.

“Take my magical white horse to go back to Ireland.

Listen carefully: you must stay on the horse and do not step onto the ground. If you do, you will never be able to return to Tír na nÓg.”

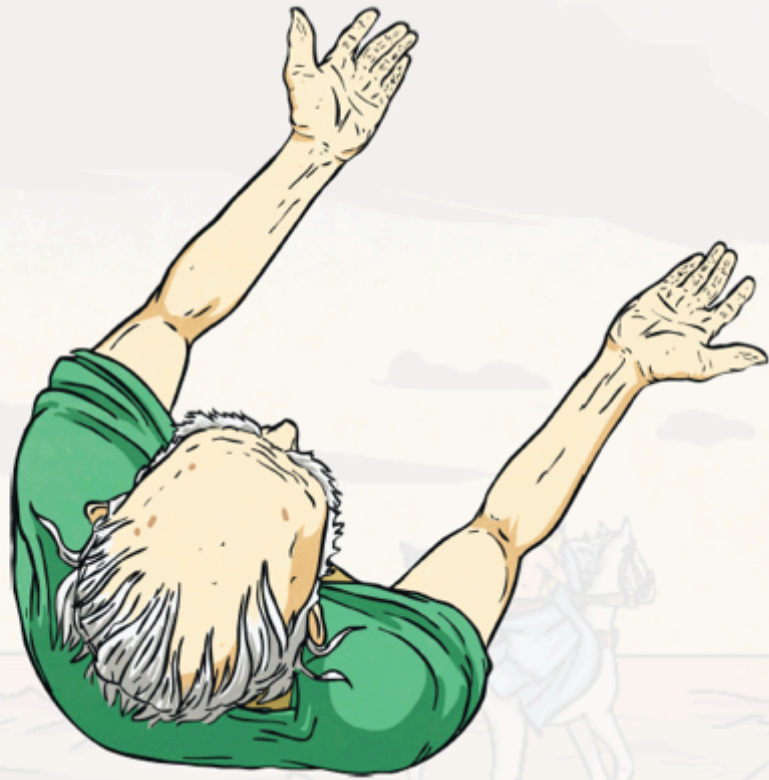


Oisín headed back over the seas on Niamh's horse and arrived in Ireland. When he got to Ireland, he noticed that things had changed. The Fianna no longer hunted the hills, and the castle that they lived in was falling down. He hadn't realised it, but he had been away from Ireland for 300 years!



As he was roaming around the hills, he met a group of old men who were trying to move a huge rock. He leant down from his horse to help them, but he lost his balance and fell to the ground.





The moment Oisín fell to the ground, he aged by 300 years. He became a frail, old man. He asked the men about his father, Fionn, and the Fianna, and they told him that they had died many, many years ago.

Oisín shared the stories and legends about his father, Fionn, the Fianna and the magical land of Tír na nÓg, before he passed away.

