

The Children of Lir: Junior

The story of 'The children of Lir' is one of the most famous legends in Ireland.

It is a story about good and evil.

Many, many years ago Bodb Dearg became the king of Ireland.

Lir was very angry because he wanted to be the king.

Bodb offered his daughter Aebh to Lir to be his wife.

Lir was very happy with this.

Lir and Aebh had four children Fionnuala, Aodh, Fiachra and Conn.

However, Aebh died.

Lir and his children were heartbroken.

Lir married Aoife, Aebh's sister.

She became jealous of the beauty of the children.

She made a terrible spell that would get rid of Lir's children forever.

One morning when Lir was hunting, Aoife took the children to Lough Derravaragh.

When they were swimming she changed them into four beautiful swans.

'You will spend three hundred years each on Lough Derravaragh, on the Sea of Moyle and in the Bay of Erris' Aoife told them.

Lir knew something bad had happened to his children.

He found the swans at the lake and Fionnuala told him what had happened.

Bodb was very angry and turned Aoife into a witch of the air and she was never seen again.

While they were in Lake Derravaragh they were visited by their friends and family every day.

They were happy there but the time came for them to leave for the cold and fierce Sea of Moyle.

Fionnuala, Aodh, Fiachra and Conn were very sad leaving Ireland.

They would not see their family again while they lived on the Sea of Moyle.

From that day on, no swans were ever allowed to be killed in Ireland.

The swans' final destination was the Bay of Erris.

On their way they passed over their father's old castle which was in ruins.

They were very lonely.

A holy man called Mochua lived on Eris and he became their friend.

One day, the swans changed back to people but at this stage, they were very old.

Mochua baptised them before they died and they were united together with their father and mother in heaven.