

## **The Salmon of Knowledge: Junior**

Long ago there lived a great warrior named Fionn Mac Cumhail.

When he was young he went to live with Finnegas.

Finnegas was the wisest man in Ireland.

Fionn loved to listen to the old man's stories.

Fionn helped Finnegas about the house.

Fionn asked Finnegas lots of questions, but he couldn't answer all of them.

'Is there a way to know everything?' Fionn asked him.

'Yes Fionn,' he answered, 'There is a magic salmon that swims in this river'.

'For years now I have been trying to catch it.

The person who catches and eats it will know everything.'

A few days later, Finnegas caught the salmon.

'I've caught it! I've caught it!' he cried happily.

He ran up to Fionn with the Salmon in his arms.

Finnegas told Fionn to cook the Salmon for him but not to eat any of it.

Fionn started to cook the salmon as Finnegas went away to collect some firewood.

When he returned, he noticed that Fionn's eyes looked different.

'Did you eat any of the salmon?' asked Finnegas.

'No, I didn't,' said Fionn. 'All I did was put my thumb in my mouth because I burnt it when I was cooking the salmon'

Finnegas was sad.

'That means that you tasted the skin. Now you are the one who knows everything, because you tasted the Salmon of Knowledge first,' said Finnegas.

Finnegas told Fionn to eat all of the Salmon.

Fionn ate all of the salmon but didn't feel much different.

Then Finnegas told him to put his thumb in his mouth.

When he did this, all the knowledge in the world flowed into his head.

I cannot teach you anymore because you know everything,' Finnegas said to Fionn.

'You will be a great warrior and the wisest man in Ireland'.

From then on, all Fionn had to do was put his thumb in his mouth and he knew everything.

When he grew up Fionn became the leader of the Fianna the greatest band of warriors Ireland has ever known.