

The Giant's Causeway

Long ago, before the time of men, the giant Finn McCool lived with his wife Oonagh in the north of Ireland.

As giants go, he was polite and gentle (for his kind are well known to have been aggressive and without manners!) and he ruled over the other giants so that peace reigned in their land. Even the animals were happy.

One day, Finn was looking out across the sea when he spotted another giant across the water in the land where Scotland is today.

This giant, Benandoner was mean and grumpy – and taunted Finn with horrible insults day and night.

After many months of this, Finn became unhappy and began to get quite cross. The animals sensed his anger, and the village grew dark with his bad temper.

Finn decided to teach the unkind Benandoner a lesson, and hatched a plan to build a causeway across the water to Scotland. He hurled great rocks into the sea, until a path was formed.

Quickly and quietly, Finn walked across the stony path to Benandoner's homeland. When he arrived, he crept up to his rival's cave, but what a sight met his eyes!

The sleeping giant, Benandoner was HUGE!

Finn McCool was terrified, he fled back to the causeway, but the noise of his stumbling awoke Benandoner – who was no fool and realised what was happening. Quick as a flash, he leapt from his bed and gave chase.

Finn dashed home to Oonagh, who listened to his tale with patience and wisdom. She was the cleverest of giants, and told him not to be afraid, for she had an idea.

Oonagh dressed her husband in a baby's bonnet and told him to lie in the cradle. Not a moment too soon, for as she covered him with a blanket, there was a terrible banging at the door.

Calmly, she let Benandoner in, and offered him tea, asking if he'd seen her husband on his travels. Benandoner was surprised, as he was sure Finn would have come home to hide.

Just then, he spotted the cradle, and began to tremble. This baby was GIGANTIC! He imagined the size of the child's father and grew fearful.

Quickly making his excuses, Benandoner charged from the house and ran to the causeway, and across it back to his home. As he went, he destroyed the path behind him, so he could not be followed.

Never again did Benandoner shout across the water to Ireland; and life for Finn, Oonagh and their village went back to normal. And once again the animals were happy.

The only reminder of the adventure is the broken causeway, which still stands to the north of Ireland to this day.