

# Update: Irish Poetry & Folktales

## Aim:

To promote the richness of Ireland's storytelling tradition in an online educational context, increasing digital literacy skills and awareness of Europe's digital cultural heritage.



Tallinn Plenary Meeting  
December 2015



# Poetry & Folktales used

## Poetry:

The Stolen Child, by W.B. Yeats

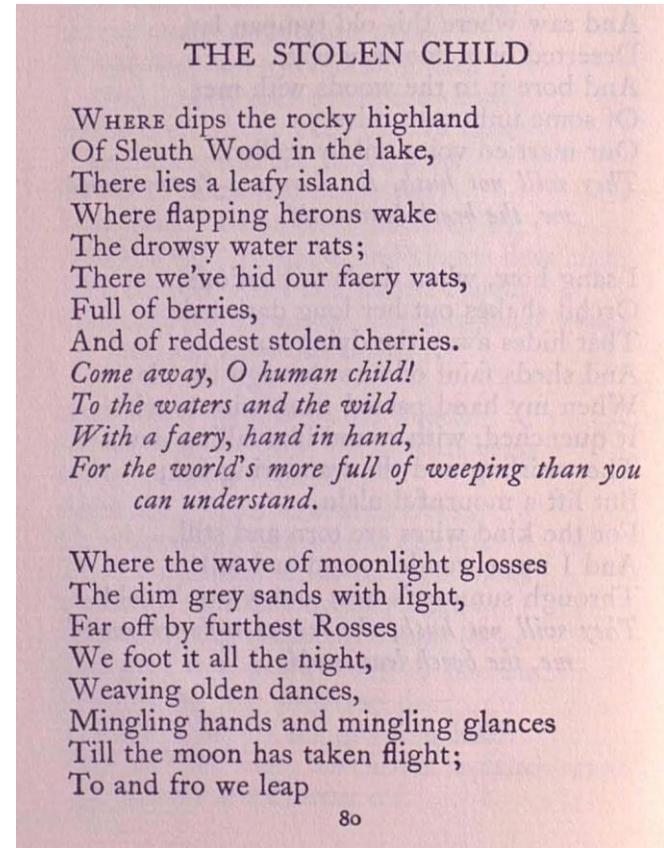
The Fairies, by William Allingham

## Folktales:

The Children of Lir

The Cattle Raid of Cooley

## Newly created illustrations



W.B. Yeats, *The Stolen Child*



Tallinn Plenary Meeting  
December 2015



# 2015 overview

**Illustrations:** 3 artists have illustrated the poetry and folktales

**Audio:** recordings by storyteller

**Video:** recordings of live storytelling session -> **Storyteller in class:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DbV8MXUE1kY>

**Lessons:** 2 lessons created for 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> class students (10-12yrs) relating to the English curriculum



# Illustration examples: The Stolen Child



*Where dips the rocky highland  
Of Sleuth Wood in the lake,  
There lies a leafy island  
Where flapping herons wake  
The drowsy water rats;*



*There we've hid our faery vats,  
Full of berry  
And of reddest stolen cherries.*



*Come away, O human child!  
To the waters and the wild  
With a faery, hand in hand,  
For the world's more full of  
weeping than you can  
understand.*

# Illustration examples: The Fairies



*Up the airy mountain,  
Down the rushy glen,  
We daren't go a-hunting  
For fear of little men;  
Wee folk, good folk,  
Trooping all together;  
Green jacket, red cap,  
And white owl's feather!*



*Down along the rocky shore  
Some make their home,  
They live on crispy pancakes  
Of yellow tide-foam;  
Some in the reeds  
Of the black mountain lake,  
With frogs for their watch-dogs,  
All night awake.*



*High on the hill-top  
The old King sits;  
He is now so old and gray  
He's nigh lost his wits.  
With a bridge of white mist  
Columbkil he crosses,  
On his stately journeys  
From Slieveleague to Rosses;*

# Illustration examples: The Children of Lir



*Aoife grew jealous of the children of Lir because their Lir loved them more than he loved her.*



*She pulled out her wand and waved it over them. Streaks of bright light flashed and the magic spell was cast. The children vanished, and in their place were four beautiful swans.*



*The children of Lir were transformed into swans for 900 years.*

# Application homepage



# Use Scenario

**Target audience:** 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> class (10-12 yrs) primary school children

## Use:

- **Schools** – English class, both to read stories/poems and to create them. The application can be used on a whiteboard with the teacher leading the class through the application or by groups/individuals using tablets. Lesson plans are included with ideas for complementary activities.
- **Libraries** – Follow-up literacy activity for storytelling sessions in public libraries



Tallinn Plenary Meeting  
December 2015





# Use Scenario

The **teacher** uses the application to compile elements of the lesson which she introduces one at a time, each followed by class discussions:

- background to the oral tradition
- a short video of a traditional story/ poem been told
- read a simplified version of the story or listen to the story & follow the text
- pupils write their own story, upload it and illustrate it using images from the application
- stories can be shared through social media

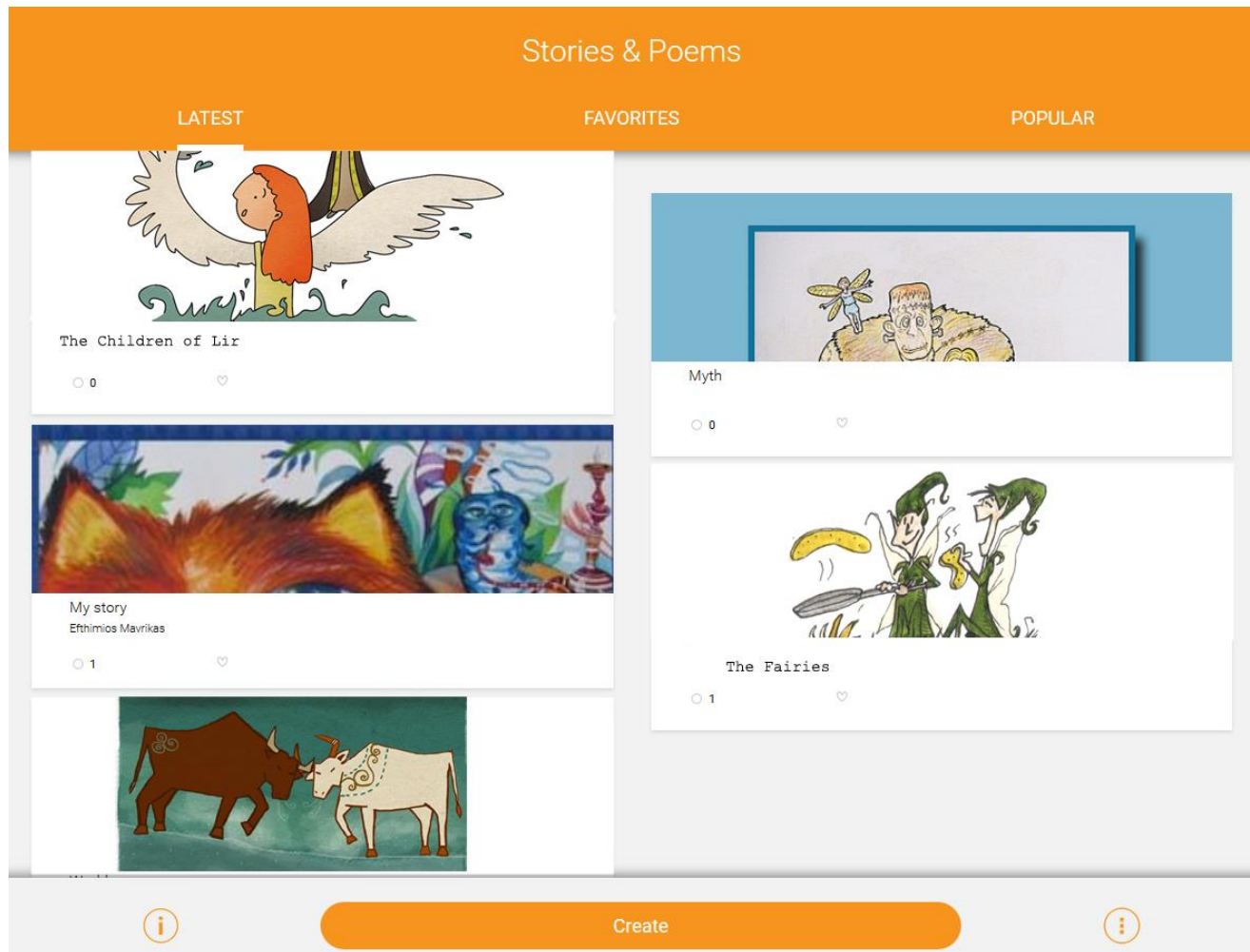
Storytelling is a huge part of the Irish culture and it is hoped that this application will help support learning about the tradition through using well know poems and stories. Storytelling sessions are also popular in the **public libraries** and this application will be an excellent follow-up literacy activity for librarians to introduce to children or for children to enjoy at home.



Tallinn Plenary Meeting  
December 2015



App: <http://folk.demianlabs.com/>



# Questions?

**Ruth Montague**

LGMA - Local Government Management Agency

[rmontague@lgma.ie](mailto:rmontague@lgma.ie)



Tallinn Plenary Meeting  
December 2015

