

The Legend of the Giant's Causeway

A Reading A-Z Level J Leveled Book
Word Count: 390

Connections

Writing

Pretend Oonagh needs one more idea for her plan. Write a letter to Oonagh describing one more idea to help her.

Social Studies

Make a map of Northern Ireland. Label the water that surrounds it, the capital city, and any interesting places. Be sure to mark where the Giant's Causeway is.

Reading A-Z

Visit www.readinga-z.com
for thousands of books and materials.

LEVELED BOOK • J

The Legend of the Giant's Causeway



**Multi
level
J•M•P**

An Irish folktale retold by Katherine Follett
Illustrated by César Samaniego

www.readinga-z.com

The Legend of the **Giant's** Causeway



An Irish folktale retold by Katherine Follett
Illustrated by César Samaniego

www.readinga-z.com

Focus Question

What is the plan that Oonagh came up with, and did the plan work?

Words to Know

bully	iron
giant	Scotland
Ireland	thunderbolt

Photo Credit:

Page 15: © Andy Williams/VisitBritain/Getty Images

The Legend of the Giant's Causeway

Level J Leveled Book

© Learning A-Z

An Irish folktale retold by Katherine Follett

Illustrated by César Samaniego

All rights reserved.

www.readinga-z.com

Correlation

LEVEL J

Fountas & Pinnell	J
Reading Recovery	17
DRA	18



Finn McCool was the strongest **giant** in **Ireland**.

He lived on Knockmany Hill with his wife, Oonagh (OO-nuh).

Finn was helping build a bridge from Ireland to **Scotland**.

They were almost done when the ground began to shake.



Finn knew what it was.

He ran home fast!

“Cucullin (koo-KUL-in) is coming from Scotland!” he shouted to Oonagh.

“His footsteps shook the ground!” he added.

Cucullin was the strongest giant in Scotland.

Once, he had smashed a **thunderbolt**.

He still carried it to show off.

Cucullin also loved to beat up other giants.

“We must deal with that **bully**,” Oonagh said.

Finn put his thumb in his mouth. (Thumbs are where giants get their strength.)



“You must do exactly what I say,” Oonagh said.

She had Finn find three white stones.

She made a ball of soft cheese.

She set it with the stones.

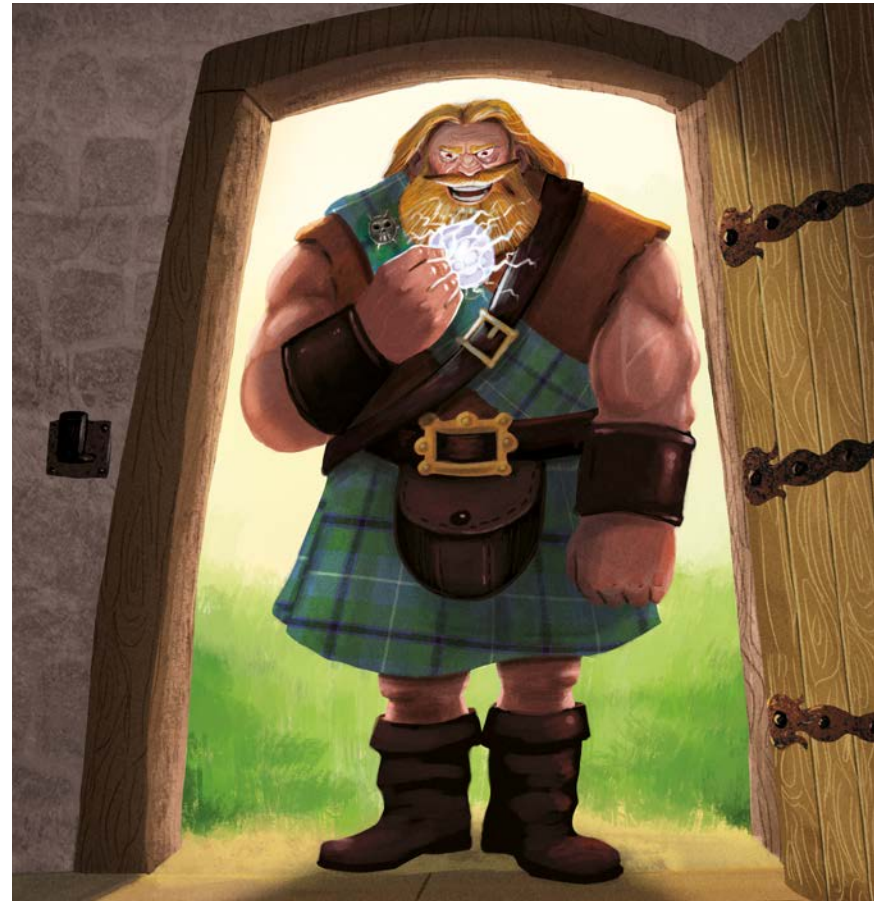
Next, she had Finn borrow a frying pan from every giant around.

She made twenty-one loaves of bread.

Inside seven, she hid an **iron** pan.

Then Oonagh set up a large baby crib.

“Hide under these blankets,” she told Finn, so he did.



The next morning, the door flew open.

“Where’s Finn McCool?” shouted Cucullin.

“I saw him run away—he’s afraid of me!” he laughed.

“Afraid? He’s far too strong
to be afraid of you,”
Oonagh laughed back.
“He’ll be home soon,” she said.
“Have some breakfast
while you wait,” she added.
Cucullin happily bit into a loaf
of bread.
“Ouch! What is this bread?”
he shouted.
“I broke two teeth!” he cried.



“Finn loves it, and so does
our baby son!” Oonagh said.
Oonagh gave a loaf without a pan
in it to Finn.
Finn ate it in two bites.
“Would you like cheese?”
Oonagh asked Cucullin.

She set a white stone
on Cucullin's plate.
She gave Finn the soft cheese,
which looked the same.
Finn squeezed the cheese and
swallowed it whole.



Cucullin bit down.
“Ow!” he cried.
He’d lost four more teeth!
“That baby must have iron teeth!
Let me look,” he said.

Cucullin pushed Finn's mouth open
with one thumb.

Chomp!

"The baby broke my thumb!"

Cucullin screamed.

"I can't fight his father!" he shouted.



Cucullin ran over the bridge back
to Scotland.

He smashed the bridge to pieces
so Finn McCool couldn't follow him.

You can still see the pieces today.





The Giant's Causeway

A *causeway* is a raised road across water. The one in this story really is in Northern Ireland, but it wasn't built by giants. It is made of thousands of tall, mostly six-sided stones packed together like puzzle pieces. They form natural stairways and walking paths that stretch into the sea.

Long ago, the Giant's Causeway was formed by hot lava from a volcano. First, the lava flowed up from inside of Earth. When the lava reached the surface, it cooled quickly. As it cooled, the rock shrank and cracked into many pieces.

Today, the Giant's Causeway is one of the most famous sites in Northern Ireland.

Glossary

bully (*n.*)

a person who hurts, scares, or picks on another for fun (p. 5)

giant (*n.*)

a make-believe being that is very large and often looks like a huge human (p. 3)

Ireland (*n.*)

an island in northwestern Europe (p. 3)

iron (*adj.*)

made of a strong, hard silver-gray metal (p. 6)

Scotland
(*n.*)

a country in the northern part of Great Britain (p. 3)

thunderbolt
(*n.*)

a make-believe bolt of lightning that is thought to crash to the ground during a lightning flash (p. 4)