

Reading

Giant Finn McCool



Last summer Sarah Brown and her friend Julie spent their holidays at the north coast of Northern Ireland. One day they visited the Giant's Causeway.

When they arrived there, they saw an old man sitting on the stones reading a book.

- 5 Sarah: Wow, Julie, look at all these stones!
- Old man: Isn't it beautiful?
- Julie: Yes, it's fantastic!
- Old man: You know, I live near the Giant's Causeway.
- 10 Sarah: Oh, really? Do you know anything about its history?
- Old man: Well, people tell a lot of stories about it. They say that a giant whose name was Finn McCool built the Giant's Causeway a long time ago. There are
- 15 lots of legends about Finn McCool. Look – this is my favourite story.



Finn McCool was an Irish giant. He was nice and friendly. However, he had an argument with Benandonner, another giant who lived in Scotland.

One day Finn was so angry that he decided to fight Benandonner and win.

But the two giants couldn't meet for a battle: The sea was between them. So Finn started to build a bridge across the sea from Northern Ireland to Scotland. He took thousands of rocks from the coast and put them in the sea. That's how the Giant's Causeway was built.

After he had finished the bridge, Finn walked across the stones to Scotland.

There he saw the Scottish giant for the first time. He was surprised and scared.

"Oh, no! Benandonner is much bigger and stronger than I am," Finn thought.

He turned around and ran back home.

"I'm afraid Benandonner will kill me. He'll be here soon," Finn said to his wife Oonagh.

Oonagh was very beautiful and clever. She thought quickly and had an idea.

She got some old clothes and dressed Finn up as a baby.

Suddenly they heard a loud noise from the door.

"Let me in!" It was Benandonner, the Scottish giant. "Finn wants to fight. I'm here now!"

Oonagh was a bit nervous when she opened the door.

"Finn isn't at home," she said. "Would you like to come in and wait for him?"

Benandonner walked in and looked around.

"Why don't you sit down and have something to eat and drink while you're waiting?"

Oonagh asked. "My baby son will be hungry too."

Then she made tea for Benandonner and the baby.

"Do you want to say hello to our baby son?" Oonagh asked.

Benandonner stood up and looked at the baby. When he saw how big the baby was, he got very worried and scared.

"If Finn's baby is that big, how big and strong will his father be?" he thought.

"I'm sorry, but I'm tired now. I must go home," Benandonner said to Oonagh.

He quickly left Finn's house and ran across the Giant's Causeway back to Scotland.

Oonagh and Finn laughed and were very happy.

"I'm sure he'll never come to Ireland again," Finn said.

Julie: What an exciting story!

Old man: Yes, it is. Some people say Finn McCool still lives in a cave. There's another famous story about how he fought an enemy and left a huge hole in the ground. The hole then became the largest lake in the British Isles – Lough Neagh.

Sarah: Oh, that's where I'm going to live. My parents are going to run a bed and breakfast there.

Old man: It was nice to meet you. I'm sorry, but I have to go now. My grandson is waiting for me. His name is Finn too and he's a very strong boy. Goodbye.

○ **1 Read the text and tick (✓) the right answer.**

Lies den Text und hake die richtige Antwort ab.

What is the text about?

- ☐ a) A famous legend from Northern Ireland
- ☐ b) A stone bridge in Northern Ireland

○ **2 Put the pictures of the legend in the right order. Write the numbers 1–6 in the boxes.**

Bringe die Bilder zur Legende in die richtige Reihenfolge. Schreibe die Zahlen 1–6 in die Kästchen.



☐ A very big baby



Building a bridge across the sea



☐ He'll never come again



☐ "Have a cup of tea!"



☐ "Please come in!"



☐ A much bigger and stronger giant

3 Right or wrong? Tick (✓) the correct box for each sentence.

Richtig oder falsch? Hake für jeden Satz das korrekte Kästchen ab.

	right	wrong
1. The old man lives <u>near the Giant's Causeway</u> .	☐	☐
2. Two giants, Finn and Benandonner, had <u>an argument</u> .	☐	☐
3. Finn <u>swam</u> across the sea to Scotland.	☐	☐
4. Finn had already met Benandonner <u>many times</u> .	☐	☐
5. Finn's wife <u>played a trick</u> on Benandonner.	☐	☐
6. The name of the <u>old man's grandson</u> was Finn too.	☐	☐

4 Look at the text again and answer the questions. Write complete sentences.

Schau dir den Text noch einmal an und beantworte die Fragen. Schreibe ganze Sätze. Du kannst eine Frage weglassen.

1. Why did Finn turn around when he saw Benandonner for the first time?
 2. How did Oonagh help Finn?
 3. Why was Benandonner so scared that he quickly left Finn's house?
 4. Legends say that Finn 'made' two sights in Northern Ireland. Which sights did he make?
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5 What are the characters like? Match the adjectives with the right names.

Wie sind die Figuren? Ordne die Adjektive den richtigen Namen zu.

friendly ✓

strong

beautiful

scared

happy

clever

loud

Finn	Oonagh	Benandonner	Finn and Oonagh
→ Look at lines 17–22 and 23–26.	→ Look at lines 27–33.	→ Look at lines 30–33, 23–26 or 38–40.	→ Look at lines 42–45.
friendly			

● Z Choose one of these topics. Write about three sentences.

Wähle eines dieser Themen aus. Schreibe ungefähr drei Sätze dazu.

- a) "Benandonner quickly ran back to Scotland. Oonagh and Finn laughed and were very happy."
What happened next in the story?



- b) What could be the old man's story?
Do you think that he and Finn McCool are connected in a special way?
Write three sentences about him.


