

*Come away, oh, human child
to the waters and the wild
with a fairy, hand in hand
to the world's more full of weeping
than you can understand.*

PLOT

I. a) Look at the pictures and describe what's happening.

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



b) Try to guess characters' names and answer the questions in part C.

Saoirse ['sirʃə]

Ben

Connor

Bronagh ['brɔ:nə]

Cú [ku]

Granny

c) Watch the first part of the movie (00.00 - 23.00) and check if you were right.

Who...

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| - had their birthday? | - wasn't able to speak? | - had got a cold? |
| - disappeared? | - told stories? | - destroyed a birthday cake? |
| - behaved badly? | - didn't want to move? | - wasn't happy with many things? |

II. Ben told Saoirse the Halloween story about the owl witch. Watch the story again (12.00 – 13.20) and retell it.

Pay attention to the names Macha ['makə] and Mac Lir.

- Does Ben tell a real story?
- How does the witch turn people into stones?
- Why does she need her owls?

III. Ben and Saoirse went to Granny's house in the city. What do you think happens next? Look at the pictures and guess.



IV. The fairies are looking for a SELKIE. They brought Saoirse to their cave because they thought the girl was the selkie. Can you guess who it is? The abstract from the song (00:32 – 00:35) can help you.

*Saoirse the selkie
will sing and save the day
the day that she
who rescue her
will cheer and celebrate*

*long long we prayed
to hear the selkie's song
and now we pray
again that her
song will never end...*



V. Read the article about selkies and say which details were mentioned in the cartoon.



Selkies are mythological creatures found in Irish, Scottish and Faroese folklore. Similar creatures are described in the Icelandic traditions. Selkies are said to live as seals in the sea but put off their skin to become human on land.

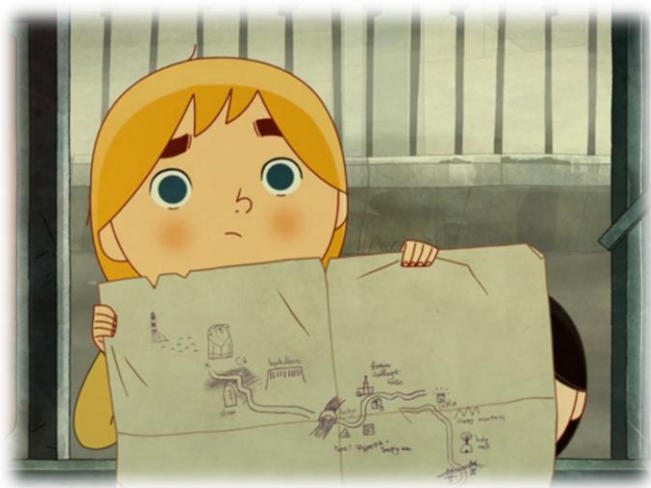
Male selkies are described as being very handsome in their human form. They typically seek those who are dissatisfied with their lives, such as married women waiting for their fishermen husbands. If a woman wishes to make contact with a selkie male, she must drop seven tears into the sea. If a man steals a female selkie's skin she is in his power and is forced to become his wife. Female selkies are said to make excellent wives, but because their true home is the sea, they will often be seen gazing longingly at the ocean. If she finds her skin she will immediately return to her true

home, and sometimes to her selkie husband, in the sea. Sometimes, a selkie maiden is taken as a wife by a human man and she has several children by him. In these stories, it is one of her children who discovers her sealskin (often unwitting of its significance) and she soon returns to the sea. The selkie woman usually avoids seeing her human husband again but is sometimes shown visiting her children and playing with them in the waves.

a) Can you give the definition of the underlined words?

b) What do you think is going to happen in the cartoon if we pay attention to the legend?

VI. Ben was going to use his map. Read the dialogue between the boy and the bus driver and guess how soon the children get home (00:37).

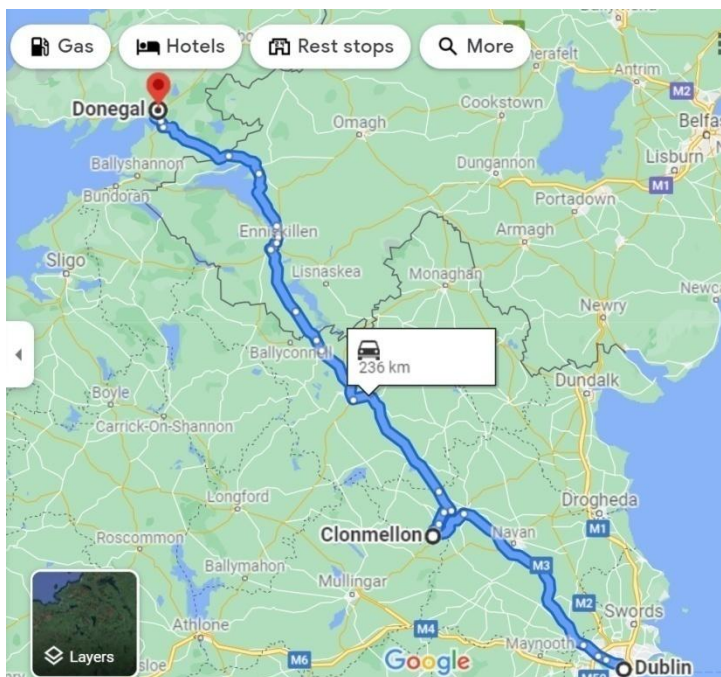


- I just saw real fairies.
- Course you did. Sure haven't been ferrying a lot of witches and goblins around.
- Where are you going?
- Can you take us there?
- Uh... Well, let me see now... I can take you as far as **Clonmellon**. You might have to wait for one or two hours, then get the feeder bus, but that only runs in the mornings. Ah, sure. You know, you'll get there eventually.
- Okay, two tickets, please.

The flag of Donegal in Ben's room



The monument of Molly Malone in Dublin



Why didn't the driver believe Ben about having seen the fairies? How responsible was the driver? Could he help the children at last?



V. Saoirse toots her shell and the magical lights appear. What can they mean for the girl's sake and the plot? Can you guess?

VI. Why are the following things crucial for the plot? How do they influence the events?

The shell, the coat, the jars, the chest, the ferry, the hairs, the lights, the lighthouse, the song, the rocks,
the bus, the city, Halloween, magic, water.

VII. Macha bottled up the feelings and left them in the jars. What kinds of emotions are seen in the picture?



VIII. Put the following events in the right order according to the plot:

- a) Ben escapes from Granny's house.
- b) The children find the dog in the forest.
- c) Granny comes to the lighthouse to celebrate Saoirse's birthday.
- d) The Deenashee kidnap Saoirse.
- e) Bronah comes to see her family.
- f) Macha sends the dogs to help Ben reach the lighthouse.
- g) Ben threatens Saoire by telling her the legend about Macha's owls.
- h) Saoirse denies going to the magical world.
- i) Saoirse finds her coat and goes swimming with the seals.
- j) Connor agrees that his daughter is a magical creature.
- k) Ben learns why mom has gone.
- l) Connor goes to the bar to remember and mourn his wife.
- m) Ben apologizes to Saoirse for being an awful brother.
- n) Macha realizes that she's been wrong.
- o) Ben draws the map.
- p) The ferryman's surprised to see seals in the sea.
- q) Connor insists on going to the hospital instead of looking for the coat.
- r) Granny realizes that children have gone.

CHARACTERS

I. Remember the magical creatures mentioned in the story. What can you say about them?

Macha



MacLir



The Deenashee



The Great Seanachai



II. Who said the following?

- I'm going home to live with Cú. You're going to stay at Granny's.
- I don't think it's the right coat.
- I don't know how you can live in this awful place.
- Don't take me for a fool! I know what's best for you.
- There haven't been seals around here for years.
- You'll be the best big brother in the world.
- Don't worry, selkie, we have your coat. Come with us.
- You should've said if you wanted to get off the bus! This is not the official stop, you know.
- She's going to try and make us move to the city again, isn't she?
- I wouldn't have a clue about human children.
- The doctor said she will (speak) in her own time.
- Don't use the good towels, they are only for guests.
- I'm just after getting you out of the rain, you know.
- Before the selkie sings her song to send us home, we should entertain her with a few of our own tunes.
- Stay away from the water, you'll drown.
- This is an ancient shell that my mother gave me a long time ago.
- She went into the water and nearly got me killed! Just because it's her birthday she thinks she can do whatever she likes.
- The old withch!
- Forgive me, I have no memory, except for what is in these hairs, you see.
- The jars are enchanted, they cannot be broken by brute force.

III. What can you say about the family in the cartoon? Speak about different family members, their attitude to others and how their relationship changed in the end.



IV. Listen to the dialogue (01:13 – 01:14). How do the characters' emotions change from the beginning to the end? Now read it aloud paying attention to the intonation. Do it as if you voiced the video.

Ben: Dad, where is Saoirse's coat?

Connor: Ben? What? What are you doing here?

B: What did you do with Saoirse's coat?

C: Saoirse's what? Where is she?

B: She's up at the light. She needs it.

C: Saoirse. ... Saoirse, no.

B: Dad! She needs her coat, dad.

C: Stop it, Ben.

B: No, Dad. What did you do with Saoirse's coat?

C: Ben, stop this. She needs to get to a hospital.

B: Where is her coat?

C: It's gone, all right? I threw it into the ocean. I should've done it years ago. Now, get in the boat!

V. Retell the story from one of the character's point of view. Think of the valuable details and events.

VOCABULARY



I. Subtitles in the film don't only interpret characters' speech but also add some information about different sounds. These verbs can have their -ing or the Present Simple form.

a) Look through the words in the table and find out their meanings.

b) Match the words with their definitions (taken from Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English)

1. [growling]
2. [humming]
3. [bleating]
4. [whimpering]
5. [mooing]
6. [muffled scream]
7. [gasps]
8. [hooting]
9. [grumbling]
10. [rustling]
11. [stammering]
12. [screeching]
13. [groans]
14. [cooing]
15. [grunting]
16. [sighs]
17. [panting]
18. [wheezing]
19. [exclaiming]
20. [sobbing]
21. [wailing]

- a) to breathe quickly with short noisy breaths, for example because you have been running or because it is very hot
- b) to make the sound that a sheep or goat makes
- c) to make short sounds or say a few words in a rough voice, when you do not want to talk
- d) to make a long deep angry sound (of a dog)
- e) to breathe with difficulty, making a noise in your throat and chest
- f) to make low crying sounds, or to speak in this way
- g) to make a loud high noise with your voice because you are hurt, frightened, excited etc
- h) to sing a tune by making a continuous sound with your lips closed
- i) to make a long low sound (of a cow)
- j) to breathe in suddenly in a way that can be heard, especially because you are surprised or in pain
- k) a sound that an owl makes
- l) to cry noisily while breathing in short sudden bursts
- m) to breathe in and out making a long sound, especially because you are bored, disappointed, tired etc
- n) when doves or pigeons coo, they make a low soft cry / to make soft quiet sounds, or to speak in a soft quiet way
- o) to keep complaining in an unhappy way
- p) if leaves, papers, clothes etc do this, they make a noise as they rub against each other
- q) to shout loudly in an unpleasant high voice because you are angry, afraid, or excited
- r) to speak with a lot of pauses and repeated sounds, either because you have a speech problem, or because you are nervous, excited etc
- s) to say something in a loud, sad, and complaining way
- t) to make a long deep sound because you are in pain, upset, or disappointed, or because something is very enjoyable
- u) to say something suddenly and loudly because you are surprised, angry, or excited

c) which of the sounds:

- express feelings? Which ones?
- are used to show sounds produced by animals?
- can be used for both humans and animals?

d) Imitate some sounds for your groupmates to guess them.

e) Can you remember / think of the situations when these subtitle words can be used?

APPENDIX

Questions to remember, think of and discuss:

- a) What day is Saoirse's Birthday?
- b) How far is it from Connor's lighthouse to the city?
- c) How many owls does Macha have?
- d) Why did Ben wear an orange vest?
- e) Why did MacLir stop crying?
- f) Why cannot Saoirse speak almost the whole film and can speak in the end?
- g) What did the ferryman say to Granny every time he saw her?
- h) Which characters have their own names and which ones don't?
- i) In which situations did Ben use his 3D-glasses (blue and red ones)?
- j) How can we understand that Bronah or Saoirse are feeling bad?
- k) Why does the Great Seanachai say that only a few hairs still grow?
- l) Where did Connor keep Saoirse's coat?
- m) Which English word did Ben use sometimes instead of the Deenashee?
- n) Which language do the characters sometimes use except English?
- o) What did Ben say every time Cú came close to water?
- p) What did the boy use to keep his sister closer while escaping?
- q) What do you see when Macha takes smb's feelings away?
- r) Why do the cars in the film move in a clockwise direction around the roundabout?
- s) Why did Granny make nettle tea and gooseberry buns for the girl?
- t) How old is Saoirse?
- u) Which place did Connor and the ferryman both visit in the nearest town?
- v) Why did Bronah stay with her family after delivering Ben and had to leave the land after giving birth to Saoirse?
- w) Which of the magical creatures are relatives?
- x) Who helped Ben to find the key in the sea?
- y) What did Saoirse do to make the magical lights appear?
- z) What did Granny have to throw out when she'd brought children to the city? Why?

