

JUST LIKE FIONN

‘And that’s how Fionn gained all the knowledge that ever was,’ said Ms Flynn as she concluded the history lesson.

Hugh loved history, especially stories about ancient Ireland and the adventures of Fionn Mac Cumhaill. His favourite one was about Fionn and the Salmon of Knowledge. When Ms Flynn told the story again that morning and showed pictures on the interactive whiteboard, Hugh was thrilled.

‘Wouldn’t it be great to have that gift, like Fionn?’ he thought. ‘If I wanted to see into the future, all I’d have to do is suck my thumb. Wait a minute... my dad was born near the River Boyne! Maybe I’m related to Fionn Mac Cumhaill.’

‘Excuse me, Teacher,’ called Hugh, raising his hand. ‘Was it the thumb on his right hand or left hand that Fionn burned?’

‘History doesn’t tell us,’ answered Ms Flynn, ‘but I’d guess it was the thumb on his right hand.’

Hugh tried it. He put his thumb into his mouth, closed his eyes and waited for a picture to form in his mind. He saw a picture of Ms Caffrey, the learning support teacher, coming to his classroom to help with maths. He opened his eyes. There was a knock on the door and in walked Ms Caffrey.

‘Wow!’ thought Hugh. ‘I have the gift.’ It didn’t matter that Ms Caffrey came into the classroom after history every Tuesday,



it had still worked. He had a vision of her before she actually arrived.

During maths he tried again. He put his thumb into his mouth, and thought hard. This time numbers came into his head. ‘These must be the lotto numbers,’ he thought. He was excited. He quickly wrote down the numbers.

‘I have the numbers for this week’s lotto,’ said Hugh to his mum when he got home. He told her the full story.

History doesn’t tell us whether or not Hugh and his mum won the lotto that week. All we know is that they are still living in the same house and his mum still drives the same old car. ■

QUICK QUESTIONS

- 1 What subject was Ms Flynn teaching?
- 2 What is Hugh’s favourite story?
- 3 Why does he think he might be related to Fionn Mac Cumhaill?
- 4 Who is the learning support teacher in Hugh’s school?
- 5 Do you think Hugh and his mum won the lotto?