



## John and the desk

I have a desk. It's not a normal desk. It's one hundred and twenty years old. We got it at Bantry Market and it's seen a lot of people. In the old days they used these tables as school tables. They are very practical because they can open up and you can put pens and paper into them. In World War One about 60% of these tables were destroyed so it's pretty rare to find one. The table is made out of red deal. This story will give you a idea of life in war and school at that time. There was a boy called John. He lived in Bantry. He was very poor. John had a table that was made of red deal. He loved his table. His teacher Ms. O'Connor was very mean. She hit people with sticks when they didn't listen. After school he went home and ate his dinner and went to bed. Seven years later, John went to France. It was a long journey for him. He was going to France because he was at war. When he was in France he went into a school to find it. When he was inside he saw a table and it looked like the table he had at home. This made John very sad because it reminded him of home. When he died he was 22.

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