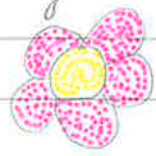


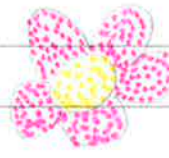
meme

ENGLISH

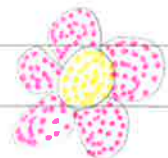
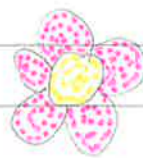
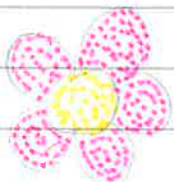
My project is on my great grand-aunt. Her name was Mary Coughlan but everyone called her Meme. When my mom was very small she was not able to say Mary so she said Meme. Meme was born in 1903 in Lissachrig, West Cork. She had five sisters, four brothers and three half brothers. The family owned a farm and Meme worked very hard. At that time there was not a lot of money in their family and there were no tractors, machines or any electricity.



When Meme was thirty three year old a marriage was arranged for her and she married a man named John Duggan. He was twenty years older than her, so he was fifty three. When John became sick Meme did a lot of very hard work. But that was not the hardest thing.

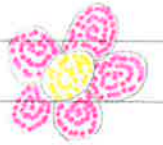
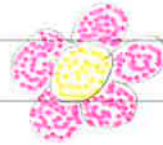
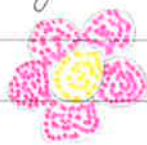


She had ten children but it was a great pity that all ten died. Later John died too and Meme became a widow. But Meme had a very happy disposition and always looked on the positive side. She moved into my grandmother's house. Meme died in 1996 when she was ninety three years of age. I am very proud of Meme



Meme IRISH

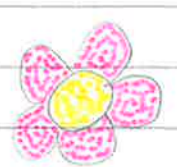
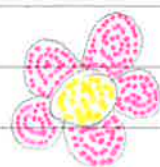
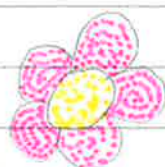
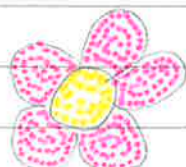
Is é sin scéal faoi sean-aintín mo Mhamaí. Mary ab ainm di ach bhí ainm eile uirthi, Meme. Nuair a bhí mo Mhamaí ara-éag ní raibh sí ábalta Mary a rá, mar gheall ar sin dúirt sí Meme. Rugadh Meme i 1903 i dtionsaí clártaigh in Iarthar Chorcaí. Bhí ceithre dreachair, cúigear drírfúir agus tríúr leath-dhreachair aici. Bhí saol ana cruá aici. Bhí feirm sa chlann agus rinne sí a lán obair air. Sna blianta sin, ní raibh a lán airgead ar son chlann, ní raibh tarracóir nó gluastair ann agus ní raibh leictreachas ann.



Nuair a bhí sí tríocha trí bliana d'aois rinneadh cleamhnas di agus pósadh sí fear a bhí fiche bliana níos sine di. Chuaigh sí in a cónaí i feirm eile. Bhí a fear chéile tinn agus rinne Meme a lán obair deacair ach ní raibh sé ar rud níos deacair.



Bhí deichniúr leanbh aici agus is mór an trua fuair na deichniúr bás. Ina dhiaidh sin fuair a fear chéile bás. Is bhaclann a bhí sí ach i ndiaidh sin, bhí sí geal agus sonasach i gcónaí. Bhí creideimh mór aici. Féigh sí in a cónaí ar teach mo sean-mháthair agus cabhraigh sí léi. Fuair sí bás i 1996. Tá mé an bhróidiúil le mo sean-aintín mór.



Love + Kindness

My great-great grandfather, Michael Coughlan, was married with three children, Dinny, Doray and John. This was about 1880 or thereabouts. When they were still small, his wife died. As was the custom then, and many women died at childbirth, he started dating his deceased wife's sister.

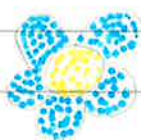
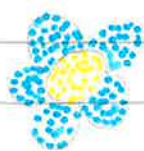
The custom was that she would then look after the young children. My grandfather, whom I called Dede, used to say they were 'walking out', or 'doing a line' or 'courting'. He was courting her for a while and one evening he went out to play cards with his neighbours. Back in those days, there was no electricity so there was no television. People used to gather in each other's houses and tell stories, play music or play cards. My Nana calls it scoraiochtin.



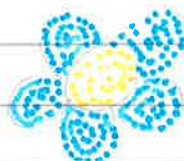
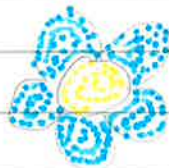
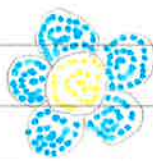
One evening, when he was coming home from playing cards, he was crossing the fields and he thought he heard a noise. He stopped to listen and the noise was not there. He walked along a bit and he heard it again. He thought it sounded like the rustling of a cloak as a woman walked. His wife used to wear a long hooded cloak, as many people did in those days, and he thought it was her. He walked along home and with every footfall, he heard the rustling of the cloak at the other side of the ditch. A neighbour, a woman, was minding the children and when he got home they were in bed and she was sitting by the fire. He sat down at the other side of the fire and when he did, he saw a figure at the window. It was wearing a hooded cloak and the figure turned and pulled back the cloak from her face. It was his deceased wife. He got a fright. He said to his neighbour, "will you go out and bring in more turf for

SHINES

the fire?" She said, "indeed I won't, for I saw what you saw to."



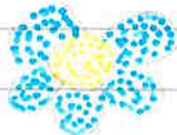
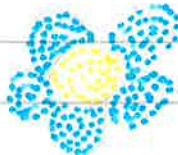
The next day, my great, great grandfather went to see the parish priest to get advice. The parish priest said "your wife's spirit is not happy". He asked about his life. He said he was courting his wife's sister. The priest said "your wife is not happy that her sister will be coming in over her children". So my great, great grandfather stopped dating his wife's sister. Later on he met another girl. Her name was Julia. She was twenty years younger than him but this was not unusual then. They got married and had ten more children! Neilus, Jimmy, Kate, Mary, Michael, Nell, here, Julia, Har, Teresa. She also looked after her three step children, Dinny, Danny and John. One of these children was my great grandmother, Dede's mother. Then Dede had my mom and my mom had me. So this is how I was born and I would not have been born if my great, great grandfather had married his wife's sister.



Dede told my Mom that his grandmother Julia, his second wife, was the kindest woman he had ever met. He said when times were hard in the neighbourhood during the war of independence, and the civil war, she used to knit clothes and send parcels of food to others in the neighbourhood who

THROUGH

were less well off. He said she used to do it at night so no one knew who was doing it. Her three step children, Dinny, Danny and John cried for her when she died, even though they were grown men. They said that she was as good to them as their own mother had been. Dede talked a lot about her to my Mom. He said that if he died before Nana that he wanted to be buried with her. I am very proud of my great, great grandfather, Michael, and my great, great grandmother Julia. I would like to have known them but knowing how kind my Dede was, I'm sure that their kindness and love was passed on to him, my Mom and so to me. My Nana still lives in that house which is over 300 years old.



Ainm: Íde Ní hAodha

Scoil: Gaelscoil Dhroichead na Banndor

Eolas bailithe ó: Frances Shielly

Seoladh: 2 Knockbrogan park, upper.



Eda
Hayes