Reading the Rising
FOR CHILDREN
A Clare County Library Book Promotion
Reading the Rising for Children

Reading historical fiction is an excellent way for young people to find out about the past. This collection of books specifically chosen for children and teenagers will introduce them to and immerse them in one of the most important events to ever happen in our country’s history, the Easter Rising of 1916.

*Reading the Rising for Children* was developed as part of Clare County Library’s commitment to placing children and young people at the centre of the Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme. We are delighted to offer a selection of books covering the events that took place one hundred years ago reflecting the run up to the Easter Rising and what happened during the Rebellion. Historical fiction is the perfect way for young people to identify with children of the same age from times past. It gives them a real understanding of what life was like during times of major historical significance.

Exploring this collection will give today’s children an idea of what it was like to grow up in a mixed Catholic/Protestant background in 1916 while close family are fighting simultaneously at the Front and in Dublin, (Sheena Wilkinson’s *Name Upon Name*). They will share young Jimmy Conway’s dilemma in *Guns of Easter* when he must decide if his loyalties are to the British army where his Dad works or to the Rebels including his uncle who have occupied the GPO. Meanwhile he tries to find food for his family, dodging bullets in an effort to make it home before curfew.

Gerry Hunt’s graphic novel *Blood Upon the Rose* is for anyone who prefers a pictorial account of the attempt by a small group of Irish republicans to win independence from Britain that would become known worldwide as the Easter 1916 Rising.

Including the genres of fiction, non-fiction and graphic novels for young people, the collection aims to highlight the best books on this period of Irish history. Multiple copies of each title will be available for borrowing. This promotion runs concurrently with one for adult readers entitled *Reading the Rising* which is available to borrowers in all branches of Clare County Library.
Name Upon Name  
by Sheena Wilkinson  
Published by Little Island, 2015

Fourteen-year-old Helen comes from a mixed background. Her mother is Catholic and strongly upholds traditional Irish principles; her father is from an urban background with strong, Protestant, Ulster values. It’s 1916 and Britain is at war with Germany. Helen loves and greatly admires her two cousins. Michael runs away from home to join up and her other cousin Sandy is already an officer in the British army. Helen is in close contact with both men who are also waging their own personal wars.

The inclusion of an historical note by publishers Little Island, at the beginning of the book is an excellent way of setting the scene simply and expertly to help children understand this period in history.

‘Belfast-born Wilkinson masterfully combines the big questions of nationalism, pacifism and early feminism in a way so subtle that you would barely notice. Name Upon Name is a great way to introduce political understanding to young readers.’ – The Irish News
It is 1916 and Europe is at war. From the poverty of the Dublin slums twelve-year-old Jimmy Conway sees it all as glorious, and loves the British Army for which his father is fighting.

But when war comes to his own streets Jimmy’s loyalties are divided. The rebels occupy the General Post Office and other parts of the city, and Jimmy’s uncle is among them. Dublin’s streets are destroyed, business comes to a halt.

In an attempt to find food for his family, Jimmy crosses the city, avoiding the shooting, weaving through the army patrols, hoping to make it home before curfew. But his quest is not easy and danger threatens at every corner.

Jimmy must decide between friendship and family or loyalty to the cause.
Friend or Foe: which side are you on?
by Brian Gallagher
Published by The O’Brien Press, 2015

When Emer Davey saves her neighbour Jack Madigan from drowning, it seems that they will be friends forever. But eight months later, they find themselves on opposite sides in a life-or-death struggle, as Dublin is torn apart by the Easter Rising.

Emer’s father is an officer in the Irish Volunteers who believes that armed rebellion is the only way to gain independence from Britain. His daughter has inherited his passion and is determined to help the rebels in any way she can.

Jack’s dad is a sergeant in the Dublin Metropolitan Police. They share a deep respect for the law and are sure that Home Rule can be achieved through peaceful politics and helping with the war effort.

These two young friends find their loyalties challenged as the terrifying reality of war sets in - and the Rising hits closer to home than either could have imagined.
Blood Upon the Rose
by Gerry Hunt
Easter 1916: The Rebellion That Set Ireland Free

(told as a graphic novel)
Published by The O’Brien Press, 2010

Read Gerry Hunt’s account of the attempt by a small group of militant Irish republicans to win independence from Britain that would become known worldwide as the Easter 1916 Rising. The most significant rebellion in Ireland, albeit a military failure, it set Ireland on the road to freedom from Britain.

Blood Upon the Rose covers the story from the early planning to the final executions and includes the tragic romance between Joseph Plunkett and Grace Gifford.

Accessible, informative and insightful, this portrayal of the story of 1916 will appeal to older readers.
No Peace for Amelia
by Siobhan Parkinson
Published by The O’Brien Press, 1994

The conflicts in Europe and Ireland bring heartbreak and divided loyalties into the lives of Amelia Pim and her friend Mary Ann. Amelia’s boyfriend Frederick, goes off to fight in the Great War. His Quaker family is shocked and Amelia wonders if she will ever see him again. Meanwhile, Mary Ann’s brother, Patrick, becomes involved in the Easter Rising and seeks refuge in the Pim household. The girls are confident they can protect Patrick, but what will happen to Frederick, so far away?

_No Peace for Amelia_ is the sequel to _Amelia_, set in 1914 when war and rebellion in Ireland were just rumours that unfortunately would turn out to be true.
The Easter Rising 1916: Molly’s Diary
by Patricia Murphy
Published by Poolbeg Press, 2014

The Easter Rising: Molly’s Diary is the second title in the Hands on History series, in which twelve year-old Mollie takes an active part in the Rising, recording the proclamation of the Republic and the battle of Mount Street.

On Easter Sunday 1916, Molly Darcy receives a diary for her birthday, just in time to record one of the most momentous weeks in Irish history. Armed rebels stage the Easter Rising against the British Empire in Dublin and Mollie’s family is plunged into danger on both sides of the conflict. Her father, a Telegraph Officer dodges the crossfire as he tries to repair the wires in the occupied General Post Office. Her wayward brother runs messages for the rebels, and her mother is trapped in Belfast. Molly, a trained First Aider, risks her own safety to help the wounded from both sides.

As violence rages through Dublin’s streets, Molly records history firsthand; the Proclamation at the GPO, the bombing of Clerys, the arrival of the British Troops, and murder and mayhem on the streets of Dublin.

Will Molly’s own family survive and will she be able to save her brother?
The Easter Rising 1916
by Pat Hegarty
Published by Gill & Macmillan, 2010

This interactive journal tells the story of the 1916 Easter Rising through the eyes of a young Dublin boy. From the early preparations through to the bloody aftermath, find out about the main characters and events in a week that changed the course of Irish history.

This non fiction book for children makes the events of 1916 accessible and understandable with the help of pop-ups and flaps throughout. The book also contains a fold-out facsimile of the Proclamation of the Irish Republic.

POBLACHT NA H' EIREANN.
THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE IRISH REPUBLIC
TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND.

IRISHMEN AND IRISHWOMEN: In the name of God and of the dead generations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom.

Having organised and trained her manhood through her secret revolutionary organisation the Irish Republican Brotherhood, and through her open military
The Young Rebels
by Morgan Llywelyn
Published by The O’Brien Press, 2006

Padraic Pearse is the headmaster in St. Enda’s National School. His pupils are inspired by his vision of freedom and an Irish Republic, and John Joe and his friend Roger see the Easter Rising as their chance to fight for Ireland’s freedom. But the two boys will not accept that they are too young to take part.

They disobey orders to stay away from the city centre and quickly become caught up in the dramatic events of the Rebellion. Called to be brave and resourceful beyond their years, they witness events that change their lives forever.

The blend of fact and fiction common in Morgan Llywelyn’s books for children gives just the right amount of information coupled with plenty of suspense and an array of well rounded characters to keep young readers turning the pages.
Michael Collins – Most Wanted Man
by Vincent McDonnell
Published by Collins Press, 2008

Another great historical read for children, McDonnell’s depiction of Michael Collins shines a light on one of the most famous figures in Irish history. Beginning with the introduction of a farmer’s son from West Cork, the story goes on to explain how he became the most wanted man in the British Empire, a minister in the first Irish government and Commander-in-Chief of the Irish army.

Action-packed and full of information, this new biography for young readers follows Michael Collins as he takes part in the 1916 Easter Rising, plans a guerrilla war against the British and helps to negotiate the treaty that led to the Irish Civil War. The story ends with the ambush at Béal na mBláth in County Cork during which Michael was killed by his former comrades.
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Leabharlann Chontae an Chláir
Clare County Library

Clare County Library Headquarters
Mill Road, Ennis, County Clare
065 684 6350
mailbox@clarelibrary.ie

clarelibrary.ie

THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT
OF THE
IRISH REPUBLIC
TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND.

IRISH MEN AND IRISHWOMEN: In the name of God and of the dead generations from which she is descended, and of the unborn generations to which she now stands as the hope of futuresthe Irish people, as early organised and trained her manhood through her secret revolutionary organisations, the Irish Republican Brotherhood, and through her open military organisation, the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army, having patiently perfected her discipline, having resolutely waited for the right moment, and, supported by her exiled children in America and Europe, but relying in the first on her own strength, she strikes with confidence of victory.

We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland and the right of Irish destinies, to be sovereign and indefeasible, not to be abdicated or surrendered, but to be asserted by the Irish people. In every generation the Irish people have asserted their right to national independence and liberty.