

**UNIT 5 Pass It On**  
**Folk Literature Connections**

A STEM school

**FROEBEL**  
BILINGUAL SCHOOL

Home of the Space Generation



**The silver pool**

**WITH**  
**JIM SOTO**

# SPEAK YOUR MIND

What do Daniel Boone, Paul Bunyan, or Davy Crockett have in common?

Take a minute to react and explain your response in the notebook.

They are all figures from folklore known for their heroic deeds and exploits as frontiersmen. They are also all larger-than-life figures, embodying ideals such as strength, bravery, and self-reliance. They are often portrayed as symbols of the frontier spirit and the nation's pioneering heritage. So was Fionn MacCumhail.

# A COOL IRISH



The main character in “The Silver Pool” is Fionn MacCumhail, a famous Irish hero. According to tradition, Fionn followed in his father’s footsteps to become chief of the king of Ireland’s army, a band of warriors known as the Fianna.

Irish legends have been passed on orally since ancient times. The stories of Fionn MacCumhail, collectively called the **Fionn Saga**, reflect a period, before the eighth century, when Ireland was organized into clans, which paid homage to the high king of Ireland, at Tara. Each clan chief or king kept an official poet, or Druid. In "The Silver Pool," Fionn seeks out the Druid Finnegas to learn the ancient poetry and tales of Ireland.





## LITERARY CONCEPT

### Legends

Is a story that comes down from the past and is often based on real events or characters from ancient times. Unlike myths, legends are popularly regarded as historical; however, they may contain fantastic or difficult-to-prove elements. Consider which characters, descriptions, or events in “The Silver Pool” are generally realistic and which have been embroidered by the imaginations of the narrators over the generations.

# REAL OR NOT REAL?



While there is no concrete historical evidence to prove his existence as a real historical figure, the legends surrounding Fionn have been passed down through generations as oral traditions, and later recorded in texts such as the Fenian Cycle. Additionally, there are many place names, monuments, and landmarks in Ireland associated with Fionn, suggesting that he was an important figure in the cultural and historical landscape of ancient Ireland.

# LITERARY SKILL

## Draw Conclusions

When you draw conclusions, you take clues from the text and combine them with other information, including your prior knowledge, to draw a conclusion.

A conclusion is a theory about what is happening, has happened, or will happen and why. To help you draw conclusions, create a chart like this one.

As you read the story, fill in the statement or action and the conclusion you came to based on it.

Statement or Action	Conclusion
There is only one fish Fionn wishes to catch.	This fish will have an important role in the story.

# ASSESSMENT

After reading pgs. 444 -450, in your book, complete these activities:

1. REFER TO TEXT &
2. REASON WITH TEXT
3. & ANALYZE LITERATURE
  - **Legend** - Which incidents, details, character traits, and descriptions in the legend “The Silver Pool” seem realistic, and which seem fantastic? How do realism and fantasy appeal to the audience? What does the presence of the two approaches in a work suggest about its creators’ view of life?





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