Finn McCool

Finn McCool was the biggest, bravest, kindest giant in Ireland. When Finn sucked his thumb, he could see what would happen in Ireland. He could see the future.

One day Finn bit his thumb and saw that Far Rua, another giant, wanted to fight him. Far Rua was the biggest, strongest, meanest giant in Scotland. Far Rua had a special finger, too. Sucking on his finger made him strong.

Finn went home in haste. His wife, Oona, greeted him affectionately. Then Finn told her about Far Rua. “My thumb says he’s coming,” Finn said. “But if I run away, I will be disgraced.”

“I will help you,” said Oona. “Just do everything I tell you to do.”

First, Oona had Finn give Far Rua a cake. The cake had an iron skillet baked into it, and Far Rua broke two teeth trying to eat it. Then, Oona had Finn give Far Rua some bread. The bread had rocks baked into them. Far Rua broke another tooth eating the bread.

“Who can eat the food you give me?!” roared Far Rua.

“My husband, Finn McCool, can eat anything I bake,” answered Oona. “Watch and see.”

Oona gave Finn a nice cake, soft and sweet. Then she gave Finn a loaf of bread, too. Finn ate it without any problems, much to Far Rua’s surprise.

“What teeth can chew food like that?” Far Rua asked. Far Rua stuck his thumb into Finn’s mouth to check his teeth. Chomp! Finn bit off Far Rua’s finger!

Far Rua’s strength was gone. He ran away and never bothered Finn McCool again.

1. Why did Finn go home “in haste”? (paragraph 3) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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2. How did Finn’s wife help him? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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3. How were Finn and Far Rua the same? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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4. How were Finn and Far Rua different? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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