In June 2011 my husband and I took a wonderful trip to Ireland.

FAILTE!
That means WELCOME in Ireland.

My name is Kate.
I live in Ireland with Gran. I helped make this ABC book.

This is my lobster puppet Claw. He is visiting from America. I can make Claw talk when I squeeze his toe.

HELLO. HOW ARE YOU?
MY NAME IS CLAW.
I AM A PUPPET.

Put me down.
PUT ME DOWN.

How where did Claw go?
Oh well.
Time to start.
Many people have ancestors that lived in Ireland. My great great grandfather came from the Irish Sea.

This is an **ALPHABET** book about Ireland. People in Ireland didn't always use this alphabet. Long ago they used Ogham.

Ogham letters are easy to make because they are made with straight lines. They could be hacked in tree trunks or carved in stone. Some people used Ogham with Gaelic/Irish or Latin.

Ogham is a kind of writing. I use Ogham to write in English. Start at the bottom to write vertically or start at the top to write horizontally.

A **BOG** is land made of decaying plants. It can feel bouncy when you walk on it. The soil in a bog is called PEAT. People dig up chunks of peat (TURF), dry them and burn them to get heat.

Burning peat has blue smoke and no sparks.

"Bally" means "Place of." There are bunches of places in Ireland that start with Bally.

If you weren't in BALLYMENA with your BALLYMONEY you'd have a BALLYHOME like a RALLYCASTLE!

Bogey, bogey, bogey, bogey, bogey, bogey...
A fern starting to grow is called a **crozier**.
A bishop's staff is also called a crozier.

**Dublin**

is the biggest city in Ireland.
It's known for:
- being started by Vikings
- the first performance of Handel's Messiah
- the Guinness Brewery
- the River Liffey
- Molly Malone
- other stuff

**Dolmen**

is a type of old grave.
Bones were put under a little (sometimes big) rock structure.

**Celtic Cross**

When Saint Patrick told the Irish about Jesus, he combined the two symbols into a Celtic Cross.

Celtic Crosses often had carvings to tell Bible stories because people couldn't read.

Irish people who worshipped the sun long ago were a Celtic Cross.

Jesus Christ was crucified and died on a cross.

**Castle**

Ireland has lots of castles and cliffs. Sometimes, the castles are on cliffs. One day in Dunluce Castle, the kitchen fell off and landed in the sea. That happened in 1643.

How long ago was that?
Esker: a long, winding ridge of sand and gravel, especially one separating flat or depressed surfaces. Eskers are formed by streams inside glaciers. "Esker" comes from the old Irish word "elfchir."

The EISCH RUADA is almost the width of Ireland.

Galway Dublin

EIRE

and

EMERALD ISLE

are both names for Ireland.

Electricity is not the same around the world.
If you travel with appliances that use electricity, you'll need to have special adapters for your plugs.

My hairdryer blew up when I used it in Ireland. I don't know why I brought it. I don't have any hair.

People sometimes tie rags to Hawthorne trees to honor the fairies. These rag trees are often near holy wells and are supposed to keep the fairies happy because the FAIRY FOLK can be TROUBLE when they're not happy.

A FAIRY gave me a ride across the entrance to Strangford Lough. It was really FUN! I could see the Carlingford Mountains ahead of me. The ride wasn't FREE though. Claw. That was a FERRY.

Oh, Oops.
THOUSANDS of years ago, people made flat gold necklaces called lunulae and twisted gold necklaces called torcs. Many of them were buried.

HUNDREDS and HUNDREDS of years ago, people made gold bells and gold book covers and gold broaches and gold goblets and gold plates and gold chalices and other gold things. When enemies were coming, people buried their GOLD.

Hey Gracie O'Malley! You don't have much hair!

I cut my hair off to look like a boy. What's your excuse? ... and call me Granville.

A HOARD is a lot of buried gold. After the battles with their enemies, the gold was sometimes forgotten because dead people can't dig up gold.

HENGES: a prehistoric circle would be the stones or mound.

Actually, I'm from the government and I say you may NOT dig. Well let the archaeologists do that.
ISLANDS
The Aran Islands are made of karst limestone.

INISHMORE  INISHMAAN  TINHCHEER

When I am happy, I am smiling.

ILLUMINATION is making manuscripts beautiful by using gold or silver or brightly colored paints to add details.

KIL MEAMS CHURCH
Kiss the Blarney Stone and get the gift of gab!
C.S. LEWIS'S LION,

Aslan, may have been inspired by the doorknob on his grandfather's study in St. Mark's church in Belfast. Lewis loved visiting his grandfather, who was in charge of building the church. The lion doorknob was at a five year old's eye level.

A sculpture in memory of C.S. "Jack" Lewis can be found in Stranstown.

"Some of the greatest things are found in most ordinary places, like a wardrobe."

MONKS AT A MONASTERY

A monastery is a community of monks.
1. Monk ringing bell to call for prayer
2. Monk praying
3. Monk milking a cow
4. Monk illuminating a manuscript

A monk is a man set apart to serve God.
1. Monk's tonsure - head shaved on top
2. Monk's cowl - full length religious garment
3. Monk's belt
4. Monk's sandals

Give me a fether and I'll illuminate a manuscript!
NEWGRANGE

Newgrange is one of many stone age tombs in Ireland. Historians think that Newgrange was built around 5000 years ago. That makes it older than Stonehenge or the Great Pyramid of Giza.

If you stand at the end of the passageway you can see corbelled stones stacked up on each other like this.

You can learn more about Newgrange at the NATIONAL MUSEUM in Dublin. You can also learn about Viking boats and chalices and crosiers and swords and bows and lots of other things. The people that work there are smart and interesting.

... and some of them are bald like me.

PREHISTORIC PEOPLE
AND CELTS
AND ANGLO-SAXONS
AND ROMANS
AND VIKINGS
AND BRITISH
AND LOTS OF OTHERS
CAME TO SETTLE IN IRELAND
BY TRAVELING OVER THE OCEAN.

Atlantic Ocean

Irish missionaries
and explorers (like Saint Brendan the Navigator)
and Scots Irish
and hungry people (the potato famine's Great Hunger was 1845-1852)
and lots of others left Ireland
by traveling over the ocean.

Their descendants often come back to visit.

Gran! I'm back!
A story of Saint

PATRICK

Patrick was kidnapped and taken to Ireland at age 15.
He was a slave who watched sheep.

He talked to God a lot.

God told Patrick to escape on a ship.
He was with his family when a dream called him back to Ireland.

He studied the Bible and returned to Ireland.

Patrick climbed a mountain called Crough Patrick to pray.

He may have used a shamrock to tell about God.

Patrick wanted to chase the snakes devils out of Ireland.

Because of Patrick, many people became Christian and studied the Bible. New Ireland is called "The Land of Saints and Scholars."

The many Celtic crosses remind people of Patrick.

People all over the world celebrate Saint Patrick's Day on March 17, the day Patrick died.

Now listen! (Quiet)

Some places in Ireland are very quiet. It's said that Inishmore is "Ciúnas gan saithness," quietness without loneliness.

1. Fuel made from decayed plants
A. potato

2. A measure of liquid, one half quart
B. peat

3. A root vegetable that was an important food
C. pint
The **River Shannon**

Is the longest river in Ireland. It starts in County Cavan and flows to the city of Limerick. It divides Ireland into east and west.

The River Shannon doesn't drop much. It can be quite shallow. Vikings sailed up the River Shannon to raid Clonmacnoise.

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**Runes** are also made of straight lines like Ogham. Which is easier to write and remember?

If I write on Gran's wall, I might RUNE it!

Rhododendrons are evergreen shrubs. If their leaves roll up, it's freezing outside. If their leaves are flat, it's NOT freezing.

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**Ireland is called The Land of Saints and Scholars**

Which is NOT a Saint?

A. Patrick
B. Brigid
C. Columcille
D. Bob

There are a lot of SHEEP in Ireland, sometimes even on the roads. If you shave the wool from a Sheep, you can knit a jumper if you know how to knit!

Jumper? I call that a SWEATER. When I sneak up behind a sleeping sheep and SHOUT... that's a jumper!

No snakes.
ULSTER is a former province of Ireland made up of nine counties. Now it often means the country of Northern Ireland.

THATCH is a roof made from straw, reeds, or similar material.

One God in three persons:
1. Father
2. Son
3. Holy Spirit

That man became King of Ulster.

TRINITY College in Dublin whose library contains The Book of Kells.

The TROUBLES were problems in Northern Ireland beginning in the 1960s between Protestants and Catholics.

Thankfully they get along better now.

A windy day is not a day for thatching.

Long ago in Ulster there was a boat race. The agreement was whoever touched the land first would be the king of Ulster. The race was very close. One man drew his sword, cut off his own hand and threw it to the shore.

TALL TOWERS to:
1. Watch for Vikings.
2. Hide in when Vikings came.

They built the doors HIGH and climbed in with a ladder, then pulled the ladder up.

People built an iceberg.

IT was built in Belfast and was supposed to be unsinkable. WRONG.

VAIKINGS were Scandinavian seafaring pirates and traders who raided and settled Ireland and other places in the 8th-11th centuries. Many Irish people have great great great great great great great great (like a deep breath) great great great great great great great great great great grandparents who were Vikings.

Valhalla is Viking heaven. Valkyries welcomed Vikings to Valhalla.
WEATHER

Almost every conversation starts with weather.

- Windstar: In Wales have fun in the waves.
- Whiskey: American - distilled 1x
- Scotch - distilled 2x
- Irish - distilled 3x

Hey! The cloud looks like a SHEEP.

If you can see the mountains, it's about to rain.
If you can't see the mountains, it's already raining.

- Wet, isn't it?

Yeats

William Butler Yeats

ZILLIONS

of things are left to say about Ireland. Write some here:

1. __________________
2. __________________
3. __________________
4. __________________
5. __________________
6. __________________

Zero pages left. Goodbye!
This is the BACK, silly person. Start at the front.