

Co. Clare
Reading & Writing Scheme

Issue

6



**June
1994**



***A collection of
writings by students
of the
Co. Clare
Reading & Writing
Scheme***

***Clare
VEC***





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Reading & Writing
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Issue 6

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VEC***



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**DO YOU,
OR DOES SOMEONE YOU KNOW,
NEED HELP WITH
READING AND WRITING?**

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**TUITION CAN BE ARRANGED
ANY TIME AND ANY PLACE
IN CLARE.**
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- FOREWORD -

Congratulations to everyone involved in this year's publication of *Simply Said*. Once again we have received contributions from all over Clare, reflecting imagination, experience, and much hard work.

Simply Said VI was produced with the help of a dedicated and enthusiastic team of students, tutors and supporters. Thank you to all those who helped in the production and also in other ways throughout the year.

We hope you enjoy your reading!

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A Change in Direction

Michael

Last February I was walking up the street with my sister. I was looking at a shop window and I saw a notice "Vacancy for FÁS Scheme". I went to the enquiries in the Molua Centre to find out about the job. They contacted FÁS to find out was I eligible for the scheme. A couple of days later they contacted me, telling me to start. The work is some painting, looking after lawns and flower beds. The hours would be about 20 hours a week. The money is a bit better than what I was getting when I was unemployed. It feels better to be out working and it gives you something to get up for.

Before when I'd see a notice advertised for a job like this I wouldn't have taken heed of what it meant until I went to the Reading and Writing Scheme in Killaloe. But now when I see a notice for the job advertised, most of the time I can make out what it means and can apply for the job and I feel more confident going for an interview. It doesn't bother me like it did before. Interviews seem to be a lot easier now that I can understand what they mean.

Springtime in the Garden

Frank

I like to sow seeds and watch them grow. I dig the soil to make the ridges. Next I sow the seeds.

This year I am growing French Beans, Peas, Lettuce, Turnips, Tomatoes, Dill, Sweet Marjoram, Thyme, Sage, Basil and Onions.

I weed the garden every week or two to keep the weeds from choking the vegetables.

In late Summer, it is nice to enjoy the fresh vegetables from the garden.

Country Living

Bridget

When we think of country living we think of white-washed cottages and green fields. However, since the Rural Electrification of Ireland, and in recent years the automatic telephone, country living is not quite the same.

Most people in the country would have a nice vegetable garden. It is lovely to go out to the garden and get the new potatoes and fresh vegetables. It is also nice to watch how the garden grows from week to week.

There is something really nice about going out on the farm in the morning, and finding a new baby calf sucking its mother, or maybe a sheep has had twins and they are running about the place. There is a lovely feeling of nature about it.

In the country we would be more aware of the seasons. In the Spring, we would see the farmers putting out the manure and we would notice the men going to the bog to cut the turf. Then in Summer, we would get the lovely smell of fresh hay, and we would be aware of the long days. In the Fall we would see the crops being taken in and the turf being brought home in the tractors. The Winter is the season that I don't like in the country, because the fields are bare and the countryside looks very bleak.

New Life

Marion

Day is breaking
The dawn chorus begins.
A milk float rattles
Down the street
Full of creamy
Topped bottles
With shiny caps.

Men whistle
As they start
Their clean up
Of city streets.

Baby cries.
My first child
Is born.

My Visit to Dublin

Kay

It was a cold, wet, windy morning as we left Ennis for Dublin, but no one cared because we were on our way to meet the President.

President Robinson was very nice. She shook hands with everyone, then we had tea and biscuits, took photographs and left.

The bus brought us to the Square to do some shopping. We then went home, tired but happy.

My Dream

Tina

Every Sunday, I go for a walk in Cullane Woods. The scenery there is breathtaking. I would love to live there. I have this dream of owning my own cabin in the woods, my own plot of land to sow vegetables and potatoes, to watch the wildlife all round me, and to breathe in clean fresh air.

I would also like to have my own spring water and no electricity as I feel this would not fit into my dreams, but I would love an oil lamp or candles. I think an open hearth fireplace would be lovely. I would only burn turf and wood. Cooking over this open fireplace would be lovely. The table would be set so people would know that they were welcome and that they would find laughter and peace in my cabin, and a carving of wood, with words on it saying, "God bless all here".

That would be my dream.

Shopping

Phil

I like shopping. I go shopping every Friday and buy clothes and shoes. I love looking at shop windows.

Shopping can be very dear as well. I love style. I like shopping. It is one of my hobbies.

World Cup

Penna

The Republic of Ireland - World Cup Champions.

I would love to see Jack's Army become the World Cup Champions. It would be a special honour and a great success. Then we would say, "Thank you, Jack, for bringing the World Cup Champions for the first time to the Republic of Ireland."

Good luck to Ireland in the World Cup!

Taking an Important Step

Ann

Is reading and writing a problem for you? Going through school without anyone noticing that you could not spell is impossible you may think, but not so. It is a fact for many adults in Ireland.

Adults who can't spell think they are fooling others by covering up their problem, but you only fool yourself. Many people feel unintelligent, but intelligence has nothing to do with not being able to spell. It happens for many different reasons.

Don't feel embarrassed by your problem, for it is a problem not being able to read with your child, write a letter to a friend or loved one, or even pick up a book and read it. Reading brings so much pleasure.

So take it from someone who knows, don't live with the problem, do something about it. No one will make you do it, but you will feel a better person for taking this important step.

Holidays

Celia

I go to Lahinch for the summer.

I go to the beach.

I stay in a hotel.

City Life

Noel

For the last ten years I have been spending at least two weeks a year in Dublin's Fair City. While I would not like to live there permanently, I do look forward to my annual fortnight there.

The older I get the more I appreciate the people of Dublin. I find that they are basically a very friendly, good-humoured people who like to see others laugh and enjoy themselves, especially visitors to their city.

I do not like the hustle and the bustle of the city centre. I am just not able for it. So while I am there I try to avoid going there except for the odd shopping trip.

I like to visit places of note, like Trinity College, the Dáil, and all the historical places around the city. I usually take in a show or a play, and I try to go and see a soccer match or a Gaelic match.

There is always something to do and I find that the two weeks go by before I know it.

Going to the Pictures

Paddy

I went on Sunday night to the pictures.
I saw Beethoven. It was good.

They were going to take the dog away.
The dog hit the man a slap of a stick.

The cinema was packed.

My Favourite Place

Sheila

Definitely without a doubt my favourite place has got to be my garden. I never let a day go by that I don't do some little task.

In the Autumn, moving plants from one place to another is very important as the plant itself is dormant and getting them established in their new home is important before the soil gets too cold.

Then using some foresight, I can picture the end product next Spring when they reward me with their lovely blooms.

My Place of Work

Jamie

I work in the Dulick Centre on the Gort Rd. I travel there by bus every morning. We start work at 9 a.m.

First we get out the power tools, the electric drill, the sander, and the saws. Then we start work.

We make a lot of different things out of wood, for example, dolls' cots, corner shelves, flower boxes, and flower pot stands.

I like the work very much as I meet my friends there. My best friend is John. We work well together.

Life on a Farm

Eugene

I live on a farm and I have a full time job. At home on the farm we don't milk cows we have a suckler herd which is when a cow has a calf we let the calf off with the cow and the cow will rear it. This time of the year it is very busy for us with cows calving. We have thirty cows and it is a full time job between feeding them in the Winter, dosing them and looking after them during calving time.

Then in the Summer we cut hay or silage depending on the weather. Every evening when I come home from work there is always something around the farm. The Winter we had was very bad. It was a hard winter on cattle and a lot of farmers ran out of feeding for their herds. We were very lucky. We had enough feeding for our cattle and we are still feeding them hay because there is still no grass and no growth in grass.

Most big dairy farmers would have their first cut of silage in, but things are gone very late this year because the weather is so bad and farmers can't travel their land. So it will make hay and silage very expensive next year. Farmers will not be able to afford another bad Winter between trying to buy in feeding and cattle dying on them. That is life on a farm in a nutshell.

Oh For a Dry Day

Kris

I wish we had a dry day
Then I wouldn't have a care.
No matter where it comes from
It always lands right here.

Now I'm getting quite dizzy
Trying to mow my lawn,
Running in and out you see
So it won't mess my hair.

My flowers are not too happy
But my weeds are doing fine.
My wellie boots are in cahoots
For I think they're doing a line.

Oh for a dry day
But the rain is all around.
Yes, you've guessed I live in the West
And there's not a dry day to be found.

What I Like

Bernie

I like music. My favourite singers are Daniel O'Donnell, Michael O'Brien, Big Tom, Gloria, Margo, Brendan Shine.

My favourite songs are "The Roads of Kildare", "My Lovely Rose of Clare", "The Black Sheep".

I like Summer, too.

Mary

Max

Mary is worth her weight in gold.

She educated the children.

I would like to say that she is a great friend.

She is important to me.

The 250 Mile Cycle Through Clare

Christy

The 250 mile cycle is an annual event to help send special children and cancer patients on a pilgrimage to Lourdes.

This year was the 15th year of the cycle. It took place on the 23th and 24th of April 1994.

Last October I bought a new bike and decided to take part. The cycle took off from Ennis at 9:00 a.m. on the 23th of April and travelled through East Clare stopping along the way for lunch and soft drinks.

Next day, the 24th, we started off at 7:30 a.m. to be at 8:30 Mass in Kilmihil. Then we left Kilmihil and traveled through west and north Clare.

It was a well organised event with one leader, 83 cyclists, cooks, repair crew, and video crew. I met alot of new friends. I hope to do it next year.

Free Time

Mary

I live in the 1990's. I am in my thirties.

I went to school and did not learn to read.

I went to work at 14. I worked from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. each day. I worked for 19 years.

I am out of work now but I do work at home.

I have no free time to do the things I like to do.

Aine's Story

Aine

My name is Aine. I am 24 years old and I am living in Ennis for the last two years. I love living here.

I am training as a secretary at the Dulick Centre. I am doing computers, word processing, databases, spreadsheets, and my instructor is very helpful to me in showing me how to do things.

In the evening I come to Springfield House. I have one-to-one tutoring. I started in September last year. The tutor I have is a great support to me and I see a great improvement in my reading and writing and have more confidence in myself.

I also had spelling classes. The group I was with were very understanding of each other's spelling difficulties and the tutor was a great help in showing us different spelling rules.

My goals for the future are having a better job, learning a different language and travelling as well.

Working With Old People

Ann

I like working with old people because it gets me out of the house. Old people look forward to you coming to get the shopping and talk to them as they get very lonely and don't see anyone from one week to the other.

They talk about old times and they say they were the good ones. I enjoy my day working with old people.

The Tragic Loss

Chris

I have a brother called Peter. One night two years ago Peter rang me at work and asked me to mind his child the following day. I said no problem.

The next morning he left the child up to our house for us to mind. We put the child to bed and he slept until 10 am. We took him up, changed him, played with him and when he returned to bed we kept an eye on him.

By noon we discovered to our horror that the child was dead. He had died of a cot death. It was very frightening for myself and my wife. I will never forget that day for the rest of my life. I felt I was responsible until the post mortem was read and the cause of death known.

My life has not been the same since it happened. Every time I see my brother I want to ask him how he feels and does he still blame us? I know that there is a terrible emptiness in his heart. However I hope the hole in his heart has been filled with the birth of his new baby boy last week.

Evening

John

If the day was fine, I'd walk in the country in the evening.

If it was raining, I'd stop inside.

I look at television by night.

Memories of Days Gone By in Doolin

Joe

Long ago we used to go out hunting the wren. We used to have a house dance. All the neighbouring girls would bring sweet loaves to the dance and there would be a few half bottles of stout and whiskey.

All the local players would be invited to play for the sets. It would go on until 7 or 8 o'clock in the morning, dancing sets all night and the lads would be asking to know would they see the girls home. There would be an odd fella or girl that might be able to sing or step dance. A girl would not go to the dance on her own and her parents came with her to see that she didn't go walking home with some fella.

The Russell brothers would be playing for the dance, as well as Willie Shannon and Paddy and John Kiloughery. And that was how it was long ago during the wren in the country around Doolin.

Football

M. O'C.

My favourite sport is football, both soccer and Gaelic.

I like to read the sports pages and to watch it on T.V., but most of all I like to play.

I play wing back on a team in Sixmilebridge and we have a game most Sundays during the season.

We train one night a week and we played well this season. I look forward to the night of the match because when it's over we can relax and enjoy ourselves.

Our final match is this week and I hope we finish with a win.

My Thoughts

Brendan

I live in Ashfield.
My friend is Mary.
We go for a drink.
I like the Auburn.

My Worst Experience

David

I was just coming down from a friend's house at half past eight one Friday night. It was freezing hard and I was wearing my leather gear. I was driving my 1982 Honda 90. I was driving too fast for the icy road.

At the cross roads near Drumcliffe the bike came from right underneath me. I fell on the road, but my hand got stuck on the throttle and I couldn't release it on time. The bike went down and pulled me around in circles. Finally I released my hand and the bike stopped.

My helmet was about three yards away from me. My leg was sore but I kept my cool. So I got back on my bike and I tried to drive it again but it failed me and then I walked the bike home.

Lahinch

Mary

I like to go on holidays.

I like to go to Lahinch.

We go for walks on the beach.

I like the ocean.

We have dinner in the hotel.

Fineline

Hope

People can have a breakdown, it can happen any time. It happened to me, I was asleep in bed and I woke up in a panic attack. I thought my heart had stopped, it happened a lot.

I knew there was something wrong when I went into the hospital. I was only fourteen. I did not know what was happening to me. I thought I was being punished for something I did, so I started to punish myself, by cutting my arms.

The doctor saw this and put me down for shock treatment. That means that the nurses hold you down while the doctor puts you to sleep. One day I was only half asleep. I felt wires attached to my head, then they tried to put rubber in my mouth, but I spat it out. I don't remember much until I woke. I had bitten my lip.

This helped me a lot, I never looked back. When I went home I was feeling good, but people that I knew for years did not know me any more. This happened for a long time.

Lucky Star

Irene

Now when your lucky star is here
You can wish for just a year
So make the best of your year,
So that good things may come.
But when your year is over,
And your wishes are all gone,
Enjoy life like you did before,
For nothing really changed.

You can get what you want
If you really want it,
And you can get what you need
If you really need it.
So just have some confidence in yourself
And everything will turn out right.

The Garden

Marie

I cut the grass and it is growing again.

I was down on my knees cutting it.

I am going to plant some flowers.

I am going to plant some daffodils.

How My Life Has Improved

Phil

My life has improved since I learned how to read. No longer do I have dread going shopping. I can now buy what I want and not buy things hoping I remember the colour of the label.

No longer do I have to ask people what time my bus is leaving. These may be little things to most people but to me it means alot.

Thanks to my hard work and effort I no longer feel left out. I can read.

My Day in Dublin

Pip

An early start was required, as the journey was long. It was raining but it was not going to spoil my day. I was going to see the First Lady of Ireland, Mary Robinson, with my fellow students and tutors.

On our arrival in Dublin, we were met by a very pleasant girl. She was a Captain in the Army. She gave us a very warm welcome, then she took us through a beautiful hallway and into a lounge where we were offered tea and titbits. They were most welcoming and refreshing.

The Captain asked us to form a circle as it would be easier for the President to talk to all of us in turn. When she arrived I thought how lovely she looked. She shook hands and spoke to us all in turn. She told us to make ourselves at home and relax. One could not but feel relaxed in her company.

“A Page Falls Open” was presented to her. She thanked us very much, and wished all of us well in our ventures. Then she bade us good-bye.

We were then given a tour of the lower part of the house, which was lovely. We then set off on our return journey home, very happy with our impressive day.

I've Never Looked Back

Pauline

I joined the Reading and Writing Scheme more than a year ago and never looked back since. I can now write notes to the school and write letters to my friends.

Two very important things happened during the year. The first was my trip to Dromineer Bay Hotel for the weekend with Dorothy. I met other people with the same difficulties as myself. I learned alot from talking to them and discussing our problems. I found it very useful and very rewarding.

The second major event was our trip to Dublin to see President Robinson. It is a day I will always remember.

Going to England on Holidays

Theresa

I like going to England. I like going on the aeroplane. It is a short journey by plane. I enjoy the meal on the plane.

We go to the sea everyday. We go to the markets everyday. We go out for a meal everynight and the hotels are huge.

Christmas

M. O'H.

Christmas is a very special time for people and especially for children. Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus. Children look forward to Christmas morning hoping that 'Santa ' or Father Christmas has come and left them what they wished for.

Christmas is a giving and receiving time. Every family has different traditions for Christmas. Christmas can be joyous and sad. It's joyful when you see people happy and contented with what they got. It's also nice for a person who does not expect to get any present or get visited by someone to be cheered up by a surprise visitor. To see that person smile because she/he knows that they are loved and not forgotten is joyful to see.

Christmas is sad for older people because it can bring back many memories especially if their parents are dead because it is then very lonely. Christmas to me is a lovely time with all the lights lighting up the houses. Christmas makes people much more human and loving to each other.



A Sneak Preview

*The bike went down and pulled
me around in circles...*

*I have this dream of owning
my own cabin in the woods...*

I felt wires attached to my head...

*It would go on until 7 or 8
in the morning...*

*I
cut
the grass
and it's growing again...*

To Find Out More - Take A Look Inside