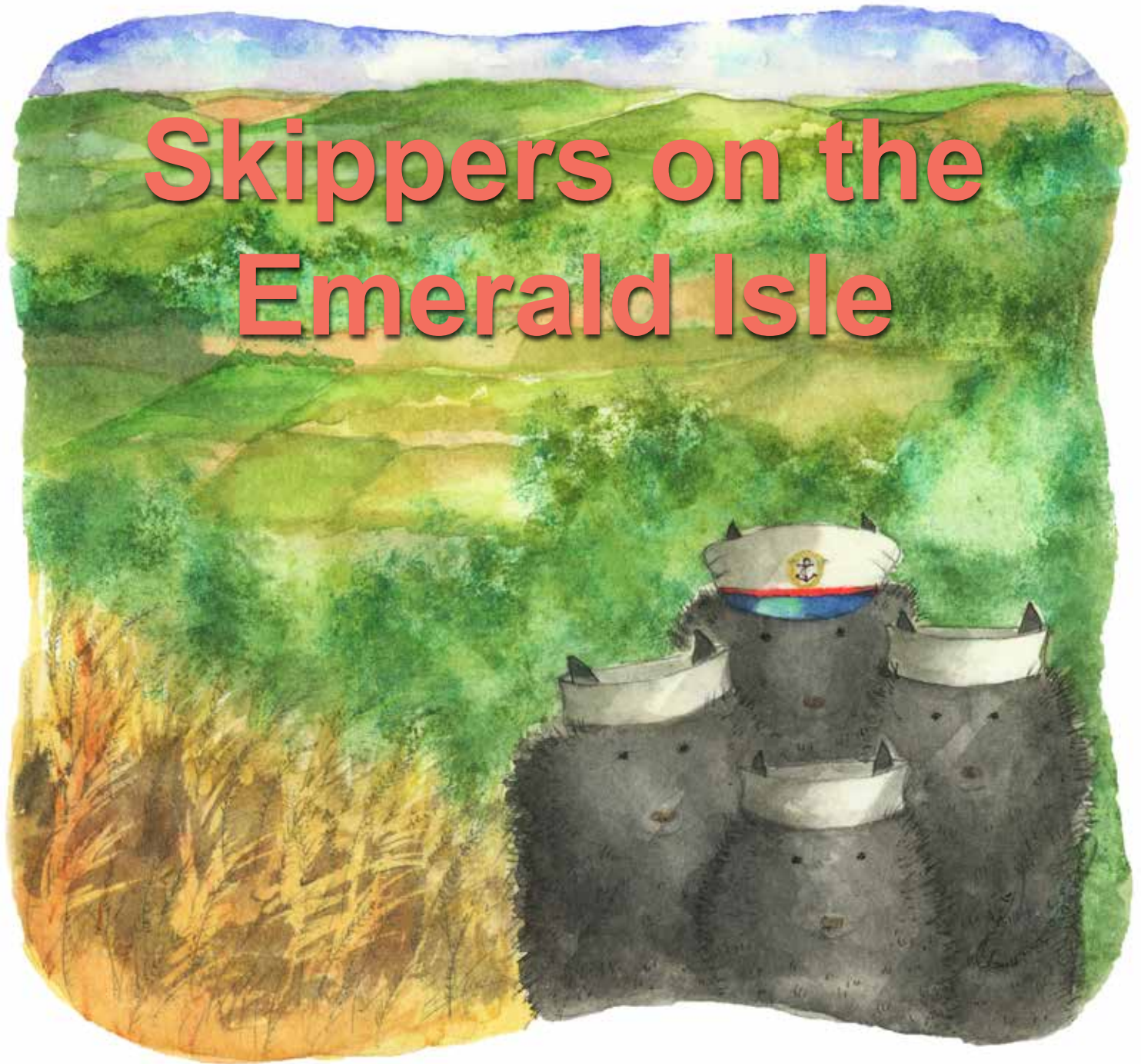
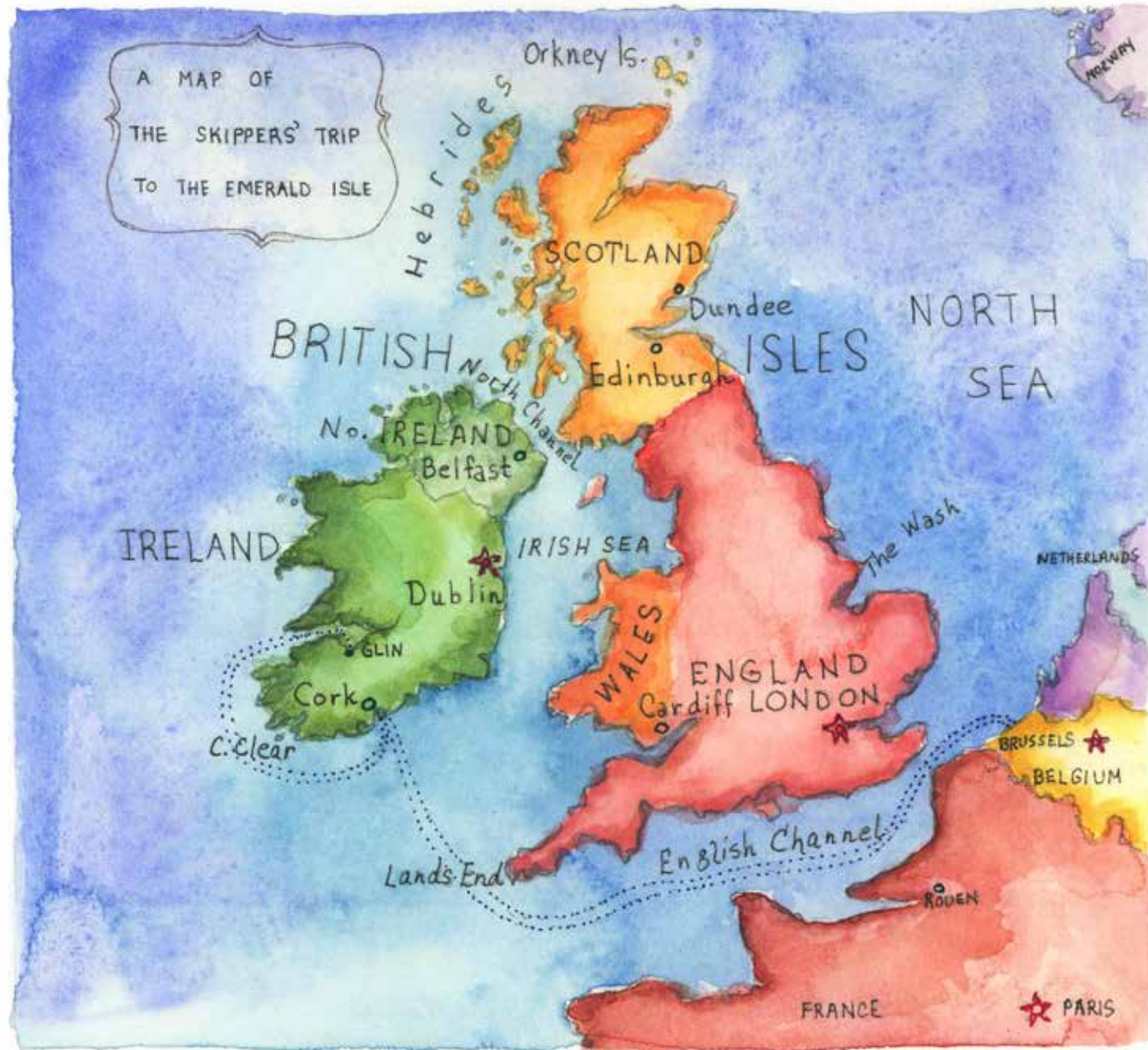


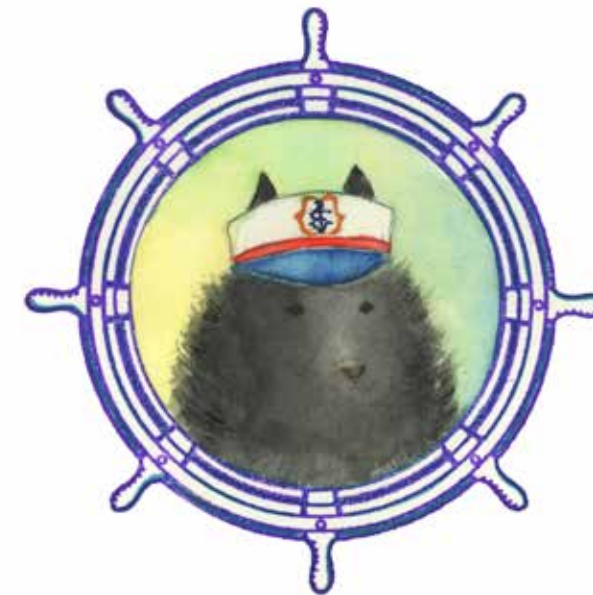
# Skippers on the Emerald Isle







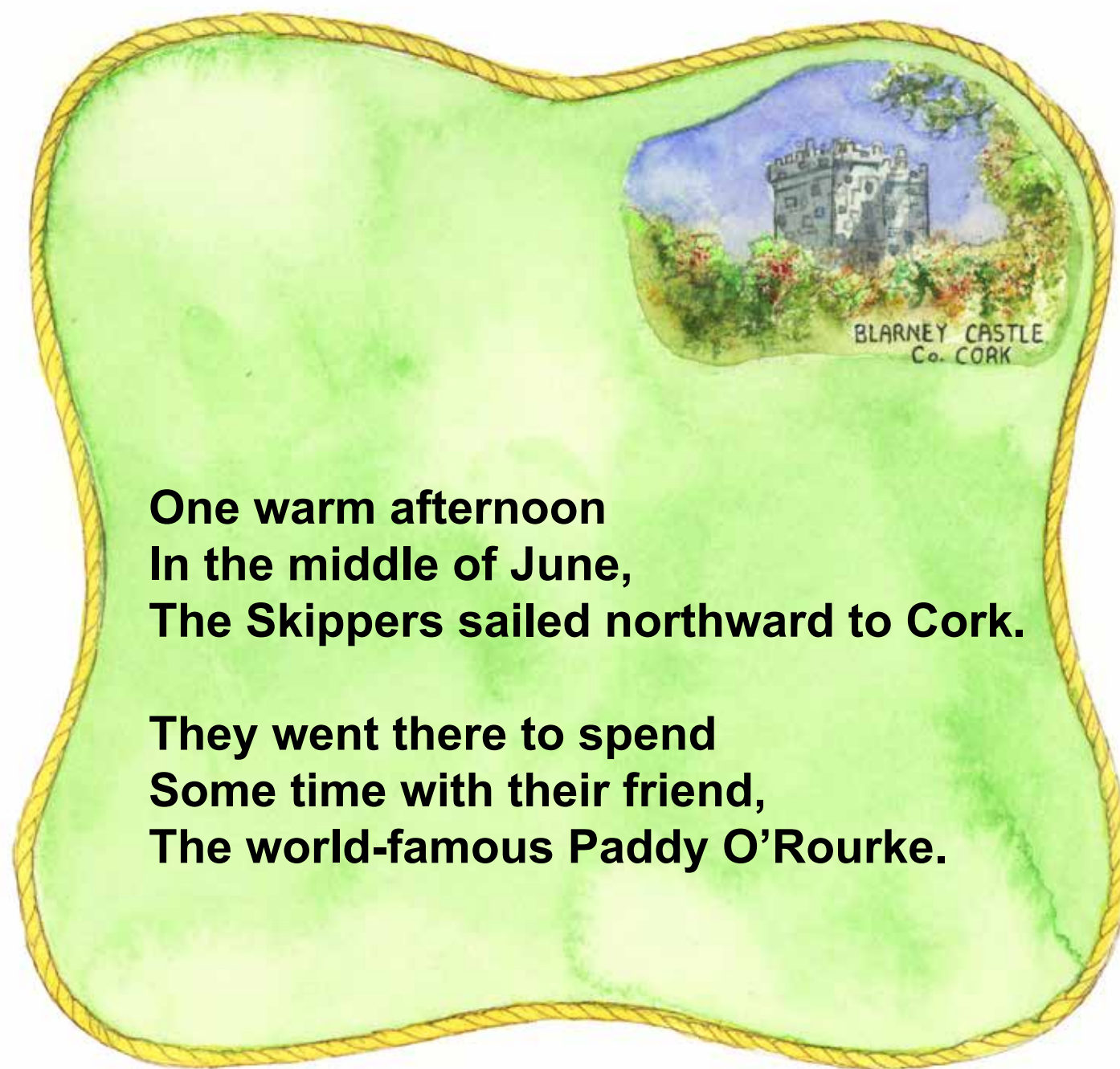
# Skippers on the Emerald Isle



story and illustrations by  
Caroline Stelling







**One warm afternoon  
In the middle of June,  
The Skippers sailed northward to Cork.**

**They went there to spend  
Some time with their friend,  
The world-famous Paddy O'Rourke.**



He greeted the four  
As he rushed out the door.  
"I'm off to the Old Shamrock Inn.

"A leprechaun-cat  
In a big buckled hat  
Has taken the great Tara pin!"



THE TARA BROOCH  
(8<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY)







**Together they went  
To make him repent,  
But this was his honest reply:**

**“I’m keeping the pin  
Till those fairies from Glin  
Put thunderclouds back in the sky.**

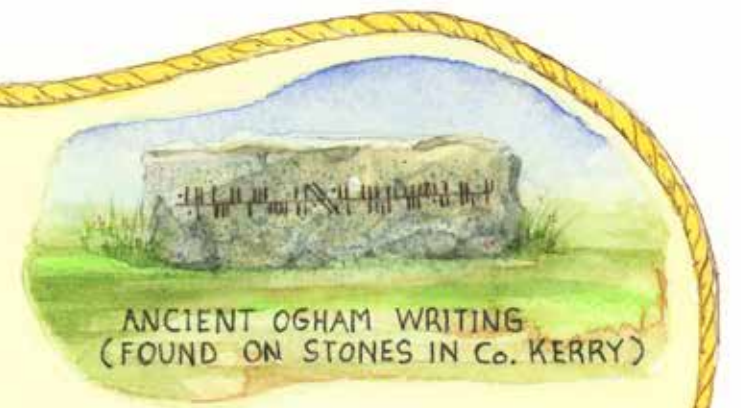


**“It’s their fault, you see,  
Talk to them, not to me.  
When it rains, then I’ll give back the pin.”**

**So the Skippers made way  
Past Ballyheige Bay,  
Through the mouth of the Shannon to Glin.**







**The wee folk were found  
In their home underground,  
And the leprechaun's plight was retold.**

**"No rainbow will form  
If there isn't a storm  
And he won't find his big pot o' gold."**



**But the fairies complained  
That whenever it rained  
They had to stay under their rock.**

**In time, they agreed  
To reverse their misdeed  
For a smidgen of gold from his crock.**

