

SOULS
OUT OF
IRELAND
SERIES



the daughters of
worrigay

ANNIE COSBY

TEACHER'S GUIDE



Snowy Wings
PUBLISHING

THE DAUGHTERS OF MORRIGAN

The day the Doyle sisters are attacked by a monster on the foggy shores of the Atlantic, they're saved by a mysterious boy who stumbles out of the waves. That's the first sign that nothing in their small world will ever be the same again.

Brid is striking and vain. Moira is caring but brusque. And Riona is sweet and silent. They invite their injured savior into the crumbling castle they call home, only to find he's prepared to challenge everything they think they know ...

About themselves. About their family. About their upbringing here on the edge of the world. And about the magic that permeates the castle. For the girls are keeping secrets of their own.

When another attack takes them all by surprise, they'll have to decide what to believe, what to reveal, and just how to stay alive.

The Daughters of Morrigan is the first in a contemporary YA fantasy series steeped in Irish legend. If you like a sweeping setting and characters to fall for, you'll love the first installment in Annie Cosby's haunting new series, *Souls Out of Ireland*.

AUTHOR Q&A



Annie Cosby is a short, dog-loving romantic who works in digital marketing by day and writes fiction by night. She spent three years living in Galway, Ireland, which gave her mono, set her soul on fire, and introduced her to her future husband.

In addition to *The Daughters of Morrigan*, she's the author of the *USA Today*-recommended *Hearts Out of Water* series.

She lives in a little brick house in her hometown of St. Louis, Mo., with her Rottweiler mix, Lucy, and her favorite Irishman, Michael.

What inspired you to write *The Daughters of Morrigan*?

I've always been fascinated by Celtic mythology, and the Morrigan is a goddess I've long wanted to write about. After visiting a refurbished 16th century tower house called Aughnanure Castle, in County Galway, Ireland, I kept daydreaming about a modern-day family living in a place like that, and how the castle itself felt like a character with a life of its own.

My imagination transported the castle to the seaside, and the Doyle sisters moved in. Before long, the castle had become personified, and it really is one of the main characters.

What made you want to be a writer?

I'm not sure I've ever thought, *I want to be a writer*. I've simply written fiction for fun as long as I can remember. When I was little, my dad was a journalist and freelance writer, and he worked from home. (He also wrote my brother a fantasy book, in which my brother is the main character and I feature as the little sister.) So while he worked, I would sit by him in our basement, writing stories on the "old computer." (It didn't even have internet!)

I guess I just grew up in a house (unfortunately, not a castle) where reading and writing were a treasured form of entertainment.

The Irish language pops up in your books. Do you speak it?

No. I'm lucky to have several friends who do, though. One of them is my translator for the chapter titles and the sentences in Irish that crop up in the story. I'm studying Irish right now, and wow, is it difficult! Try it for yourself in the next activity.

THE IRISH LANGUAGE

What is Irish?

Irish is part of the Celtic language family and was the primary language on the island of Ireland through the 18th century. Since then, many complex factors contributed to the near erasure of the Irish language, most notably the brutal British rule of Ireland.

Nowadays, English is the first language of most residents of Ireland, and only about 170,000 people are native Irish speakers. The areas of Ireland where Irish is still the predominant language are known collectively as “the Gaeltacht.”

In addition to native speakers, schoolchildren in Ireland are required to take Irish classes, and many people around the world find beauty in learning the ancient language. (Americans, take note: in Ireland, they do not call this language “Gaelic.” They call it “Irish.”)

Wondering how to pronounce some of the names in *The Daughters of Morrigan*? [Watch this video](#) and try pronouncing them for yourself.

A Mini Irish Lesson

English	Irish	Pronunciation
Hello	Dia duit	JEE-ah gwitch
My name is ____	____ is ainm dom	____ iss an-im dum
How are you today?	Conas atá tú?	kun-uss a-TAW too
I am well.	Tá mé go maith.	taw may guh mah
I am tired.	Tá mé tuirseach.	taw may TUR-shuck
Please	Le do thoil	leh duh hel
Thank you	Go raibh maith agat.	guh ruh mah a-gut

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Bríd is vibrant but a bit vain. Ríona is kind but timid. And Moira is caring but quite brusque. Everyone has their strengths and their flaws. What are yours? Do you see yourself in one of the sisters?
2. The Doyle sisters live in a crumbling castle beside the sea in Ireland. The tower house is nearly falling down around them, but they love their home. What are the pros and cons of living in a place like that? Would you like to live in an old castle?
3. Magical objects that the girls call “curios” appear in Bunrowan Castle precisely when the girls need something — though the use of the curio isn’t always obvious. If you could conjure one curio to help you today, what would it be?
4. Did any of the characters change or grow over the course of the book? Did any characters stay stagnant?
5. Were you annoyed or frustrated by any of the decisions the characters made in the book? How would you have acted differently?
6. What aspects of the story, if any, are reflected in the cover design? What do you think the cover for the next book in the series will look like?
7. If you got the chance to ask the author of this book one question, what would it be?

IRISH MYTHOLOGY

Christianity was introduced to the people of Ireland around the 5th century, but the people who inhabited Ireland before then had a vast belief system made up of Celtic gods and goddesses. We know a lot about what they believed from their oral stories, which were written down in later centuries.

Celtic mythology is a complex, varied field, where characters and creatures are described differently in different source material. The stories likely changed over time (like a really long game of Telephone) — and edits were definitely made by the people who wrote these stories down, most of whom were Christian.

Do some research on each of the following terms from Irish mythology, and then summarize what you learn in a sentence or two.

Selkies: _____

The Children of Lir: _____

Banshees: _____

Kelpies: _____

Cúchulainn: _____

PROJECT IDEAS

GET ARTSY

In *The Daughters of Morrigan*, Moira, Ríona, and Bríd live in a tower house called Bunrowan Castle. Depict the castle using whatever materials inspire you. For example, you could draw the castle with pencil, paint, or charcoal, or you could build a miniature model of the castle using cardboard and clay. The possibilities are endless!



GET TECHNICAL

Sketch the layout of the castle and its surrounding grounds. Make sure to include the rooms and furniture mentioned in the book, and do some research on medieval tower houses to add a few more historical touches that you think a castle like Bunrowan would have had.

GET WRITING

In the book, the Doyle sisters learn that some fairy tales are true. Like when they meet Aidan, who is a selkie. What stories did you hear growing up? Write down a story about a mythological creature that you've been told before — or make up your own!



GET WILD

Each of the Doyle sisters has a pet that she connects with on a magical level. For example, Ríona and her pet wolf, Faolan, seem to be able to communicate without talking. Write a short essay about your favorite pet, or a pet you would like to have, and make up a magical power that you wish you two could share.

GET MUSICAL

The Doyle sisters have many magical items in their castle home, including a dictionary that plays music. Research traditional Irish music and make a playlist of your favorite songs. Write a sentence about why you chose each song.

