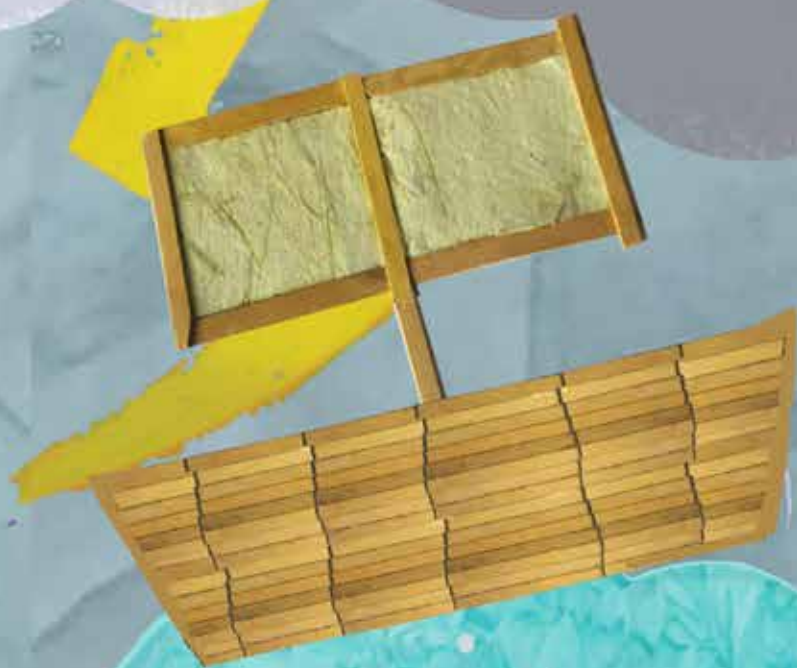


A Story by
Ballyhackett & Bellarena Primary Schools



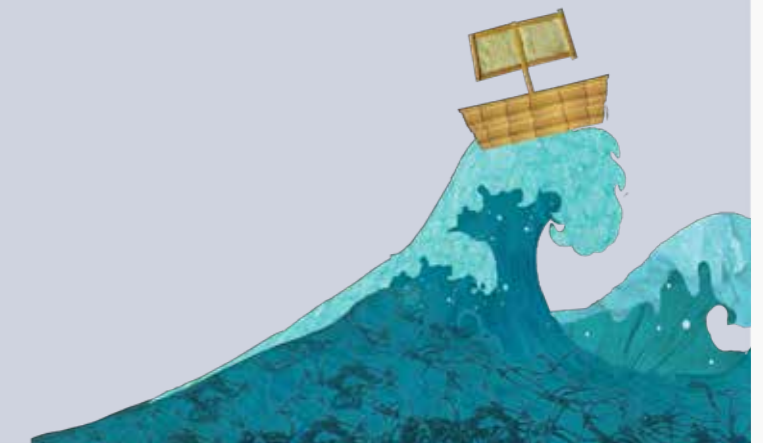
The 1718 Story

Journey to America

The 1718 Story

Recognised as the first major organised migration of Ulster-Scots Presbyterians to the American colonies, the 1718 migration was comprised largely of people from The Bann Valley, County Londonderry. It reveals significant connections in terms of history, heritage, language, culture and identity to the area, within which exists a unique and rich narrative detailing the experiences of those arriving in America, but also of those left behind. Indeed, it would not be possible to fully understand and explore the lives of the Ulster-Scots community in Ulster and America without tracing the journey made by so many to the New World.

Often cast as both the 'people with no name' and as a community imbued with a migratory spirit, the Ulster-Scots are synonymous with mass emigration to foreign shores from the 17th Century onwards. Their journeys underscore the 'push' and 'pull' dynamics of migration, propelled by a desire to seek happier, freer lives across the ocean.



During the 18th Century, people from the Bann Valley were encouraged to find new lives in America.

In church they were encouraged to leave this country and sail away across the sea to a new land.

The harvest hasn't been good this year and cost too much to manage

"Where is this 'new land'?"

?

For weeks adults met in their house to discuss the future. The children listened in on these conversations.

no money + no sales = difficult situation

The adults worried about the farming situation at home.

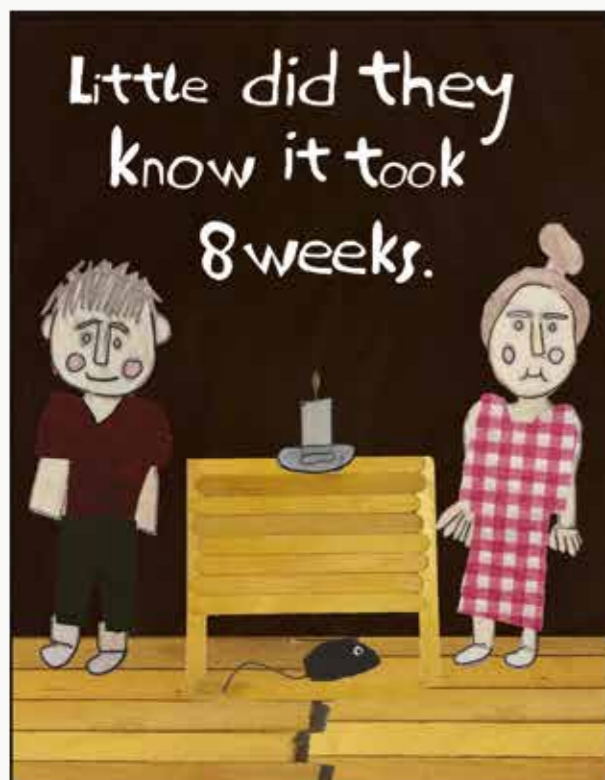
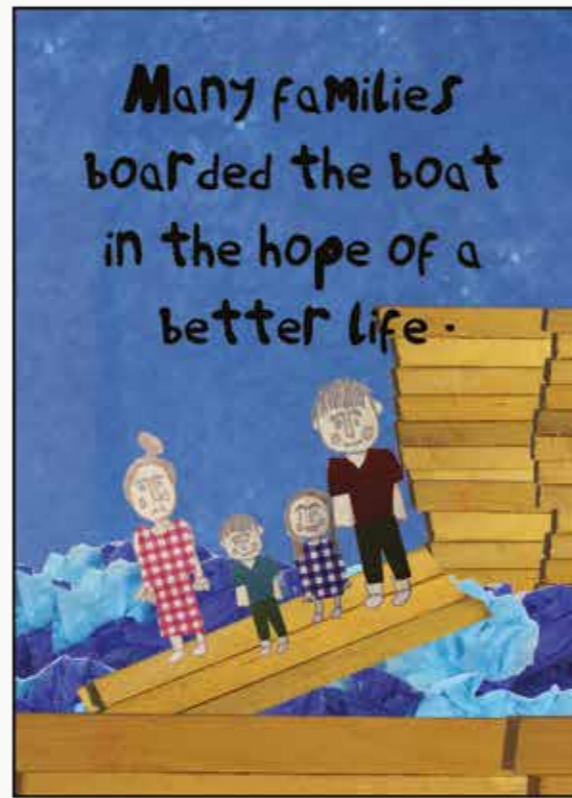
"The price of wool has fallen and I can't afford to keep my sheep!"

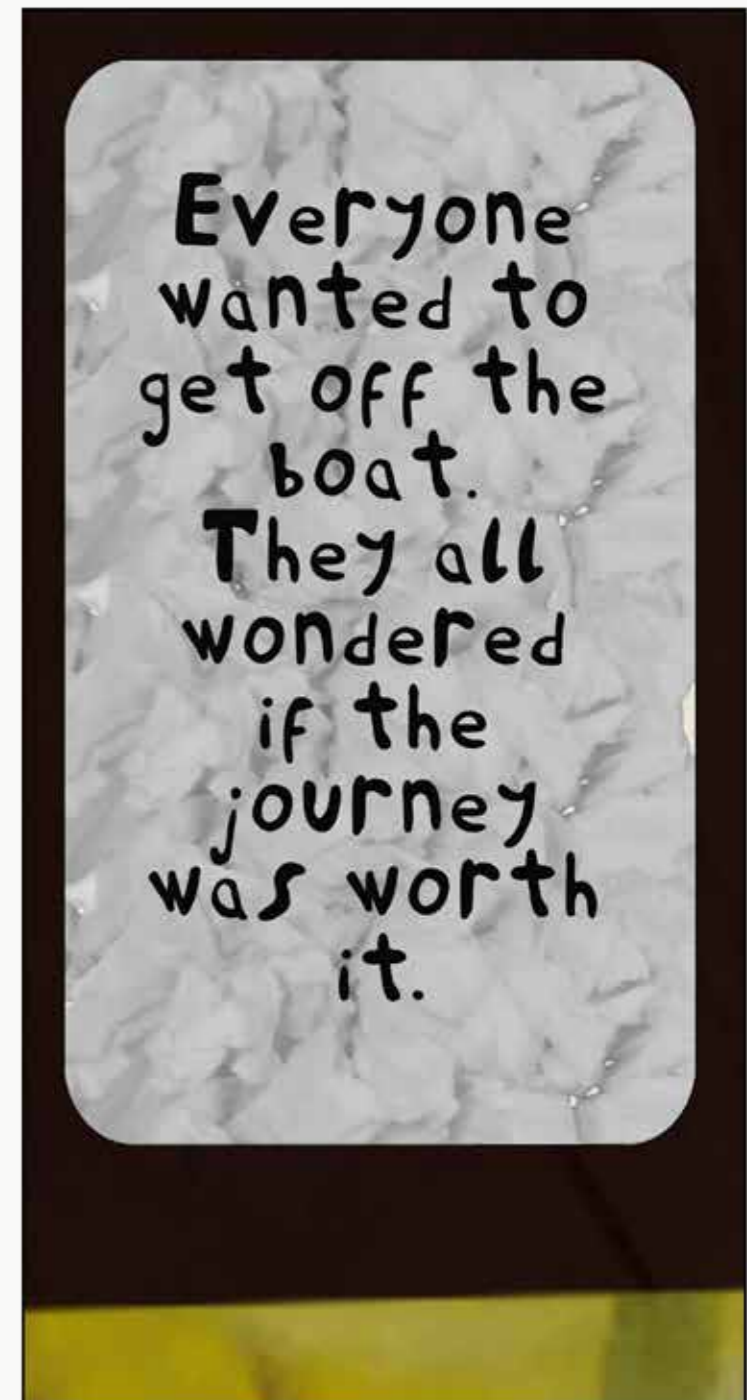
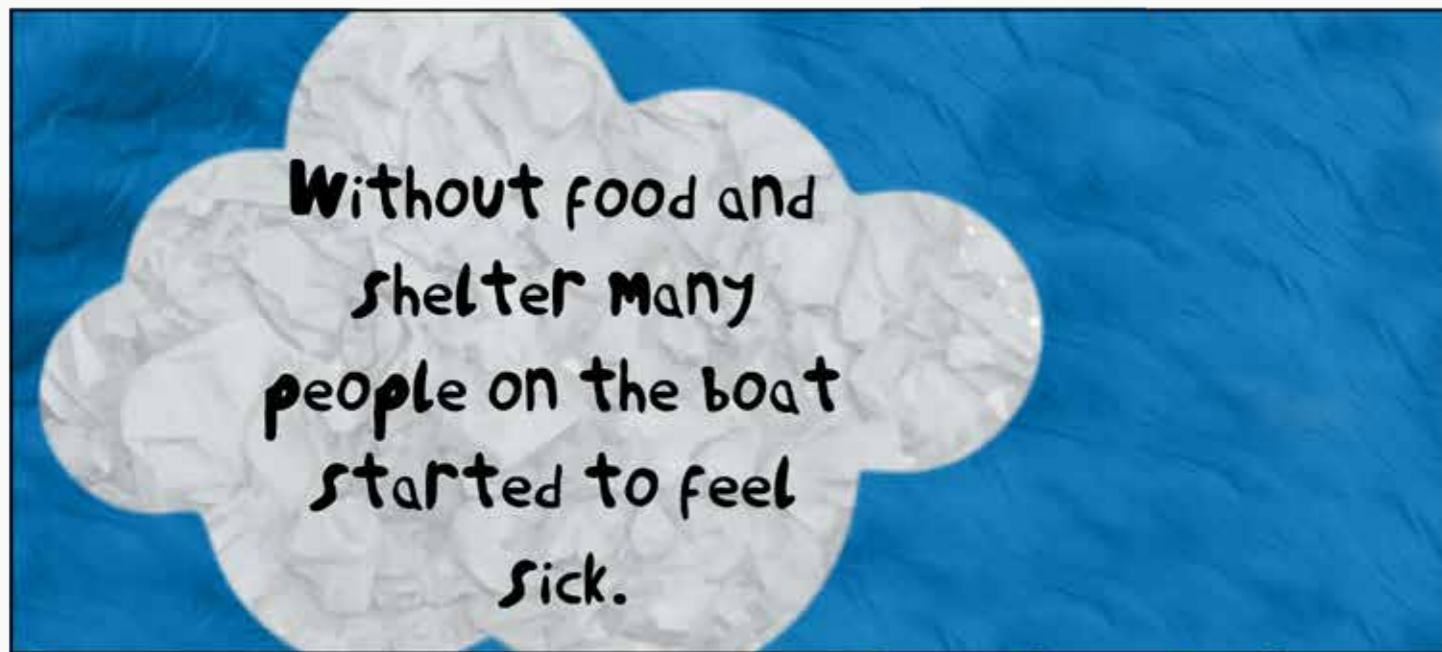
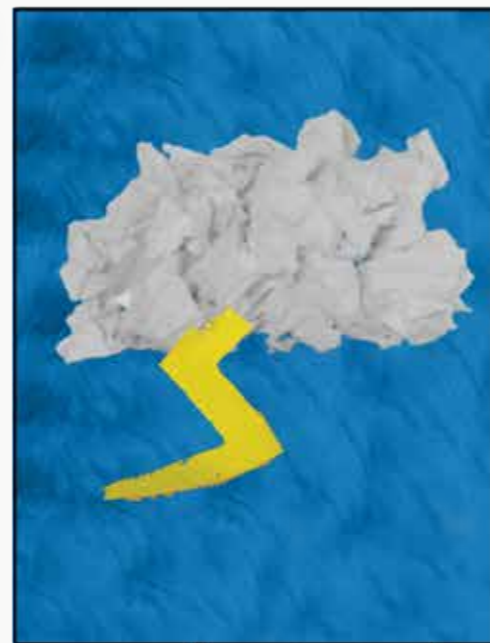
"I was told the new land was called America."

"We could build a church."

"We could get a farm and live as we please."

"On a boat!"
"How are we going to America?"







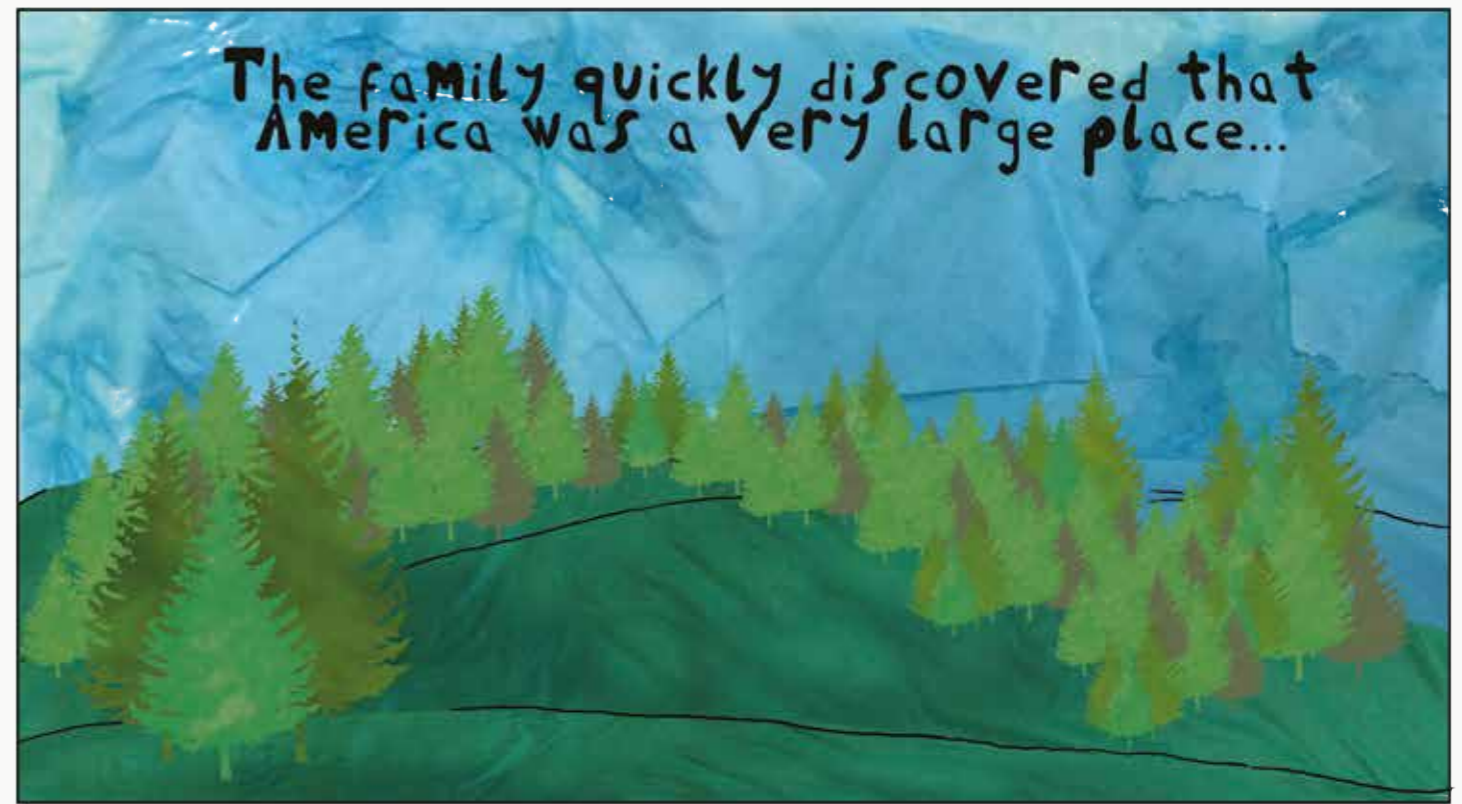
The families were relieved to arrive.



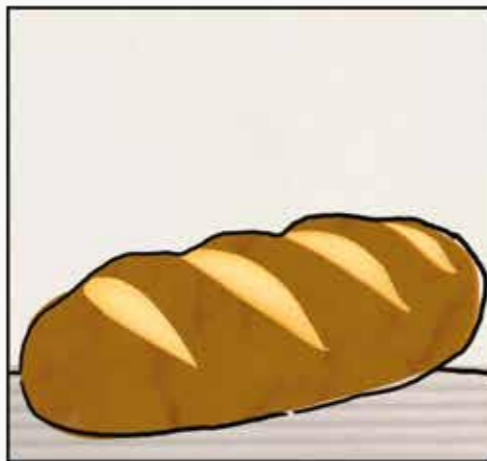
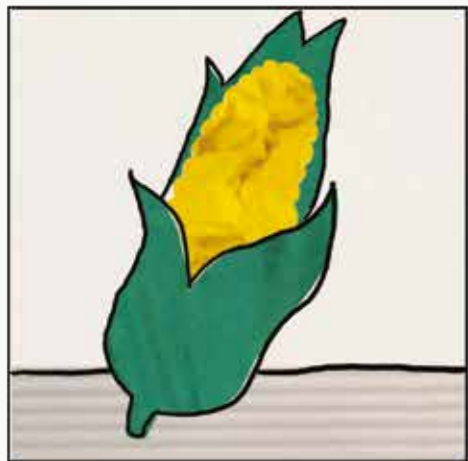
The family had no money, so they went to try and sell some of their belongings.



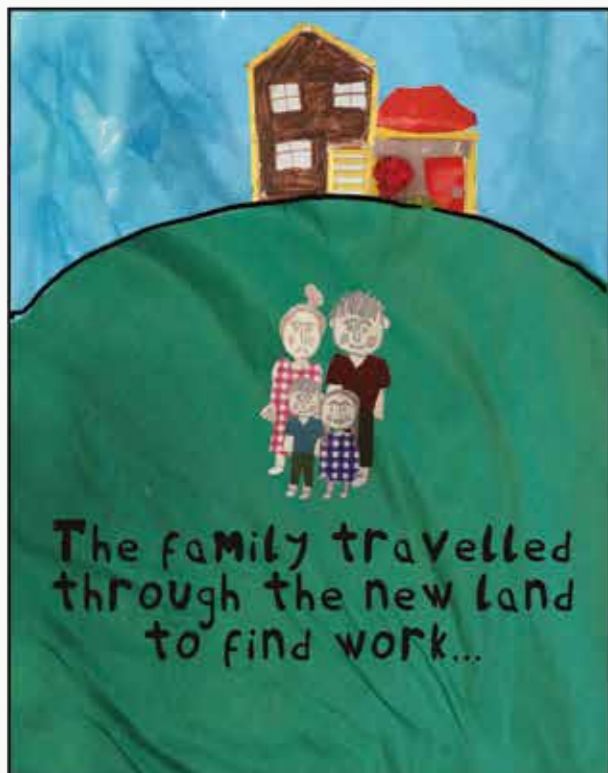
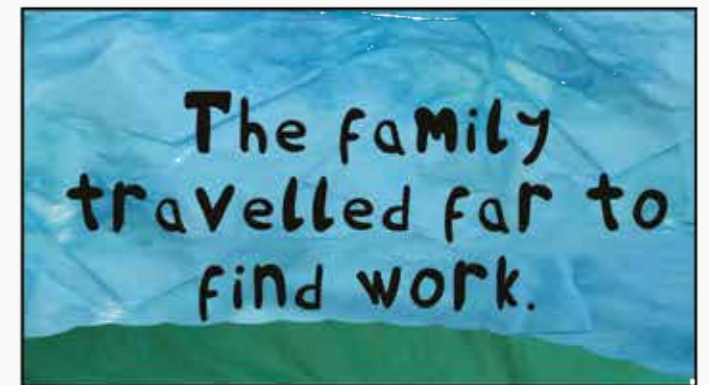
They traded the ring so they could buy food & drink.



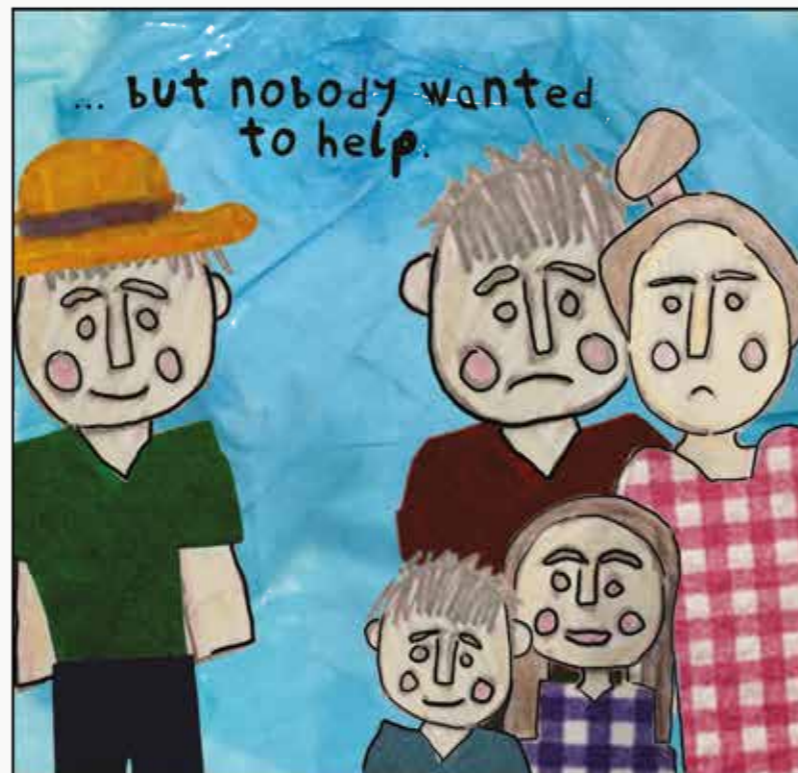
The family quickly discovered that America was a very large place...



...and they felt very small.



The family travelled through the new land to find work...



... but nobody wanted to help.



It was easy to feel lonely...



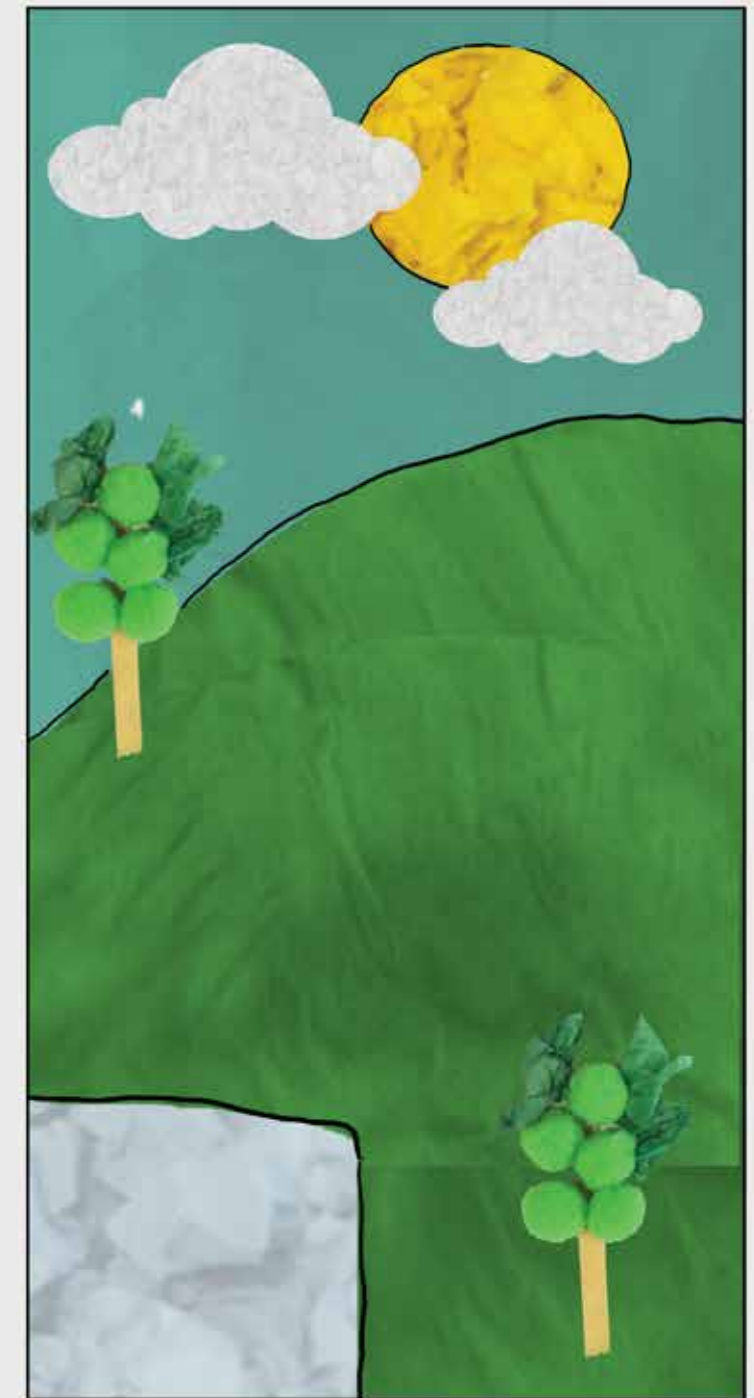
...and homesick in this new land.

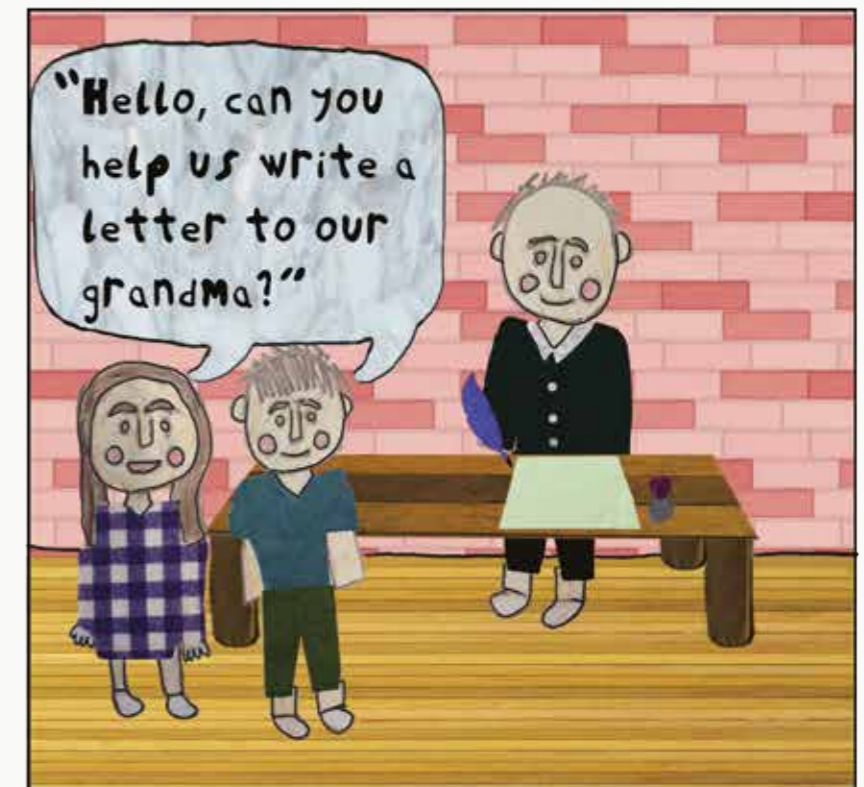
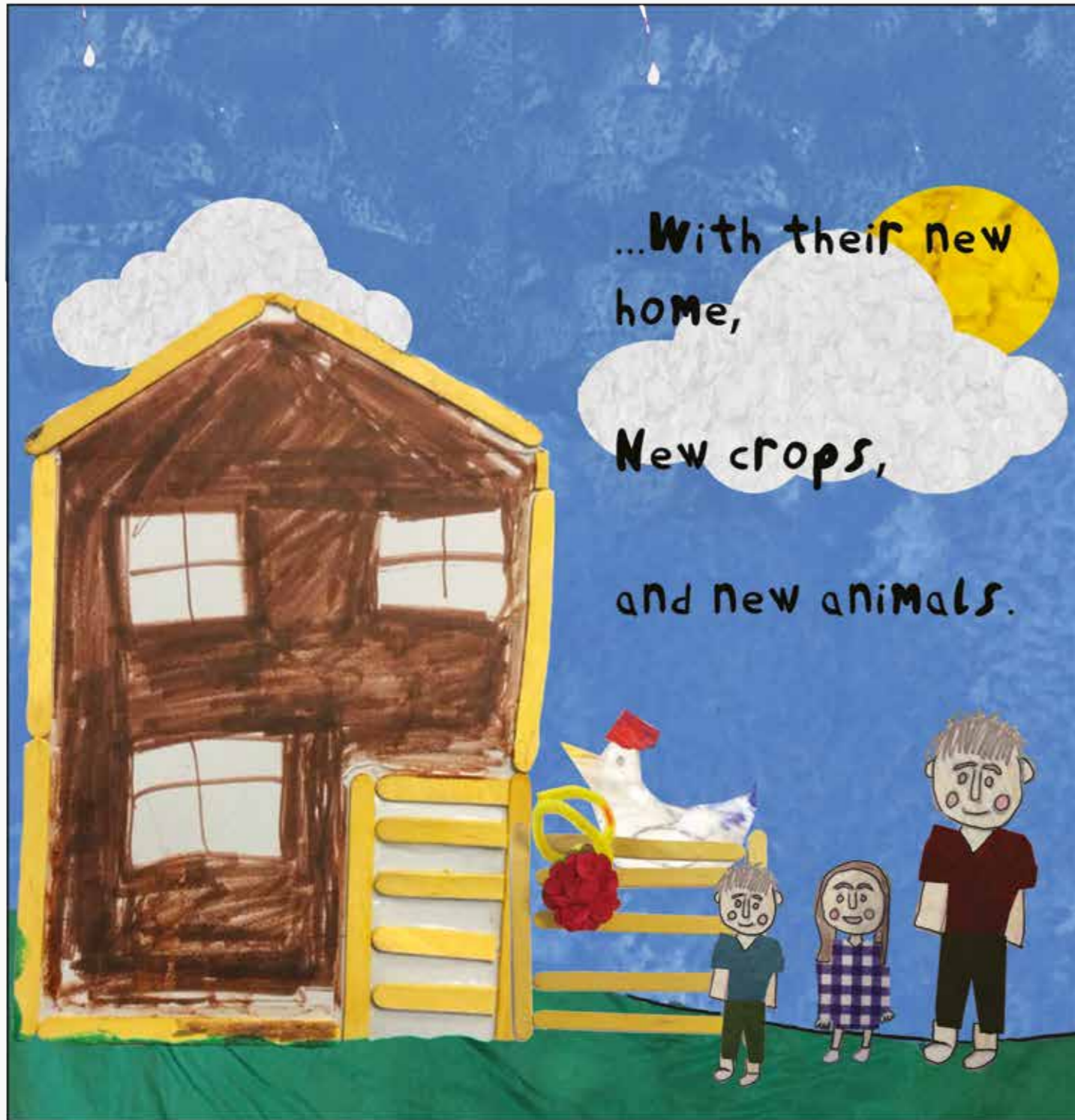
As they travelled through America to the frontier...

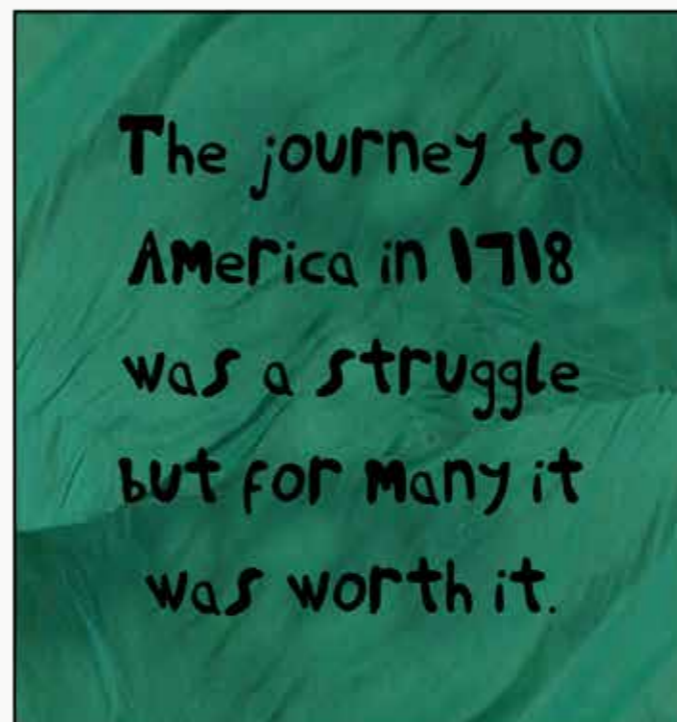
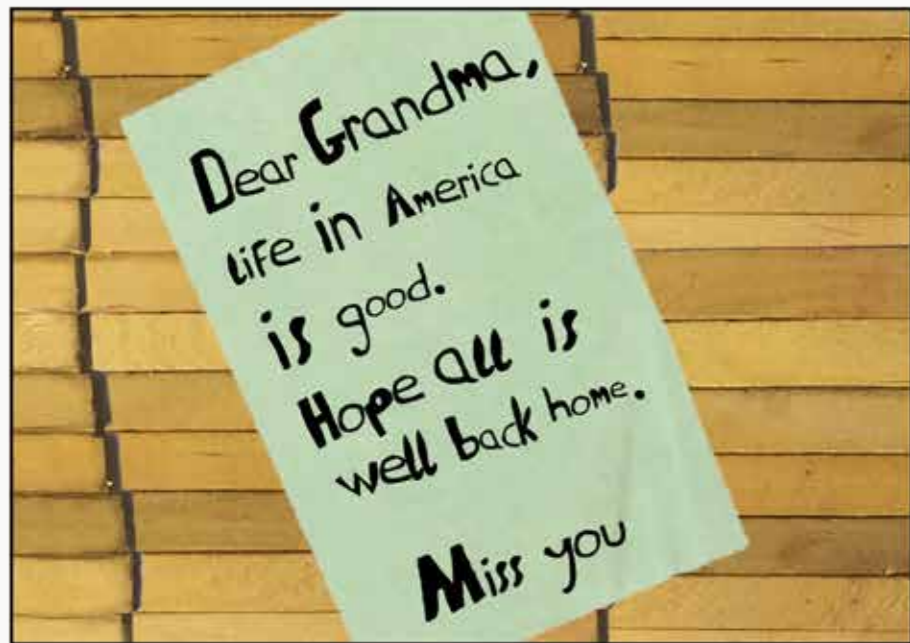




Some people they met along the way were happy to help.







Many Thanks to
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Bellarena Primary School

Joanne Honeyford
Coleraine Ulster Scots Regeneration Group

Helen Perry
Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council

Maude Steele
Storyteller

**The staff at the Ulster American
Folk Park**

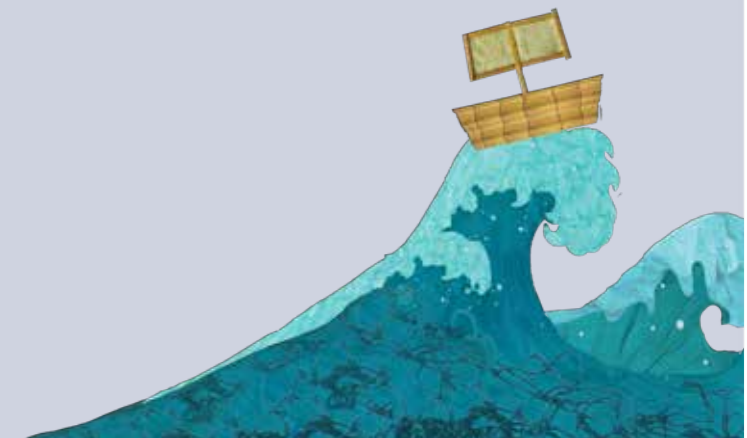
Many Thanks to
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Lecturer

Jade Bailey
Joel Gaston
Catherine Morren

Chloe Rae
Eoin Stewart

Students



The 1718 Story

Journey to AMerica

This graphic novel recounting the story of the 1718 migration has been created by primary school children from Ballyhackett P.S. and Bellarena P.S. in Co. Londonderry. The generation of the graphic novel, was facilitated by a co-creation model of project development between the school children and Interactive Media students from Ulster University's School of Communication and Media.

The 1718 Storytelling Project by Coleraine Ulster Scots Regeneration Group is part of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council PEACEIV Understanding our Area programme. This initiative is part of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's PEACEIV Local Area Action Plan, funded by the European Union's PEACEIV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body, which is providing £3.5 million for community projects across the borough.



**Causeway
Coast & Glens
Borough Council**



**Ulster
University**



Peace 
Northern Ireland - Ireland
European Regional Development Fund