Put the Salmon of Knowledge in order

Read, cut, mix and arrange six moments from the Salmon of Knowledge.

Picture cards: ask an adult to cut along the six frames and mix the pictures. Put them back in story order. You can colour them too.



Put the Salmon of Knowledge in order

Read, cut, mix and arrange six moments from the Salmon of Knowledge.

Read the six cards. Write 1-6 in the circles, or cut out the cards and arrange them. Match each card to a picture from page 1.

A The boy burns his thumb while cooking. He puts it into his mouth. ◯

B The poet realises the prophecy is about the boy. He tells him to eat the salmon. ◯

C The salmon is caught after the poet has waited for seven years. ◯

D Finn learns the skills of a poet and makes a poem about summer. ◯

E The poet asks the boy to cook the salmon, but not to eat any. ◯

F The boy brings the cooked fish to the poet and tells him about his thumb. ◯

Tell it again: use “First”, “Next”, “Then” and “Finally” to retell the story in your own words.

Put the Salmon of Knowledge in order

Read, cut, mix and arrange six moments from the Salmon of Knowledge.

A short reading script

A young boy called Demne went to learn poetry from Finnéces beside the River Boyne. The poet had waited seven years for a special salmon. A prophecy said that eating it would bring knowledge. When the fish was caught, the poet asked the boy to cook it without eating any. The boy accidentally burned his thumb and put it into his mouth. When he brought the cooked salmon, he explained what had happened. The poet asked his name. He realised that the boy was the Finn meant by the prophecy, and told him to eat the fish. Finn gained remarkable knowledge, learned the skills of a poet and made a poem about summer.

Correct order

C → E → A → F → B → D. The pictures are printed in that order from top left to bottom right. Cut and shuffle them before giving them to a learner. The text cards are already mixed.

Talk about the telling

• What was an accident, and what choice did the boy make afterwards?

• How does the poet's understanding of the prophecy change?

• Why might a storyteller connect knowledge with making poetry?

Source and adaptation

Based on Kuno Meyer's The Boyish Exploits of Finn (1901), sections 17-20, as presented by University College Cork's CELT project. The script simplifies the language. The illustrations imagine costume, setting and a scroll. This is a legend, not evidence that eating a fish gives magical knowledge.

Read Meyer's translation at CELT · Compare the versions at The Myths

Use with ages 7-11 as a guide, adjusting the reading support to the learner. Scissors are optional; an adult can prepare the cards.