

Maggie May's Day



Illustrated by Jim Mellis, Fermoy

Written by the Travellers of North Cork



This book tells the story of Maggie May, a young Traveller child. Her life moves between the Traveller community and the settled community. This is Maggie May's story in her own words.

The project began with Maggie May's family and the Travellers of North Cork. We had help from Cork County Council through the Creative Ireland Initiative and UCC Plus.

The book was put together by Kathleen McDonagh (Travellers of North Cork), Pauline O'Grady Noonan (Community Health Development Worker, TNC), Rachel Burke (Cork County Library) and Nicola Bessell (Dept. of Speech and Hearing Sciences, UCC).

Cant or Gammon is the language of the Travellers, but it is not used as much now as it used to be. It is a proud part of the Traveller heritage so we hope you will enjoy learning a little bit about it from this book. At the back there is a list of some Cant words.



Maggie May lives in a trailer with her Mammy, Daddy, sisters and brother. When Maggie May wakes up in the morning, she runs over to her Nanny's house. It is right next door.



Maggie May tells Nanny what she wants for breakfast, even if it's not what everyone else is having. Today she wants boiled eggs and toast.

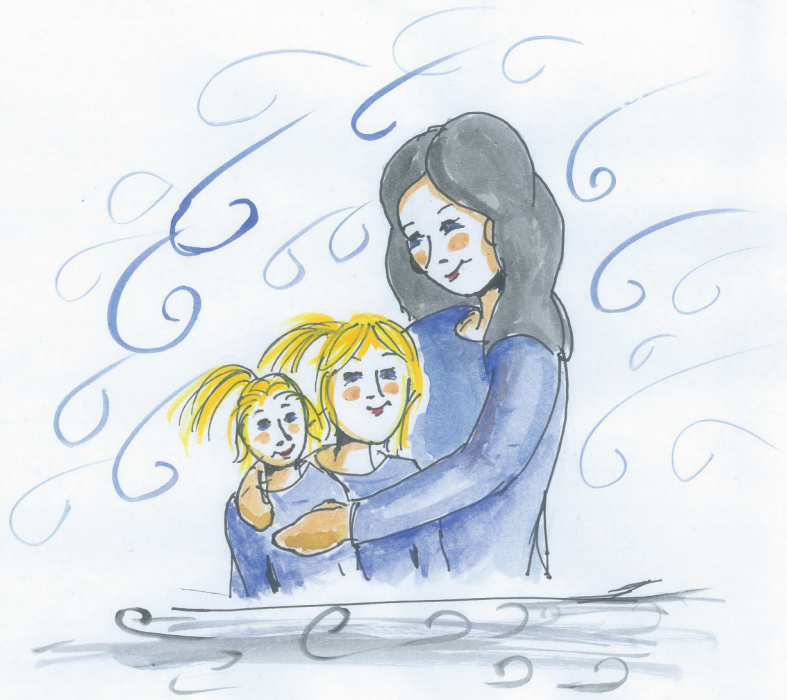
Durra ~ Bread Cracklers ~ Eggs Weed ~ Tea Oily ~ Butter
Grub ~ Food Cullions ~ Potatoes Grouter ~ Milk



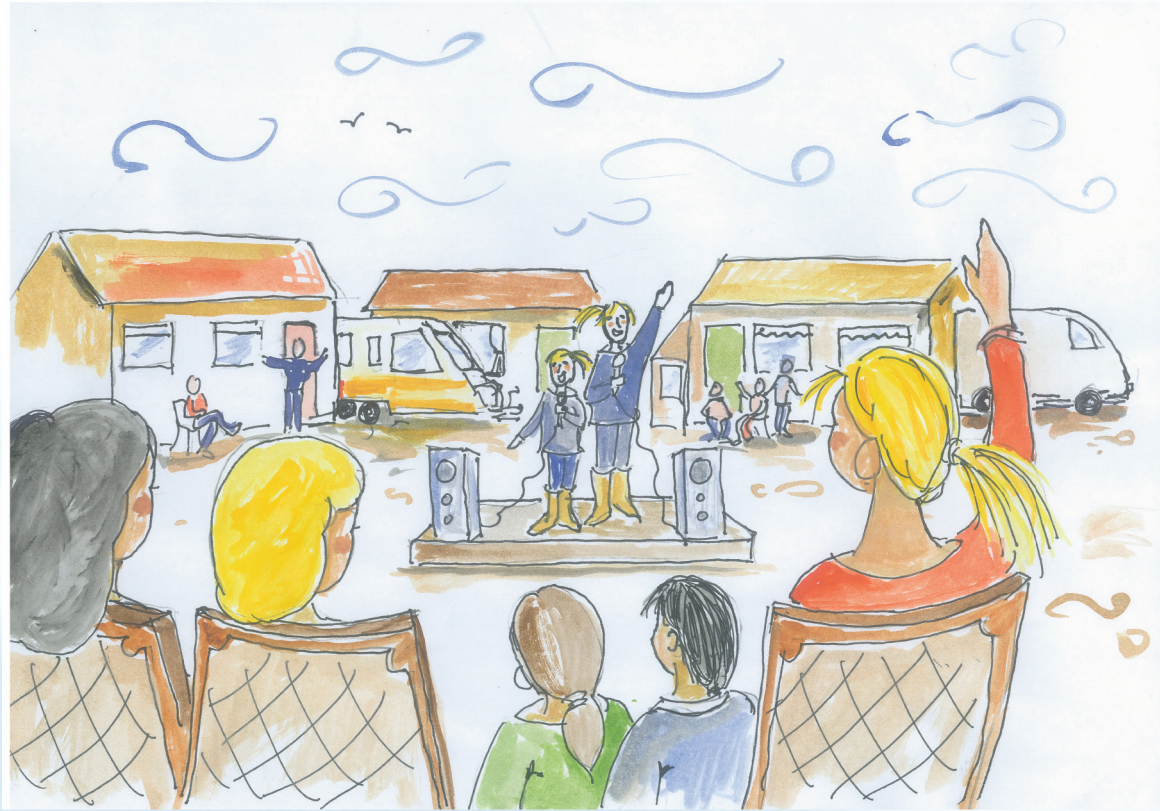
After breakfast Maggie May goes up the field. She helps Daddy feed the horses. Little Gypsy the pony follows Maggie May.



Then she brushes her teeth and Mammy takes her to preschool with her sister. When school is over Maggie May goes home to her family. She wants to know what everyone has been doing while she was gone.



Today Maggie May looks sad.
“Daughter, what’s the problem?” Nanny says. “Little Gypsy is sick Nanny.” Nanny comforts Maggie May because she is sad.

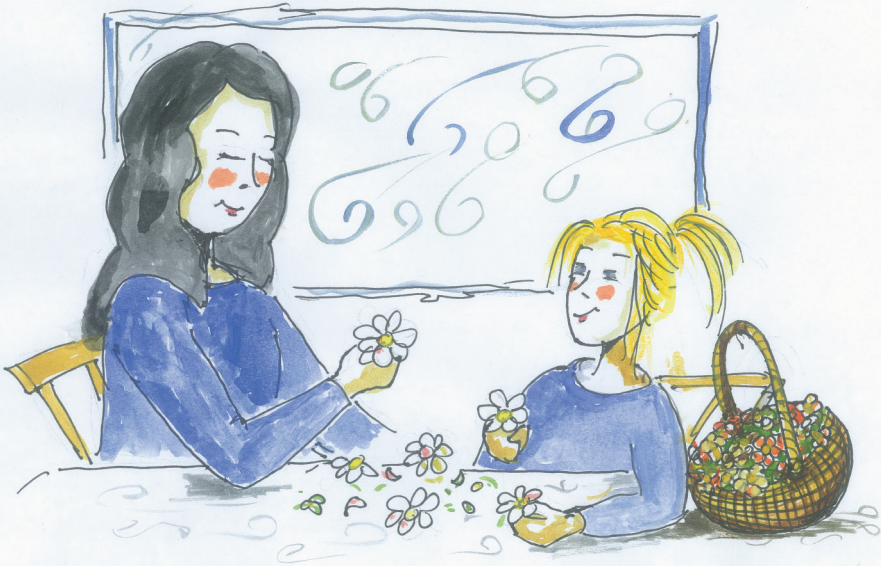


Some days Maggie May goes to the city to visit her other Nanny and Da. She likes to ride the horses and play with the children there.

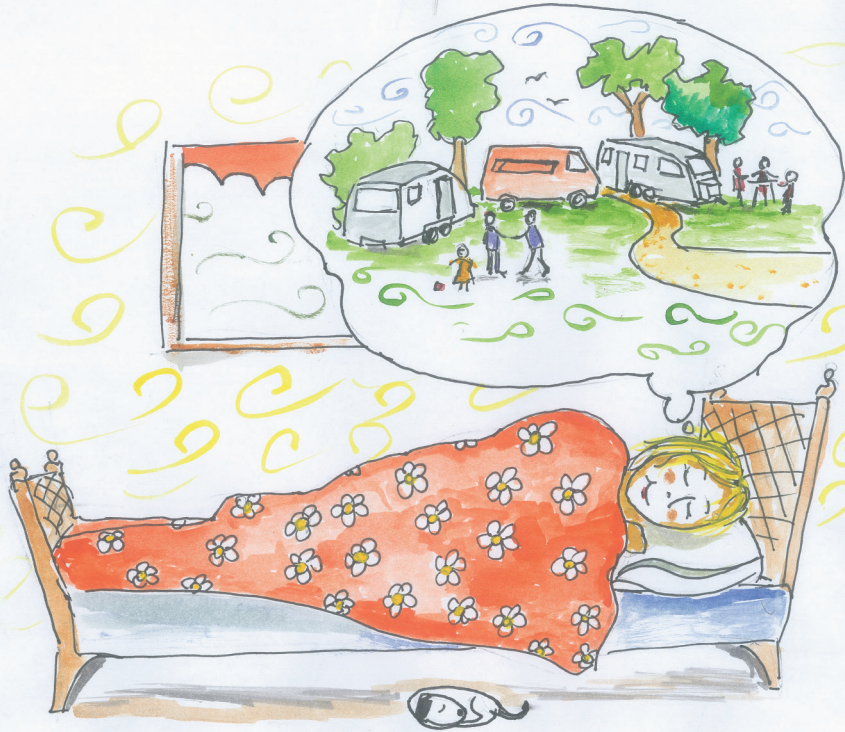
Sometimes she brings stories from one Nanny to the other.



Back at home Maggie May plays with her little dog Lily. Lily has three puppies called Lily, Dodger and Cindy.



In the evening Maggie May likes to find an excuse not to go to bed. She likes to help Nanny with flower arrangements.



Maggie May goes to bed and thinks about the summer when the whole family meets up to go travelling.

Cant or Gammon

People

Feen.....	Man
Beor.....	Woman
Subla.....	Boy
Laceen.....	Girl
Gauras.....	Children
Konig.....	Priest
Shade.....	Guard

Food

Durragh.....	Bread
Cracklers.....	Eggs
Weed.....	Tea
Oily.....	Butter
Grub.....	Food
Cullions	Potatoes
Grouter	Milk

Animals

Komra.....	Dog
Komog.....	Puppy
Cob.....	Horse
Curras.....	Group of horses

Cant or Gammon

Clothes

Tugs.....Clothes
Rib.....Hair
Rack.....Comb
Gimmicks.....Shoes

House

Keen.....House
Jigger Door
Glazer.....Window
Lee.....Bed
Lork.....Car

Others

Sark.....Field
Crush to the lee.....Go to bed
Whidding.....Talking
Aisght.....Listen



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