

Could You make a king's Judgement?

What was most important, in the time of our stories, was that kings and Queens gave good and fair judgements.

One of the best known, 'story kings' was Cormac Mac Airt. When he was a baby, he was carried off by a she-wolf and brought up with her cubs in the caves of Keash near Sligo). Eventually, he was found by a hunter and returned to his mother.

When Cormac grew up, he travelled to the royal site of the king at Tara. The king was just about to pass judgement on a woman whose sheep had got into the queen's garden eaten all the woad plants.

These plants were used for dyeing and were very valuable. The king was about to confiscate all her sheep,

Cormac, even though he was unknown to the king, stepped in and offered a different judgement.



Everyone was so amazed at Cormac's judgement that he stepped down and declared Cormac should be king instead of him?
What do you think Cormac suggested?
What would you have thought was fair?

Make your judgement here or challenge someone else to make a judgement.

If you want to know what judgement Cormac made, ask your teacher!

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Teachers note

Cormac declared, "More fitting would be one shearing for another," He said that both the wool from the sheep and the woad from the garden were equally valuable products.

Therefore, the woman should give the price of one year's shearing to make up for the loss of one year's crop from the land. The confiscation of the woman's sheep was unfair and the king had made a bad judgement. That meant he was no longer worthy to be king.

The children might like to discuss other rewards and penalties they consider to be fair or unfair.