

Let there be Light!!!

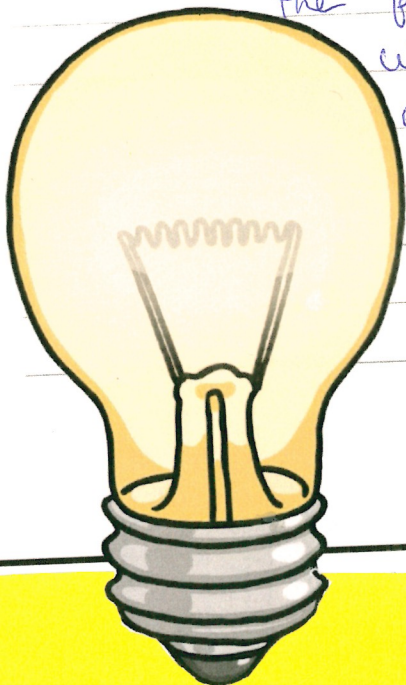
29/5/1946

I live in Bantry in Cork, Ireland.

Today, after school, two men were at the door when my brother, Dónal, and my sister Sorcha came trudging down the lane with me. Sorcha and Dónal are both eight years. Or nine, I actually can't remember. But they're twins.

Sorcha and I had small bunches of wildflowers clutched in our hands: daisies, buttercups, bluebells, dandelions and wild garlic roses. We pick them every sunny day we have, put them in glasses to 'brighten up the room', as Mammy says.

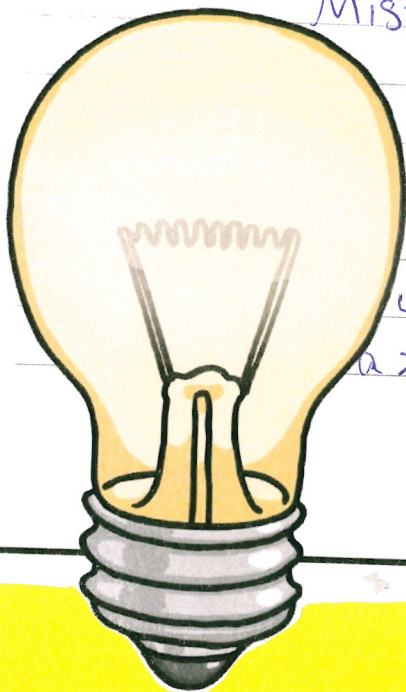
The two were talking loudly to Mammy at the front door. They were all waving their hands around a lot. I noticed that they had funny uniforms. Then a thought struck me: Are they police? Oh no!



"Aine, they're here to arrest you!" Dónal taunted. (Note: He is a big bully.)

"Shut up Dónal! He's only seven, don't tease her!" Siorcha scolded him. (Note: Siorcha is the bestest sister ever!)

The men with the uniforms left, looking rather pleased. The short, spotty one nodded at us, and the tall one with red hair grinned at me. He fumbled in his pocket, produced a magnificent blue ball, and threw it to me. Somehow, I caught it, and on further inspection, I saw the letters: 'E, S, B,' printed on it. I would have loved a ball like that. I bounced it on the ground, and it came right up to me. I threw it back to the man, saying: 'I like your bouncy ball, Mister.'



It was just an innocent comment, but, he gave it back to me and whispered, 'Keep it, little girl. As a reminder of the miracle of

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light. And with that, he strode off.

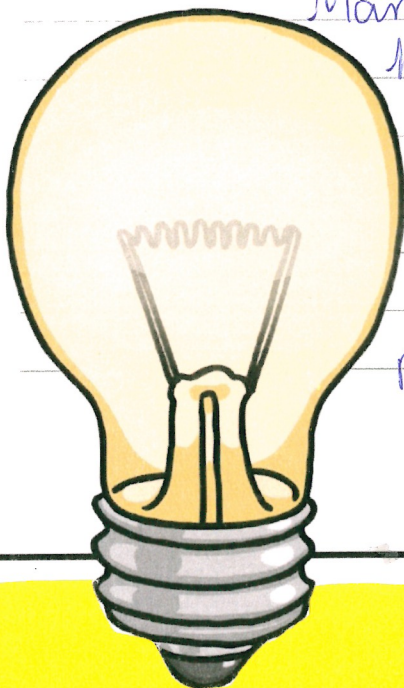
Ignoring Dónal and Dorcha, I ran into the house calling for Mammy.

'Mammy! Mammy! Oh there you are Mammy! Oh Mammy, who were the men? Dónal was mean again and, and, he, he said they'll t-take me away and arrest me! But the man s-said there'll be some type of m-miracle! He gave me a ball, look at it!' I gabbled, trying to hold back tears (I didn't want to be arrested!).

'No dear, they're men from the ESB. They are trying to get us connected to the electric. Yes, that is a grand little ball, now, isn't it! Go play outside Aine, bye pet,' my Mammy answered my gabble kindly.

X X X

I just had leek-and-potato-soup (my favourite!)



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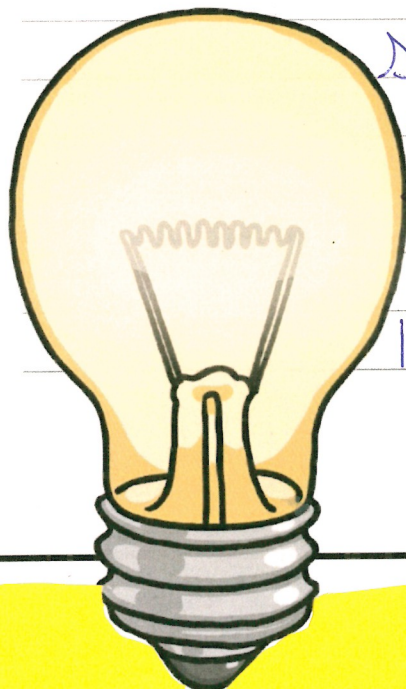
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and Mammy and Daddy were arguing about the Electric. Daddy wanted to keep the generator. We all call it the Jenny. Personally, I don't like Jenny in the winter, but as it's summer now, I'm going to miss walking in the cool night air. But I want to see the electric thing, and I got my wish! Mammy won the argument!

So we get electricity tomorrow!

30/5/1946

The ESB came at eight o'clock this morning. I had a day off school as the school was getting the electric today too. Mammy told us children to 'clear off!'



So Dorcha and I went down to the beach, while Dónal ran like a mad yolk with his friend Tom.

I had a lovely time on

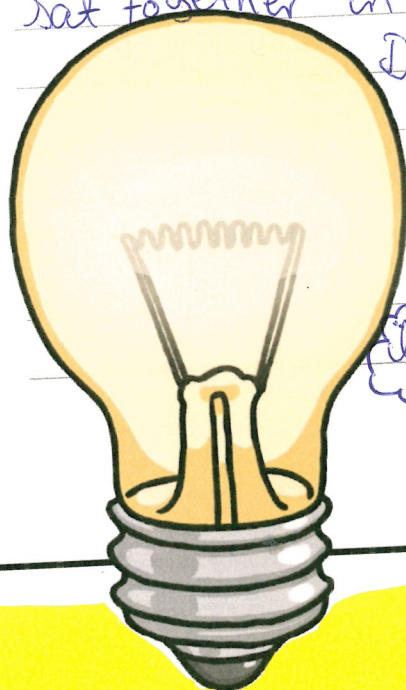
Amy ④

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the beach. I found lovely shells. I have a huge collection. And while I was looking for shells, I saw a little shine in the water, so I went to investigate. And you won't believe it... It was five pence!

Dorcha and I bought one bottle of ginger fizzy stuff, then we ran home. In front of the house I saw some strange poles, so I ran faster than ever. I went round the back of the house, through the open window (nobody noticed!) and into the sitting room. I picked up my book (Mary Poppins) and looked at the clock: ten to six. At six the lights would come on.

Five to six... Donal and Dorcha came in, and the lights were turned off.... we all sat together in silence and darkness, Mummy, Daddy, Dorcha, Donal and me.



Then.... flicker, flicker... BAM. The darkness was gone, my whole future (and house!) was illuminated. The charming glow of

LIGHT

Amy S

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