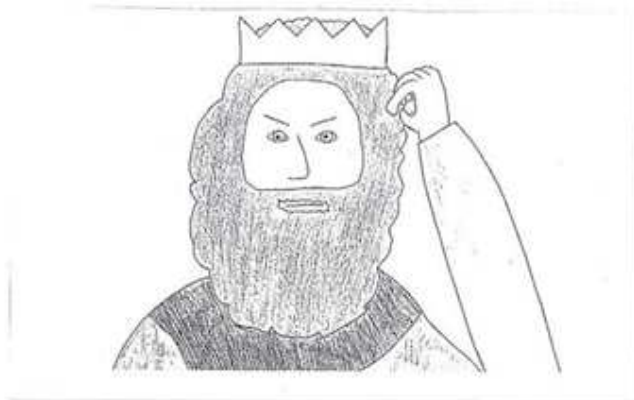


THE

ROYAL

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Long time ago, there was one King in Ireland called Labraidh.
He had got a lot of red hair.

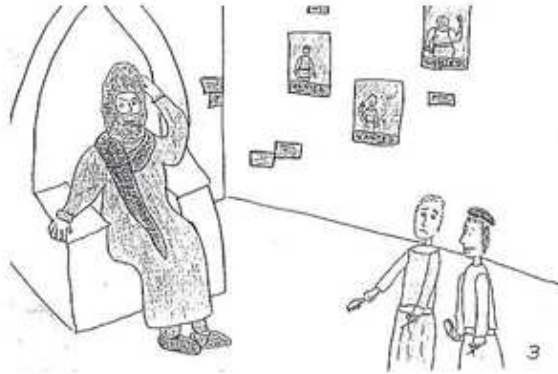
During the day, he couldn't keep his crown on his head.

At night, he couldn't sleep because it was very hot and he scratched it a lot.

He said, "I have fleas in my hair. Fleas are eating my head!"

(next page)





One morning, he decided to cut his hair. His adviser looked for barbers, but no one wanted to be the king's barber because all the barbers who cut King Labraidh's hair disappeared. At least, one accepted and went to cut the King's hair. His name was Brian.

(NEXT ½ PAGE)



Brian went to the castle. Brian began to cut Labraidh's hair and suddenly he saw the king's ears. -"Your ears are like the ears of a horse!", he said.





The King said to Brian:

-“This is a secret and you can’t say a word to anyone”.

Brian, who was very frightened, cried:

-“I promise, Your Majesty, I’ll never say a word to anyone!”





Brian became sad and tired, so his mother called the doctor.

-“Young man”, said the doctor, “you won’t get well if you don’t tell the secret”.

-“I promised the King to keep the secret. I can’t tell anyone”, said Brian.

-“Well, take the secret to the forest. Stand by the old willow tree and shout the secret. No one will hear you... only the trees.

(next page)





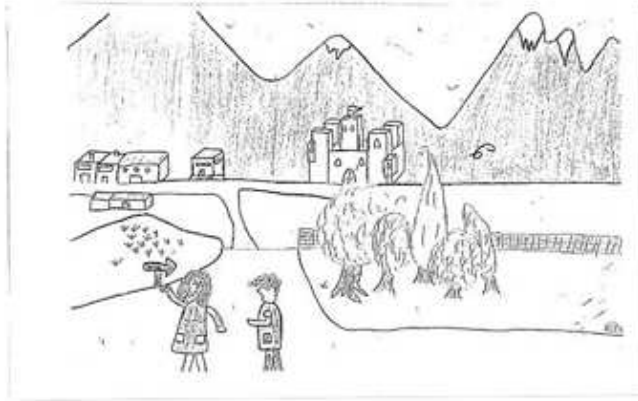
Brian went to the forest. He stood next to the willow tree but he could not say a word. At last he whispered, "Our king Labraidh has ears like a horse!".

Suddenly he felt well. Then he shouted, "He has ears like a horse! Great big horse's ears!"

Brian laughed loudly. He was a new person and went back home.

(next page)





Months later there was strong wind in the forest. The people listened to the wind.

-“Listen”, said one woman to her friend, “the wind is saying something”.

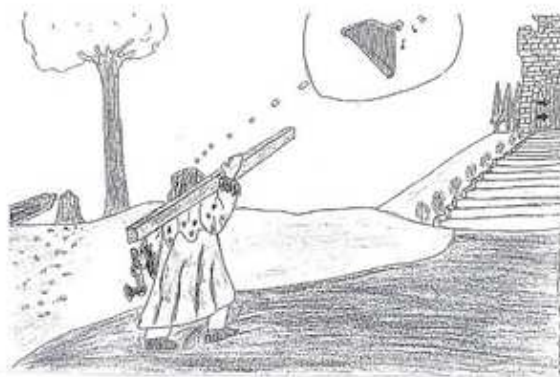
-“You’re right”, said her friend. “It’s saying: the King has horse’s ears”.

They laughed.

Everyone knew the secret, but no one told the King.

(next page)





King Labraidh liked music.

His favourite musician broke his harp. He knew there was going to be a banquet soon so he needed a new harp.

He went to the forest. He stopped in front of the willow tree.

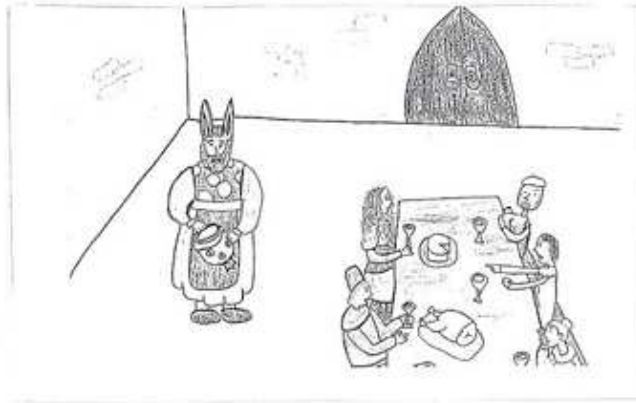
-“This is a perfect wood for my new harp”, he thought.

He built the harp and heard the music.

But there was something else in the music...

(next page)





On the day of the banquet the musician began playing it. Everyone listened to the sweet music of the new harp. It said: "The king has horse's ears, the king has horse's ears". The people were very surprised.

Suddenly they all started laughing and laughing, and they could not stop. Some people fell to the floor and could not stop laughing. King Labraidh was very angry because everyone was laughing at him and he did not know what to do.

He decided to laugh with his people and everyone was happy.

(next page)





After the day of the banquet king Labraidh called all his advisers to the great hall. He wanted to change some things in the country.

-“First, all the barbers who are in prison can go home”, said the King.

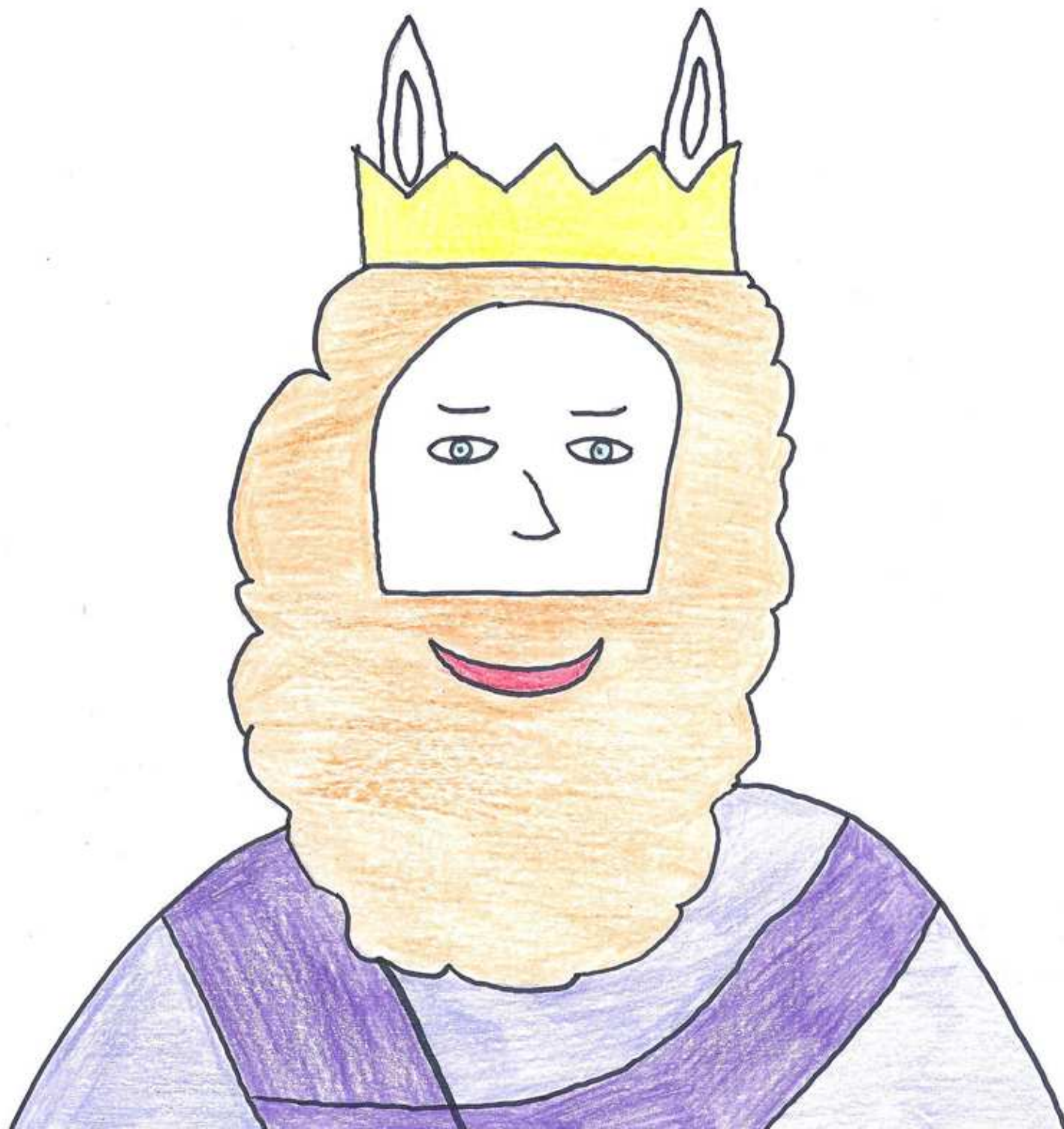
“Second, there will be no secrets; I want to be a good king”.

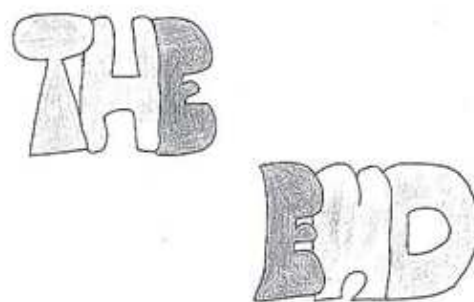
The king became a great king and his people loved him.

When the children saw the King’s ears, they shouted happily

-“We all have good luck because we saw the King’s ears”.

(next page)





THE
END

Illustrated and adaptated by 3ª E.S.O.
Coordinated by Begoña Ibáñez
I.E.S. Ribera del Arga - PÉRALTA - 2009/2010

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