

We Are Travellers



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Story by Joe Cottrell-Boyce

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We Are Travellers

Where do Irish Travellers come from?

Some people say Travellers were kings of Ireland.

Their land was taken from them.

They had to travel the roads.

But no one knows for sure.





There have been Travellers in Ireland for a long, long time.

Some Travellers also live in England.

Some Travellers live in America.



Travellers love to tell stories.

Travellers love to sing songs.

They love to play music.



English Gypsies are Romani people.

Romani people came from India.

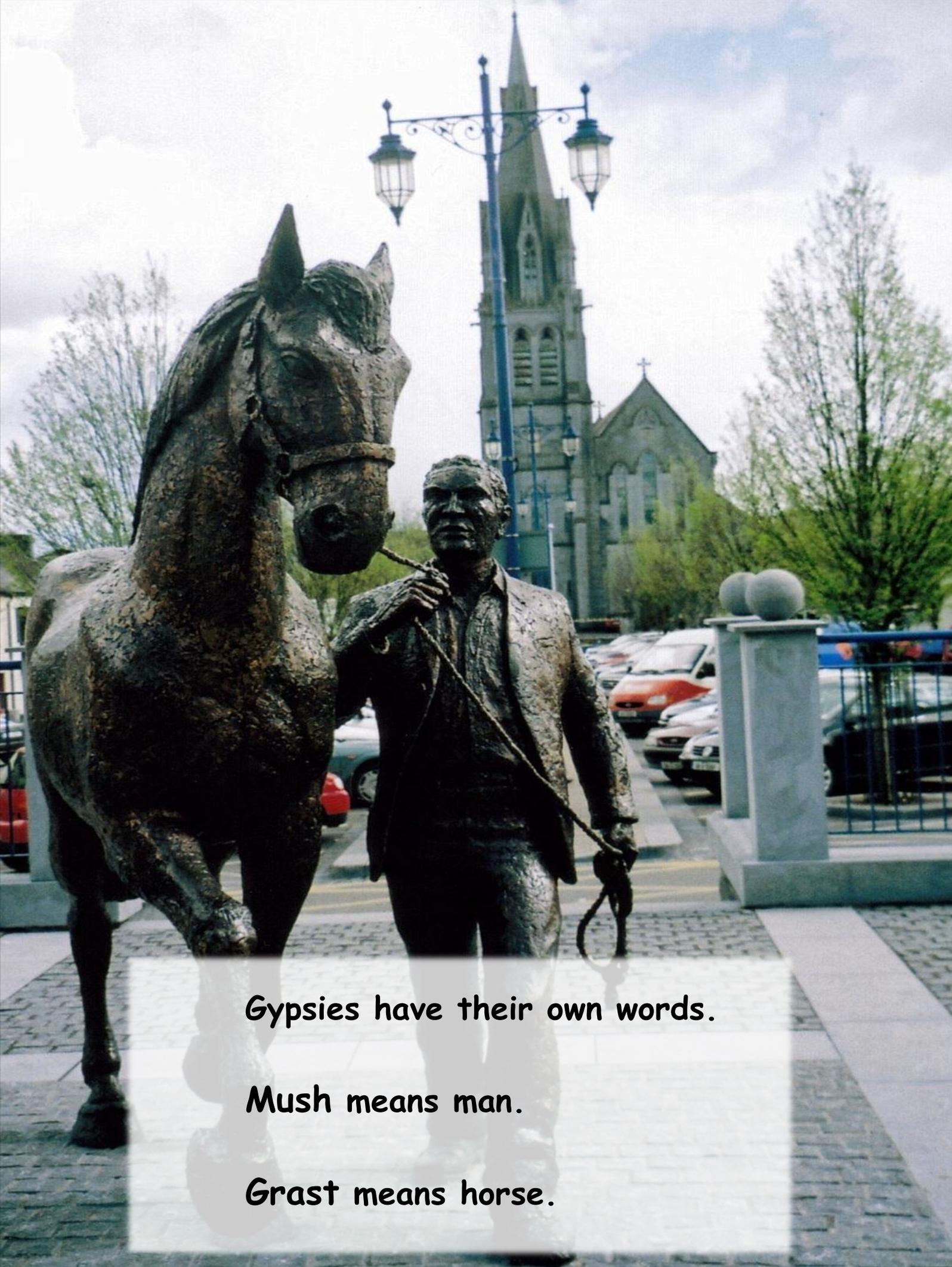
They left India one thousand years ago.



Romani people travelled across the world.

Romani people came to England.

People called them Gypsies.



Gypsies have their own words.

Mush means man.

Grast means horse.



In the past, Travellers stayed in tents.

Other Travellers used wagons pulled by horses.

Today, Travellers live in trailers.

More and more Travellers live in houses.



Family is the most important thing for Travellers.

Weddings and funerals are very important to Travellers.



Travellers go to fairs.

In England, the big fair is at Appleby.

In Ireland, the big fair is at Ballinasloe.

Travellers are skilled with their hands.

They can make things.

They can fix things.

They are hard workers.





In the past, Travellers helped farmers at harvest time.

But now farmers don't need help.

They have tractors.

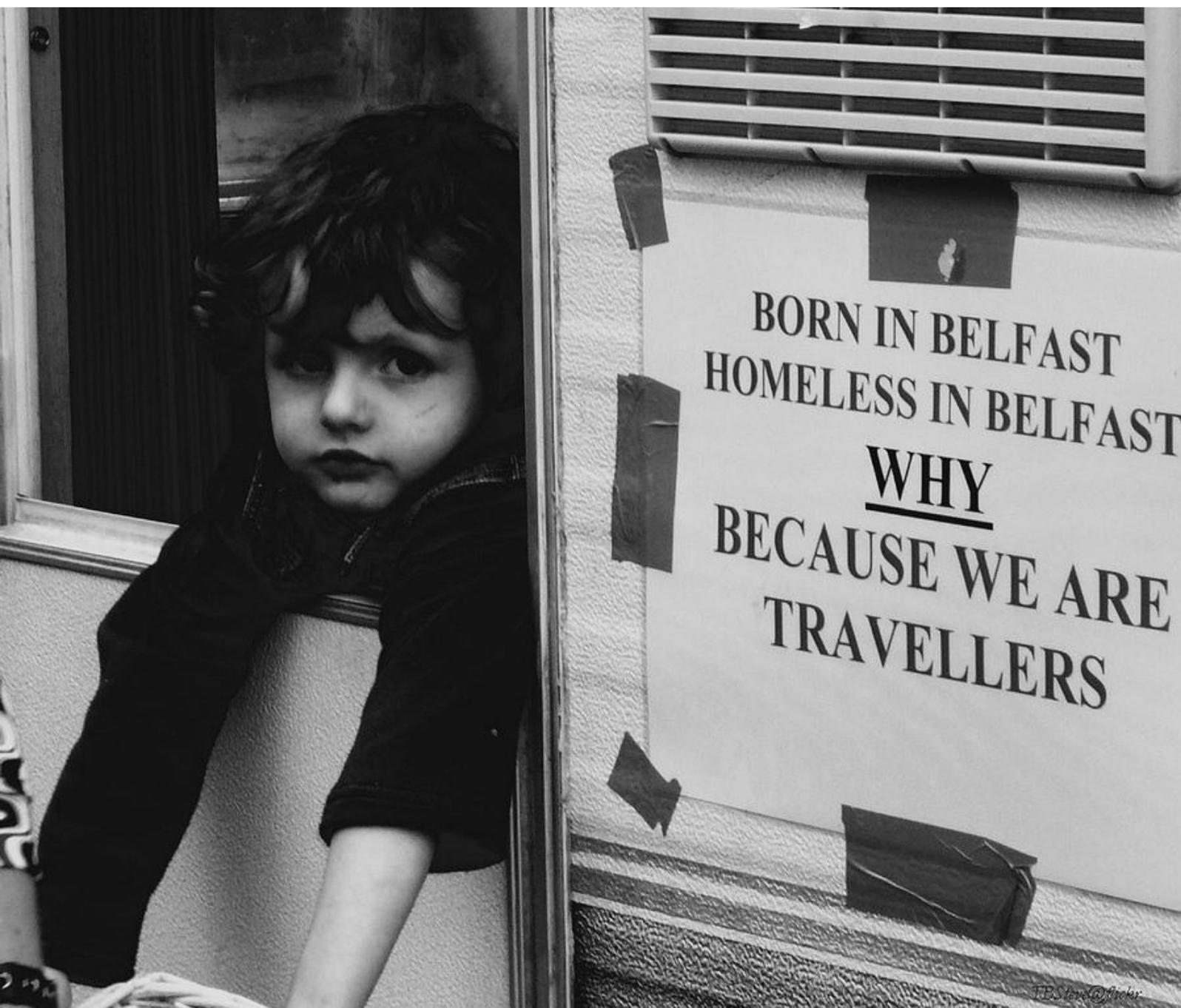


The world is different today.

Travellers are different too.

In the past, Traveller children did not go to school.

Now, more Traveller children go to school.



Things are still hard for Travellers.

Some people say bad things about Travellers.

Some people treat Travellers badly.

Some Travellers have nowhere to live.



But Travellers are a strong people.

They are proud of their ways.

They remember their history.

They have hope for the future.

This book is part of a series developed and produced by The Irish Chaplaincy in Britain. The series aims to produce interesting reading material for adult early readers from Gypsy and Traveller backgrounds.



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