

Shine Brighter Première

Snapfile 3, Divided Ireland, shared identity

Document 2, Vidéo p. 41 – Extrait de *The Irish Times*, 2018.

Simon Carswell: Hands up who lives in the Republic of Ireland.

Girl 1: I live like a mile away from the border.

Simon Carswell: So hands up if you live in Northern Ireland.

Girl 2: I don't know if I live in Northern Ireland.

Simon Carswell: So Amy, where do you live?

Amy: I live on the border.

Simon Carswell: You live right on the border?

Amy: Yes.

Simon Carswell: Can you show me on the map there?

Amy: So I live right about there. Just there, yeah. So one half of my house is in the Republic of Ireland and the other side is in Northern Ireland.

Simon Carswell: So which side do you sleep on?

Amy: I live in... sleep in Northern Ireland but my living room would be in the Republic of Ireland. I've a picture here that might help.

Simon Carswell: Where's Northern Ireland and where's the Republic?

Amy: So, the Northern would be here and the Republic would be here.

Simon Carswell: Your house is built now where this picture was taken, so show me the shape of your house?

Amy: So the living room and the kitchen would be here and then the rest of my house would be here.

Simon Carswell: So do you think there would have to be a customs man in your house now?

Amy: I hope not, there's no room.

Simon Carswell: What do you know about the Troubles?

Girl 3: One time my mum said there was bullets coming and they all had to hide under the tables.

Girl 1: My mummy, like she went to our school when she was younger, and she told me when she was there she had to go under the tables and she saw a bullet fly across and it went through two windows.

Girl 4: My dad and my aunty would have to lie on the ground and bullets would go over them and bombs would go over them. So I don't want that to happen to me, or if I have any children in the later years.

Amy: Well I think if the customs or the Guards rule and man the border, the Irish might protest against them. And then the customs will like call to the British army, and then it will destroy our peaceful country we've had for the past 20 years.

Girl 4: Loads of people have died and I don't want to die now.

"I sleep in Northern Ireland but my living room is in the Republic", *The Irish Times* (2018).

Document 5, Vidéo p. 43 – Extrait de Abby Oliveira Reads, 2022.

Abby Oliveira: Hi my name's Abby Oliveira. I'm a writer-performer based in Derry.

The poem I'm going to speak today is part of that collection. It's a poem called "Whole". It's about the carving up of the human sense of self, particularly in the vicinity of borders, namely the NI border in this case. And it's about the anxiety about what narratives would be useful or not to pass on to the coming generations. The poem was recently published in the New Frontier anthology *Reflections from the Irish Border* by New Island Books.*"Whole"

"I thought I'd have to saw myself in half to stand in two countries at once," says the wean, Jumpin' state ropes on the border back road.

"But I'm still whole."

Arms outstretched as if tied to a rack, she says

"Look we're holding hands: me, Donegal and Derry."

There's no "here" nor "there" for her yet.

No Euro, Sterling, foreigner, citizen, trouble, peace, president, queen, ally, enemy.

She is the flock of Brent geese breaking for Inch.

Should I have pointed out the invisible line?

Told her to imagine a fat sleeping snake only old people can see?

310 miles from forked tongue to rattling tail, Belly harrowing through concrete, water, grass, stone, hearts, brains, danger-houses, homes?

Should I pretend this snake no longer bites?

All borders draw blood.

The pen is the master of the sword.

One too-young day she will be old enough to see that walls are only necessary till
imaginings harden.

And by then she'll have sawn herself in halves, quarters, acres a thousand times
over.

And yet she will still be whole.

Abby Oliveira Reads "Whole", 2022.

Évaluation de la compréhension de l'oral – Guide pédagogique

Leou Jiun Chiau (foreign student): So, I recently came across a video on YouTube talking about Northern Ireland specifically but she was talking about it from a political and economics perspective. She talked about Brexit and the segregation between Northern Ireland and the South. So, one thing that I'm curious – and, you know, I didn't understand everything of it and I'm not really clear of what happened – but one thing I'm quite curious is like... So, this is my first day in Northern Ireland and I'm not sure like, what the people here feel like, do you guys feel like you're an Irish or you're British?

Deirbhile Larkin: I was born in the North part of the border as a, I would say, a cultural Republican and in that sense, I grew up in an Irish-speaking primary school, which had just been established the year before. I went, and then I went immediately to an all-girls Catholic grammar school, participated in all of the particular Irish traditional music scene. So all of my life, I would say, I grew up with being Irish. So then, coming up to Belfast and being completely immersed in an area that was very clearly and visually separate because even from coming from the motorway, to come up to Belfast, you reach the monument, just off of the Falls Road. Even within that area, you can see where British flags are or if there are Irish names on the actual street signs, as opposed to really using Irish flags. It's very clear as to where the definitions lie and you then by association could say: "Oh they're from this particular background because they are flying this flag."

Podcast: Identity and Culture, *Across Divides*, 2025.