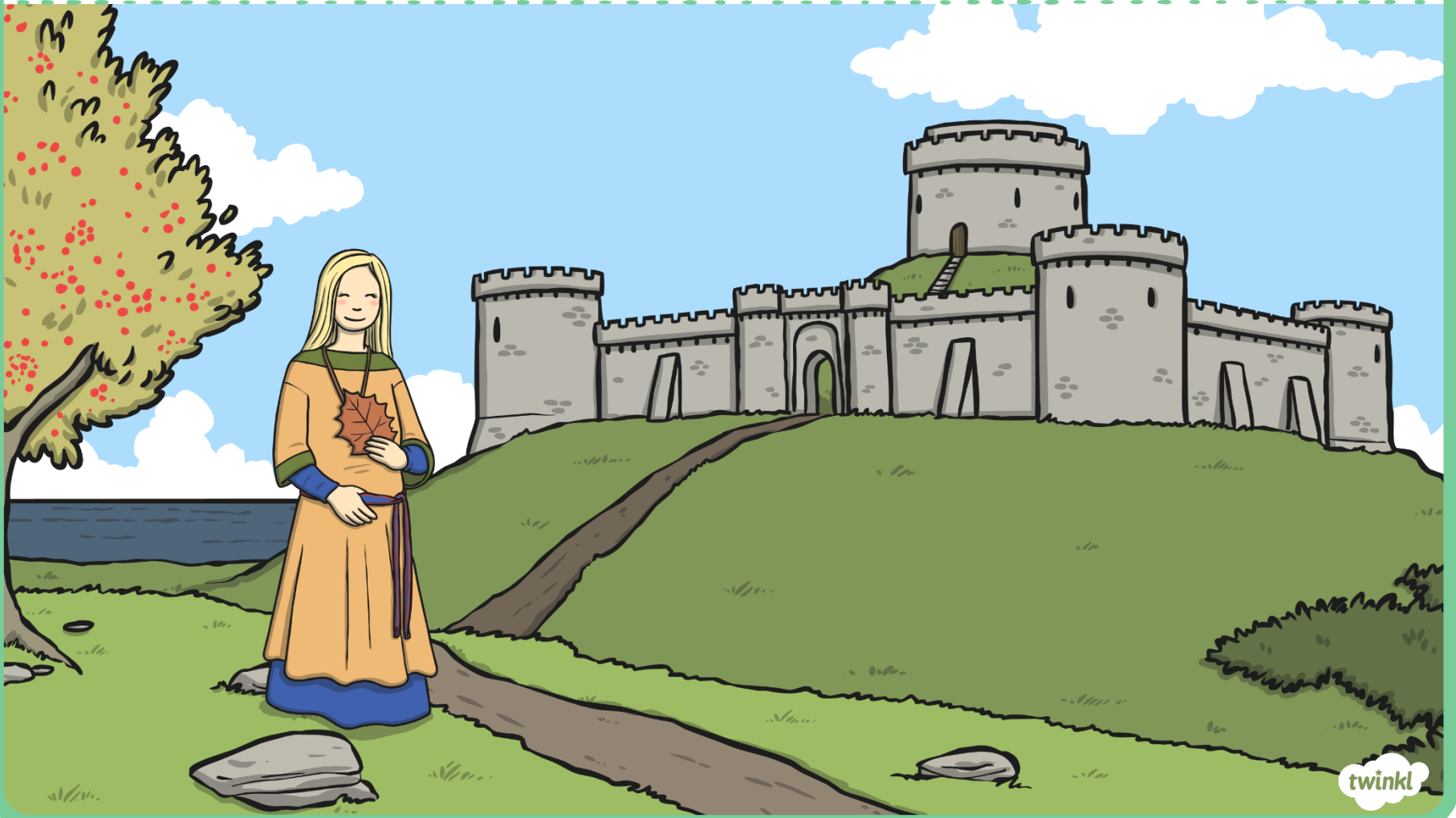
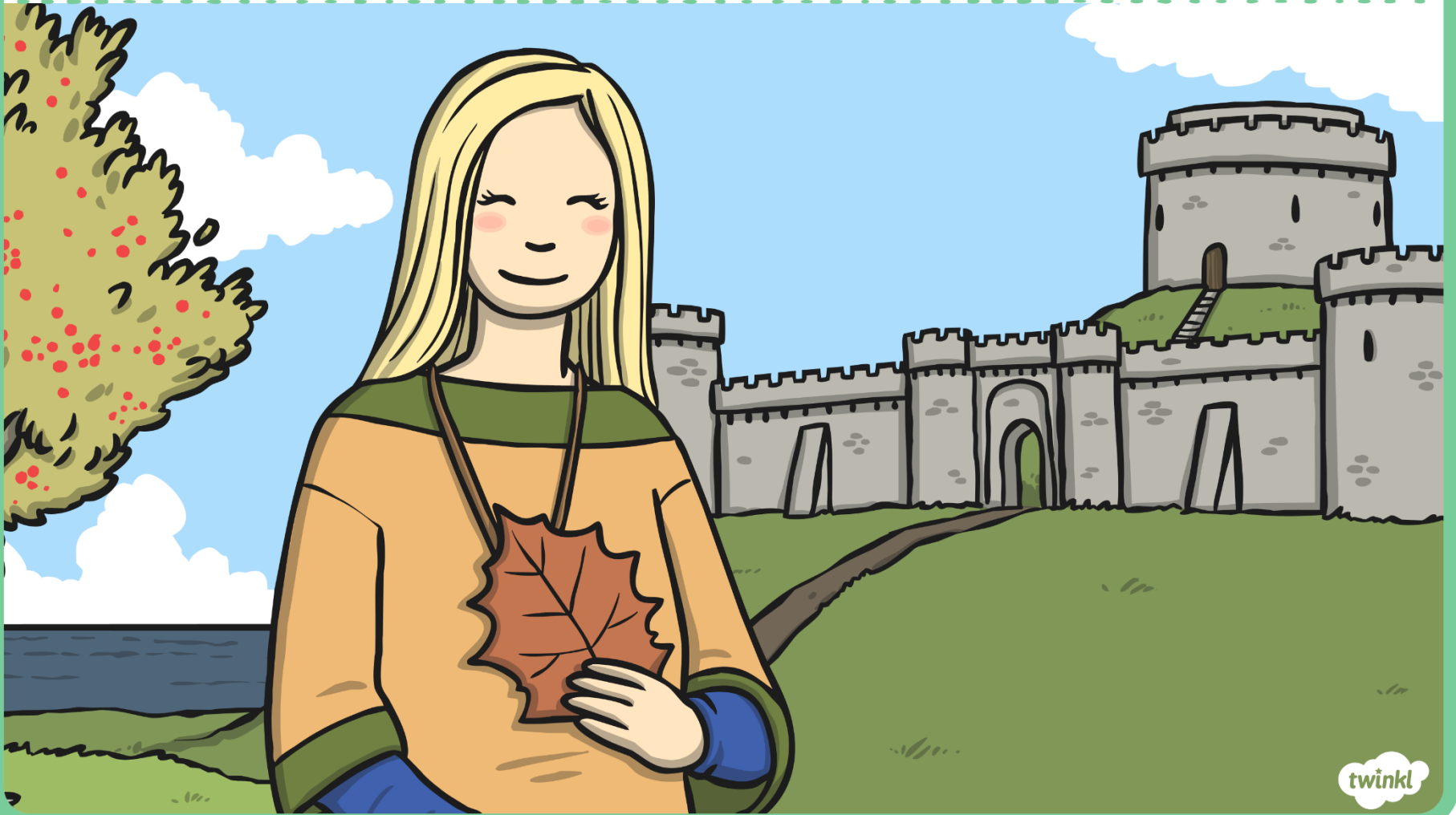


The Story of Saint Dwynwen

Back in the 5th century, there was a beautiful Princess called Dwynwen. She lived in a luxurious castle with her father, the King Brychan Brycheiniog.



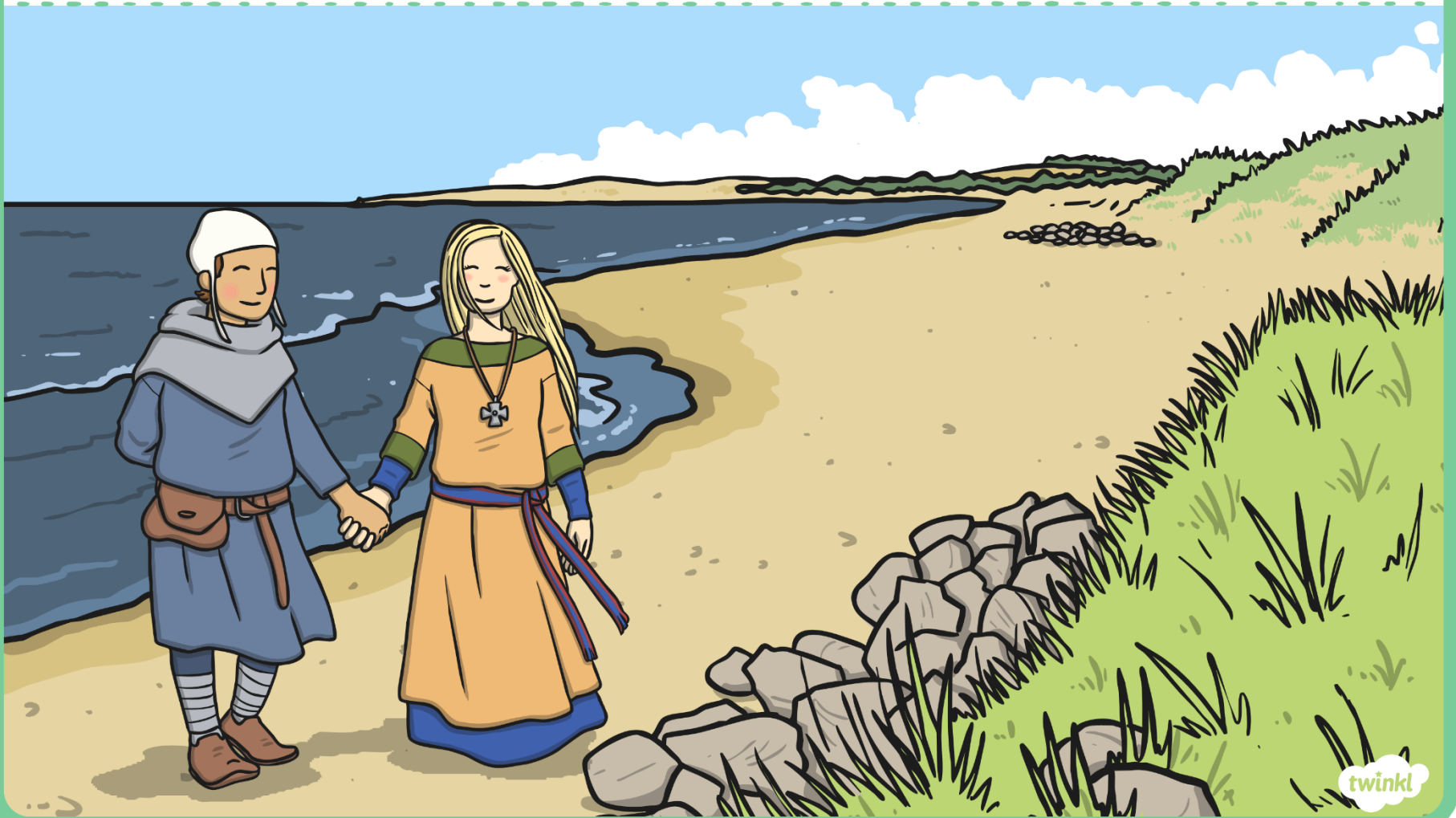
Dwynwen was the prettiest women throughout the whole of Wales. She looked forward to marrying some day and living happily.



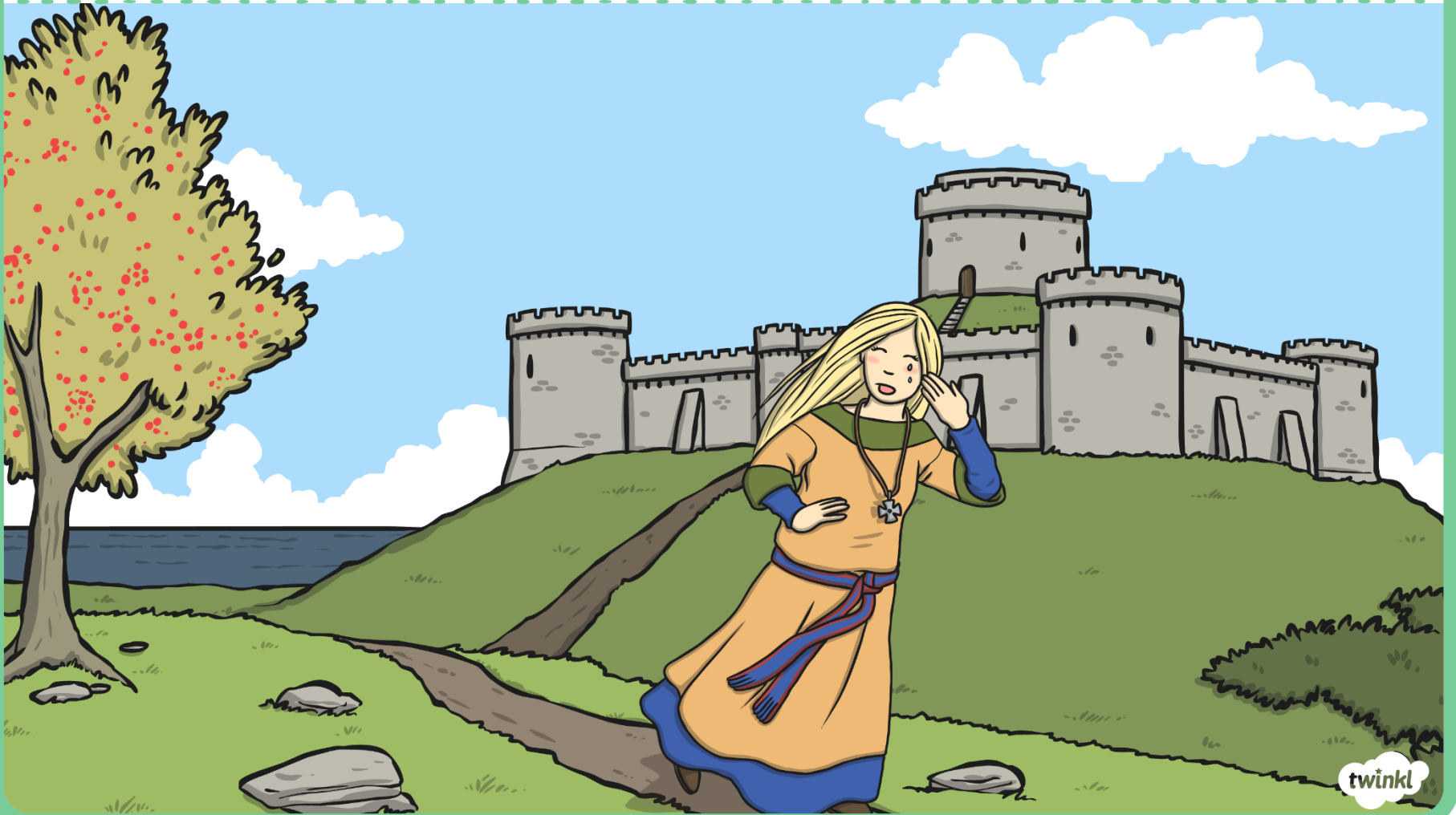
“I look forward to you marrying my Dwynwen, your Highness” agreed the King. He had arranged for Dwynwen to marry a fine Prince. Dwynwen was heart-broken when she found out because she didn’t want to marry the Prince.



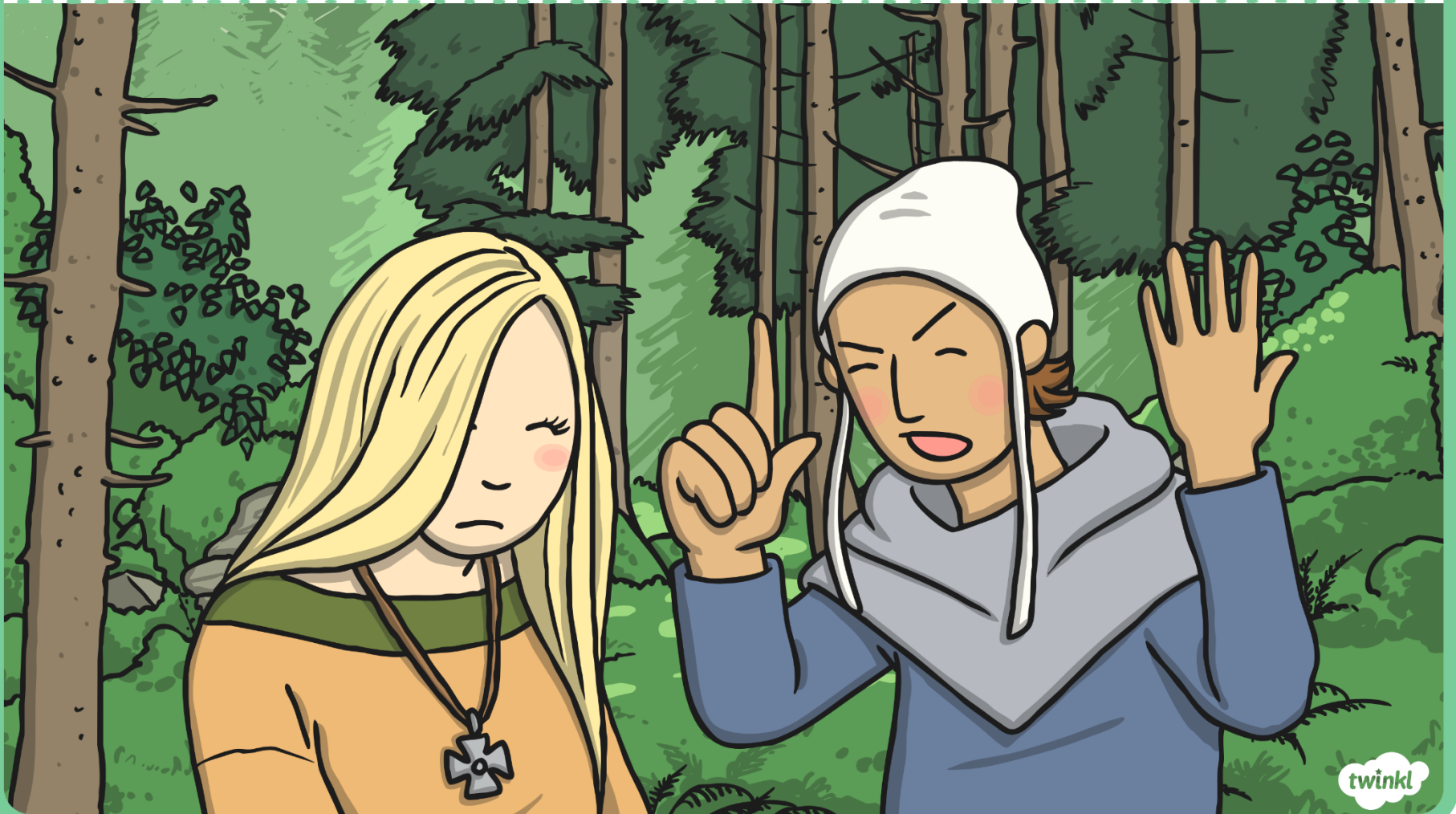
Dwynwen had previously fallen in love with a poor, young man called Maelon Dyfodrull. They were head over heels in love.



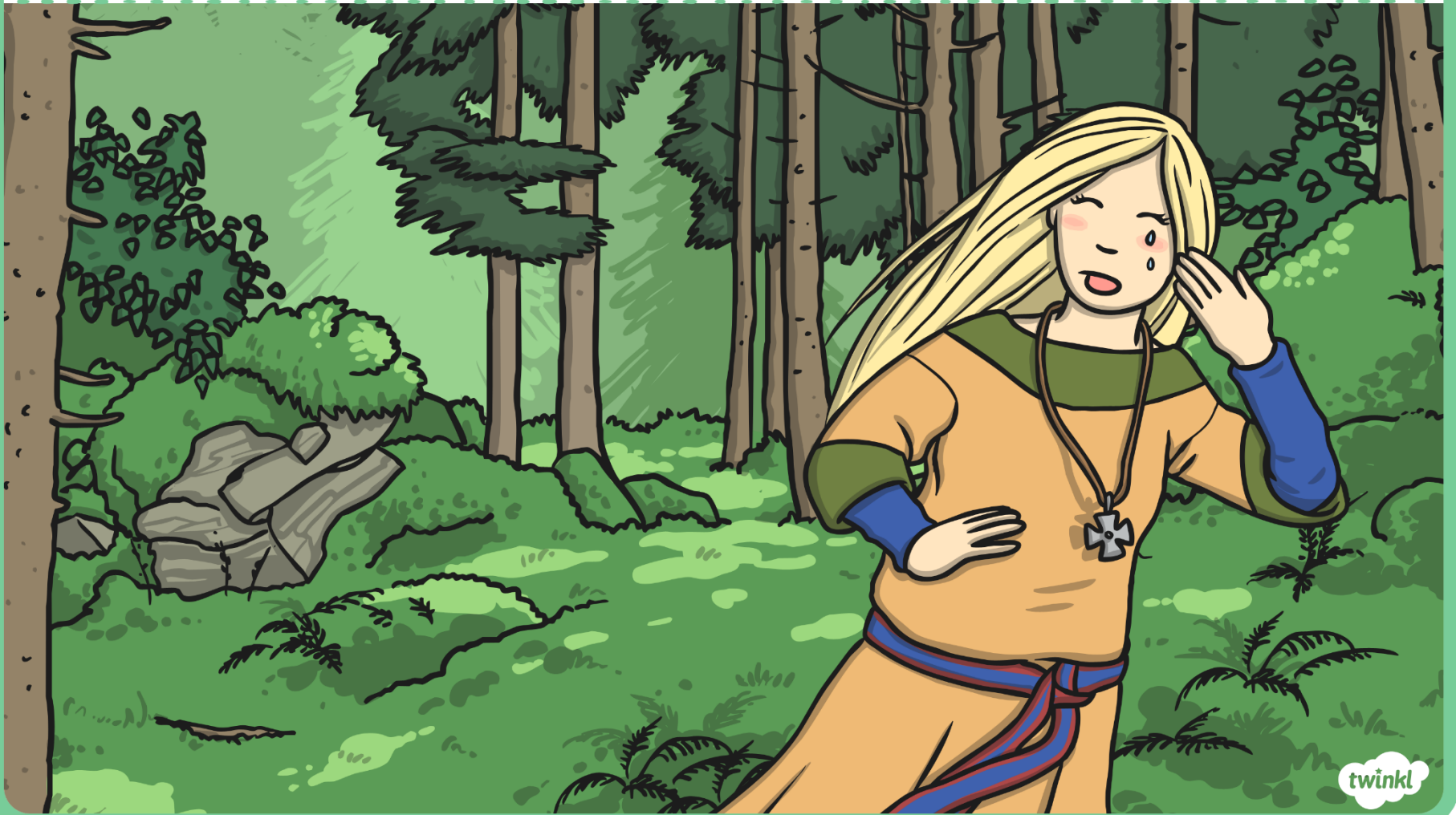
Her father insisted that she had to marry the Prince he had chosen. Dwynwen cried and cried, she did not want to marry him! She ran away from the castle to be with Maelon.



“I never want to see you again Dwynwen!” Maelon shouted full of rage as she would not defy her father and marry him.



Dwynwen was heart-broken and she ran to the forest. There, in the darkness of the forest, Dwynwen prayed to feel better. Dwynwen had never felt so unhappy before.



In the silence of the forest, Dwywnwen lay on the cold floor and fell into a deep sleep. In her sleep, she dreamt that a kind angel suddenly appeared from nowhere, holding a drink in each hand.



She gave Dwynwen a drink to wipe her memory of Maelon. Dwynwen thought it would make her feel better. To her surprise, the drink turned Maelon into a block of ice. This was his punishment for treating Dwynwen so badly.



“By drinking this drink, you can have three wishes Dwynwen, think carefully about them!” explained the angel.



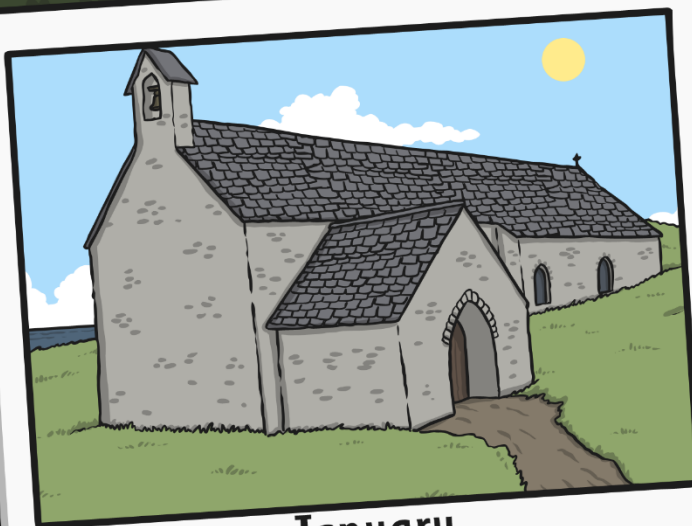
Her first choice was easy, she wished for Maelon to thaw from his block of ice. Then, she thought about how unlucky she had been in love and she wished happiness and love for all the people in Wales. Her last wish was that she would never fall in love or marry as she never wanted to feel so hurt again.



Dwynwen's three wishes came true and from that day onwards, she devoted her life to God as a nun. One day, whilst she was sailing around the coast of Wales she found land. This was Llanddwyn Island, she settled here and built a church. Many broken hearted people are said to have visited her here.



Since then, thousands of people have visited Llanddwyn Island every year on St. Dwynwen's Day, January 25th. They pray to her, asking her to care for hearts that have been broken, to heal the sick and weak, and to help people who need strength.



January

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