TALKING AVATAR · ACTIVITY 3

The Titanic
Passenger Portrait + Backstory

3rd – 4th Class	Tool: Talkr App + Procreate	Visual Arts / History	Irish Primary Curriculum

OBJECTIVE

Create a digital talking portrait of an imaginary Titanic passenger, bringing their story to life through art, narrative, and digital animation.

CONTEXT FOR TEACHERS

The Titanic set sail in April 1912 carrying passengers from very different backgrounds — wealthy first-class travellers, middle-class families, and third-class immigrants hoping for a new life in America. Students imagine one of these passengers and tell their story.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. **Creative Expression**
   Create a personalised Titanic character portrait reflecting understanding of the era's clothing, class, and context.
2. **Historical Understanding**
   Demonstrate knowledge of the Titanic's social structure, purpose, and historical significance.
3. **Digital Literacy**
   Use digital drawing and animation tools to design and animate a character.
4. **Communication Skills**
   Craft and share a backstory through a recorded voiceover, enhancing narrative and oral expression.
5. **Reflective Learning**
   Connect creative work to historical themes and reflect on the experiences of Titanic passengers.

THE 5-STEP ACTIVITY WORKFLOW

01 **Imagine Your Passenger**
Decide who your character is: first, second, or third-class passenger. Name, age, reason for travelling, hopes for the journey. Distribute boarding pass prompt cards.

02 **Design the Portrait**
Use Procreate or Brushes to create a digital portrait. Add clothing that matches their class: fancy hat for first class; simple coat and scarf for third class.

03 **Write the Script**
"Hello, my name is... / I am travelling on the Titanic because... / I feel..." Example: "I'm Mary O'Reilly. Travelling in third class with my children, hoping to join my husband in New York."

04 **Set Up & Animate**
Import your portrait into the Talkr app. Set up animation and record the script in your best Titanic-era voice.

05

Showcase & Reflect

Option A: Whole-class presentations — 1 minute each. Option B: Group rotations. Create a class Passenger List display with all portraits.

KEY QUESTIONS

HIGHER-ORDER THINKING

→ How might life differ for first vs third class passengers?

→ Why was the Titanic called 'unsinkable'? How did that make passengers feel?

→ If your character survived, how would they share their story?

→ Why is it important to tell the stories of people on the Titanic?

LOWER-ORDER THINKING

→ What year did the Titanic set sail?

→ What kinds of people were travelling on board?

→ What is the difference between first and third class?

→ What might people have packed for the journey?

DIFFERENTIATION

Struggling

Simple template

"My name is John. I am a second-class passenger travelling to visit my cousin." Basic portrait — hat and jacket.

Confident

Elaborate backstory

"I am Eleanor, a first-class passenger studying music. The Titanic feels like a palace." Detailed portrait with accessories.

Advanced

Dramatic storytelling

"I was on deck when the iceberg hit. I grabbed my brother's hand and ran for the lifeboats." Add a Titanic ticket prop.