**Eileen O Leary**

**And the *Titanic***

**Contents**

Replica copy of ‘The Boston Daily Globe’ newspaper April 16th 1912 (includes evening edition)

Wooden model of the *Titanic*

The Suitcase

Leather suitcase (this was given by the people who live in Eileen’s old home!)

White lace blouse

Navy blue skirt

White lace petticoat

Pair of white silk stockings

Embroidered handkerchief

Pair of crocheted gloves

Powder compact

Boot hook *(for doing up the tiny buttons on women’s boots and leather gloves)*

Black bead necklace

Silver bracelet

Fountain pen in leather pouch

Neil McNamee’ pocket watch

Book ‘The Vicar of Wakefield’

Third Class Ticket for the *Titanic*

Leather purse containing 1shilling and 11pence

Ideas

The suitcase could be used as a ‘mystery suitcase’ to introduce the topic, if it is used at the beginning or early on in the topic when children don’t know too much!.

Pretend the suitcase has been presented to Salisbury Museum. The children are all trainee curators and their job is to find out as much as they can about the contents of the suitcase and to use them as clues to the identity of the owner.

Children could take it in turns to retrieve articles from the case and work out what they are, what sort of person would have owned them, how they were made, whether they were valuable or not *(remind them that ‘value’ is not just about money, but sentiment, usefulness etc.).*

*The Question prompt sheets might prove useful here.*

Now put the contents altogether.

Did the case belong to a man or a woman? What is your evidence?

Where was the person going? How do you know? *(Look on the ticket)*

Do you think the person was very rich, very poor or in the middle? What makes you think that? *(There is jewellery, but also a third class ticket in the case.)*

What time does the pocket watch say? Why do you think the watch stopped at that time? *(Titanic sunk at 2.20am)*

Is there an evidence to say this could be Eileen’s suitcase? *(Inscription in book)*

The contents of the suitcase could also be used as a prompt for creative writing and as objects for observational drawing. Children could then use them to make a Class Museum, writing labels for all the objects.

There is a lot of information about the tragedy in the Newspapers.

Invite children to read the main article on the front page. What time did the ship sink?

What was the name of the ship that picked up the survivors? When is the *Carpathia* expected toreach New York? How many survivors have been saved?

Now look at the front page of the evening edition (page 7 of this facsimile) How many survivors are accounted for now? How many lives have been lost? Why might there be this difference in reporting?

Do children know of any other ships that have been lost at sea? *(Mary Rose?)*

The model is not an exact, to-scale model but would provide a centrepiece for a class display about the *Titanic* and Eileen O’Leary.