

Background information on Margaret for the teacher

These lessons are based on the true story of a young Irish woman called Margaret Devaney. The Sligo woman was on her way to New York on board the Titanic with friends Mary and Kate to make a better life for herself. *[Teachers may decide to change the character's names where appropriate.]*

The lifeboat Margaret found herself on that fateful night had become entangled in the Titanic's rivets as it was being lowered. It was in danger of going down with the ship. A crew member desperately asked if any passenger on the lifeboat had something sharp to cut the ropes. Margaret produced a penknife that was used to cut the ropes and allow the lifeboat to get away. The penknife had been a parting gift from her 12 year old brother. When Margaret was on board the Carpathia (the ship that picked up the survivors) the man who had been in charge of the lifeboat approached Margaret. He gave her an iron emblem flag that he had removed from a lifeboat. He told her that she was responsible for the lifeboat escaping the Titanic by having the knife. As a token of his appreciation, he presented her with the white star line emblem.