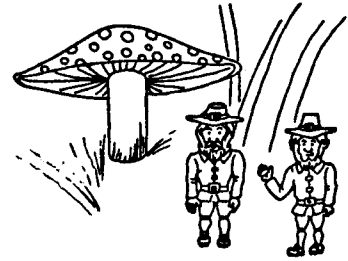


LEPRECHAUNS

1. The Irish people tell stories about tiny people no bigger than your little finger. These little people are called *leprechauns*.



2. Leprechauns are very smart. They are full of tricks. They live in the woods, where they gather gold and bury it. It is very hard to see leprechauns because they run and hide when humans are around.

3. The Irish say that if you can catch a leprechaun, you can make him tell you where his gold is buried. Then you will be richer than all the kings on the earth. But watch out for tricks!

4. Jack was a boy who wanted to be rich. He was sure he could catch a leprechaun and find out where his gold was. Jack waited and watched, and watched and waited ever so quietly in the woods. Day after day, he watched and waited.

5. At last, one day he saw a tiny man with long white hair and a long white beard. He swooped his hand over the leprechaun and zap! The leprechaun was caught!



6. "Let me go, human!" shouted the leprechaun in a tiny voice. Jack held him safely inside his two hands. The leprechaun struggled and kicked furiously.

7. "First, tell me where your gold is buried," said Jack.

8. "Yes, yes. I will tell you," said the little man. "It is buried under a tree. Just walk where I tell you and I will show you."



9. So Jack walked deep into the woods with the leprechaun. They came to a place where the trees were very close together. The leprechaun pointed to a tree and said, "Here. My gold is buried under this tree."

LEPRECHAUNS (continued)

10. Now Jack knew that this was true, because leprechauns never tell lies. But it was a very plain tree. It looked the same as all the other trees around it.

11. "I will have to go home to get a shovel," said Jack, "but I don't want to forget which tree the gold is under."

12. He had a yellow scarf around his neck. He took the scarf off and tied it around the tree.

13. "You must promise me that you won't take my yellow scarf off this tree," Jack said to the leprechaun.

14. "I promise," said the leprechaun. "Now let me go."



15. Leprechauns are tricky, but Jack knew that they always keep their promises. So he knelt down to the ground. He opened his hand and let the little fellow go. The leprechaun ran off into the woods and was quickly out of sight.



16. Jack ran as fast as he could to get a shovel. He was very excited and happy.

17. He found a shovel and ran back with it into the woods. Soon he would be richer than any king on earth, he thought.

18. But when he got to the deep part of the woods where the trees were close together, what do you think he saw? Every tree had a yellow scarf tied around it, exactly like his own scarf. Hundreds and hundreds of trees. Thousands of trees. As far as he could see, every tree had a yellow scarf tied around it.

19. Jack's mouth hung open. Tears came to his eyes. Which tree was the gold buried under? There was no way that he could dig under all of those trees. So Jack very sadly went home. He was one more person who had been tricked by a leprechaun.



LEPRECHAUNS: EXERCISES

I. Do you know these words? Find these words in the story. Draw a line under them. Copy the words. Write the meanings.

Irish	wait	true
tiny	quiet/quietly	tell/told lies
leprechaun	day after day	plain
tricks	at last	look/looked the same
woods	beard	shovel
gold	swoop	forget/forgot
bury/buried	zap!	scarf
hide/hid	shout/shouted	tie/tied
human	safe/safely	tricky
catch/caught	struggle	keep/kept a promise
rich/richer	kick/kicked	kneel/knelt
king	furious/furiously	excited
earth	deep	close together
watch out	point/pointed	exactly like
find out/found out	hang/hung	

II. YES or NO?

1. Leprechauns are bigger than humans. _____
2. Leprechauns have a lot of gold. _____
3. It is easy to catch a leprechaun. _____
4. Leprechauns always tell lies. _____
5. Leprechauns always keep their promises. _____
6. Leprechauns are very tricky. _____

III. What happened first? Write number 1 next to the sentence. What happened next? Write number 2, then 3, 4, 5, and 6.

- _____ 1. Jack ran to get a shovel.
- _____ 2. Jack very sadly went home.
- _____ 3. The leprechaun showed Jack where the gold was buried.
- _____ 4. Jack tied a yellow scarf around the tree.
- _____ 5. Jack caught a leprechaun.
- _____ 6. Every tree had a yellow scarf tied around it.