

SAMPLE PAGES: You Can't Trust a Leprechaun!

Teacher Version

Based on an old Irish folktale
Created and Formatted for Readers Theater
By Lois Walker

FORMATTED FOR 11 READERS:

10 Solo Readers, 1 Leprechaun, and an All Chorus of as many readers as desired. Note: Reader 11/Leprechaun has the most difficult lines to read. This part might be read by the teacher, a student teacher, or another older reader, if needed.

Depending on the size of your class, you can add more solo readers than the original 11 by assigning additional reader numbers to the unassigned solo lines. (After the first 11 speak once, no reader numbers appear on the script. This is done so you may either continue using the same 11 readers OR create additional parts. Simply pencil in numbers and continue).

WHAT IS A LEPRECHAUN?

A leprechaun is a short sly Irish elf who is said to live in the forest guarding his pot of gold. It is also said that at the end of every rainbow lies a leprechaun and his treasure. Leprechauns are tricky little fellows. Here is a short story about how one man learned "You Can't Trust a Leprechaun!"

There once was a man who came across a leprechaun and convinced the little creature to take him to the very bush in which his treasure was kept. This bush however, was in a very large field, which was covered by many other bushes. The man (who thought he was so clever) tied a red handkerchief to the bush so that when he came back to the bush with his shovel, he could easily find it and dig up the treasure at once. The man and the leprechaun parted, and after only three minutes, the man came back with his shovel. To his surprise, he found that the tricky leprechaun had tied a red handkerchief to every bush in the field!

STAGING SUGGESTIONS

Since the troll in this piece never appears or speaks, it might be fun to have a troll character mime the actions as they are described by the solo readers. The leprechaun, then, might direct his/her lines directly to the silent troll character, while the troll mimes reactions to what is being said. Small costume pieces would add color and help define the two characters. The leprechaun and troll might also wear signs that say LEPRECHAUN and TROLL. Solo readers might dress in green and/or wear St. Patrick's Day hats. If you feel in need of a set, create a large long rainbow so the troll can stomp back and forth during the mime. You might even place the leprechaun character on the set and move him from rainbow's end to end as the piece progresses. The script stands alone and does not require any of the above suggestions. They might be fun, though!

ESTABLISHING THE RHYTHM

To find the proper rhythm for the ALL CHORUS, first read-aloud and clap through the sections as you go. Each ***underlined word or word part*** falls directly on a beat. As you read, clap on each underlined word, keeping the rhythm steady. Be careful not to read too fast! This is a rehearsal technique and readers will not clap throughout these sections during performance.

READER 1: It was the tip top of an Irish morning.

READER 2 On that morning, a grumpy old troll set off to seek
his fortune.

READER 3: He was looking for a pot of gold...

ALL: at the end of the rainbow!

READER 4: He stomped his feet and headed into the hills.

READER 5: And as he stomped, he called out:

ALL CHORUS: I'm told there's gold,
Gold, my friend,
Resting in a pot
At the rainbow's end.
At the end,
Wherever it may be,
I won't share!
Just wait and see.

READER 7: Who told the troll about the pot of gold?

ALL: **We know! It was a leprechaun.**

READER 8: Oh, oh! Everybody knows...

ALL: **You can't trust a leprechaun!**

READER 9: But the troll didn't know that.

READER 10: So he stomped his way to the end of the rainbow.

READER And when he arrived, who do you think he saw there?

ALL: **We know! It was the leprechaun.**

11/

LEPRECHAUN: Hello there Troll. I see you did what I told you to do. That's good, but you have made *one* mistake. You have come to the beginning of the rainbow. The end of the rainbow isn't here. It's way over there!

(Leprechaun points to opposite end of the rainbow).

READER The troll was not a happy camper.

READER He stomped his feet and started off again.

READER And as he stomped, he called out:

ALL CHORUS: I'm told there's gold,
Gold, my friend,
Resting in a pot
At the rainbow's end.
Beginning, end,
Whereever it may be,
I won't share!
Just wait and see.

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