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# **You Can't Trust A Leprechaun!**

By Lois Walker

A Readers Theater Script for  
Intermediate Readers  
Teacher Version

## **You Can't Trust a Leprechaun!**

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

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### **FLEXIBLE READER PARTS:**

This script is divided into four section parts, each section needing 6 SOLO SPEAKERS for a total of 24 readers. All participating readers will take part in the ALL CHORUS and ALL lines, so no individual reader will sit idly by and become bored after his/her solo lines have finished. The 7<sup>th</sup> reader in each section is the leprechaun. Throughout the piece, the same reader will read the leprechaun lines.

If you wish to involve fewer than 24 SOLO READERS, simply divide the lines between as many readers as you wish: 6, 12, or 18. You might also have just 6 readers read the entire piece.

The script below is formatted for 6 SOLO READERS only (*Part One*). The remaining reader numbers for *Part Two*, *Part Three*, and *Part Four*, have been left open so you can easily pencil in the same 6 readers or add as many other reader parts as you wish. NOTE: If you are adding more readers, use the reader formatting in Part One as your guide.

**NOTE:** In this script, the readers lines are in poetry and the leprechaun's lines are in prose.

### **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.

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## 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!

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### Part One

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SOLO READER 1: 'Twas a tip-top Irish mornin'...

SOLO READER 2: When an old grumpy troll,  
Stomped off looking  
For a pot of gold.

SOLO READER 3: And as he stomped  
He shouted a verse.

SOLO READER 4: It was part Irish blessing  
And part Irish curse:

ALL CHORUS: I'm told there's gold,  
Gold, my friend,  
Resting in a pot  
At the rainbow's end.  
May the road rise to meet me  
So I won't turn wrong,  
And bad luck follow  
Who follows along!  
I'll find that gold,  
Wherever it may be,  
But I won't share!  
Just wait and see.

SOLO READER 5: Who told that troll  
Which way to go?

ALL: It was a leprechaun!

SOLO READER 6: He quickly appeared  
And then he was gone!

SOLO READERS

1,2,3,4,5,6: Bad choice he chose,  
'Cause everyone knows

ALL: You can't trust a Leprechaun!

SOLO READERS 1,2: But the grumpy old troll  
Didn't comprehend

SOLO READERS 3,4: So he stomped his way  
To the rainbow's end.

SOLO READERS 5,6: And when he arrived,  
Who should he see?

ALL: The leprechaun  
Sitting under a tree!

LEPRECHAUN: Hello Troll! I see you did what I told you to do.  
That's great, 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).*

ALL: Oh no!

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## Part Two

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SOLO READER Well, the troll was not  
A happy camper.

SOLO READER            He had to get going,  
                                 He had to scamper.

SOLO READER            And as he scampered,  
                                 He shouted a verse.

SOLO READER            It was part Irish blessing  
                                 And part Irish curse:

ALL CHORUS:            I'm told there's gold,  
                                 Gold, my friend,  
                                 Resting in a pot  
                                 At the rainbow's end.  
                                 May the road rise to meet me  
                                 So I won't turn wrong,  
                                 And bad luck follow  
                                 Who follows along!  
                                 I'll find that gold,  
                                 Whereever it may be,  
                                 But I won't share!  
                                 Just wait and see.

SOLO READER            Who told that troll  
                                 Which way to go?

ALL:                        It was a leprechaun!

SOLO READER               Who was under the tree,  
And then was gone!

SOLO READERS            Bad choice he chose,  
'Cause everyone knows...

ALL:                        You can't trust a Leprechaun!

SOLO READERS            But the grumpy old troll  
Didn't comprehend

SOLO READERS            So he stomped his way  
To the opposite end.

SOLO READER            And when he arrived,  
He had a shock:

ALL:                        There was the leprechaun  
Sitting on a rock!

LEPRECHAUN:            Hello Troll! You are *very* good at following  
directions. But I'm sad to say you have made  
*another* mistake. This isn't where the gold is  
kept. Look at your hands. You have a right  
hand and you have a left hand. The rainbow  
has a right end and a left end. You've arrived

at the left end, but it's not the right end. The  
right end is way over there.

*(Leprechaun points to opposite end of the  
rainbow).*

ALL: Oh no!

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**Part Three**

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SOLO READER      Troll bared his teeth  
And growled out loud.

SOLO READER      "I'll find that pot  
Of gold," he vowed!

SOLO READER      Stomped off again,  
And shouted a verse.

SOLO READER      It was part Irish blessing  
And part Irish curse:

ALL CHORUS:      I'm told there's gold,  
Gold, my friend,  
Resting in a pot  
At the rainbow's end.  
May the road rise to meet me  
So I won't turn wrong.



And bad luck follow  
Who follows along!  
I'll find that gold,  
Whereever it may be,  
But I won't share!  
Just wait and see.

SOLO READER            Who told that troll  
Which way to go?

ALL:                      It was a leprechaun!

SOLO READER            Who was on that rock,  
And then was gone!

SOLO READERS:        Bad choice he chose,  
'Cause everyone knows

ALL:                      You can't trust a Leprechaun!

SOLO READERS        But the grumpy old troll  
Didn't comprehend

SOLO READERS        So he started his search  
All over again.

SOLO READERS        And when he arrived,  
Well, what do you think?

ALL:                      The leprechaun waved  
                              And gave him a wink!

LEPRECHAUN:           Hello there Troll. I'm so happy to see you again. I forgot to tell you something important! Think of your home. You live in a cave with a front door and a back door. Well, the rainbow has a front side and a back side too. You've arrived at the back side, but it's not the right side. The pot of gold sits at the front side. That side is way over there.

*(Leprechaun points to opposite end of the rainbow).*

ALL:                      Oh no!

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**Part Four**  
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SOLO READER           Troll stomped his foot  
                              And kicked a log.

SOLO READER           Fell on all fours  
                              Like an old hound dog.