

Exploring Leprechaun Folklore with Creative Writing

In this lesson, students will learn about the folklore behind leprechauns, their connection to Irish culture, and how traditions have shaped modern celebrations of St. Patrick's Day.

Grades: 3-5		Subject(s): SS & ELA
Focus Standard(s)	<p>D2.Civ.2.3-5: Explain how cultural beliefs and traditions influence communities and societies.</p> <p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3-5.1: Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text.</p> <p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3-5.3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences using effective techniques, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.</p> <p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.3-5.1: Engage effectively in collaborative discussions.</p>	
Learning Objective(s)	Students will be able to discuss how folklore influences modern-day celebrations, such as St. Patrick's Day, and create their own folktale inspired by leprechauns.	
Materials/Resources	The Folklore of Leprechauns	
Vocabulary	<p>folklore: stories shared by a community or culture</p> <p>superstition: belief in supernatural events</p> <p>hollow: empty</p> <p>supernatural: magical; strange; not understood by science</p>	
Anticipatory Set	<p>Turn-and-Talk Activity</p> <p>Ask students the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you know about leprechauns? • Have you ever celebrated St. Patrick's Day? What traditions do you follow? • What does it mean when someone says, "knock on wood" for good luck? 	
Guided Practice	<p>Have students read <i>The Folklore of Leprechauns</i> individually, in pairs, or as a class. Before and during reading, ask them to consider the following questions. Afterward, discuss their responses as a whole group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where do leprechaun stories come from? • What were leprechauns believed to do in Irish folklore? • How do leprechaun traditions connect to modern celebrations? 	
Independent Practice	<p>After reading the article, students will write and illustrate their own short folktale featuring a leprechaun. Students can use the attached graphic organizer or the following questions to assist them with their folktale.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where does their leprechaun live? • What kind of mischief does the leprechaun get into? • How does the story end? 	
Closure/Assessment	If time allows, invite students to share their stories with a partner or the class. Assess their understanding through discussions and the writing prompt.	
Differentiation	Adjust lexile® levels as needed; answer questions as a whole group; use accessibility features or read-to-me feature as needed; print copies of article	

Name: _____

Leprechaun Folktale Graphic Organizer

Main Character:

- Name: _____
- Description (appearance, personality, special traits): _____

Setting:

- Where does the story take place? _____
- What time period? (Past, Present, Future) _____
- Describe the environment (forest, village, magical land, etc.): _____

Problem/Conflict:

- What challenge does the leprechaun or other characters face? _____

Magical Elements:

- What magical or mythical aspects are included? (gold, rainbows, tricks, wishes, etc.) _____

Resolution:

- How is the problem solved? _____
- What lesson or moral does the story teach? _____

Ending:

- What happens at the end? Does the leprechaun disappear, grant a wish, or trick someone? _____

Title of Your Folktale: _____