

# Dear Mr. Leprechaun

## Teacher Guide

### Lesson Ideas

Read the book as an introduction to St. Patrick's Day week. Have students write friendly letters to the leprechaun. He writes back only to his friends after they have included all five parts of their letter (date, salutation, body, closing, and signature). Have upper grade students write back.

Read the story and do a shared/guided writing activity. Write back, and shrink the response on the copy machine (make multiple copies and give each student one).

Use the book to teach the writing process. Make overheads of the pages that show the leprechaun's writing, and have the class "edit" his letters together. Check for spelling, grammar, and for the five elements of a letter. Have them write and send a friendly letter to the leprechaun, telling him how important it is to check your work. (The leprechaun writes back and gives each a shiny green St. Patrick's Day pencil - from the teacher's store—as a thank you for helping him become a better writer.)

### Have students:

- ✿ Write a thank you letter from Mr. Leprechaun to Marty for the dandelion tea Marty leaves for him.
- ✿ Write an invitation to Mr. Leprechaun to a party you would have for him to meet your family and friends. Make a list of all the people you would invite to this party, what treats you would have, and describe some games you might play.
- ✿ Write a story about a leprechaun. Be sure to have an introduction, three details, and a conclusion.
- ✿ Illustrate it.



### Letters and Letter Writing

Involve students in a discussion about letters. What are some of the reasons for writing letters? What is the difference between calling someone and sending a letter?

Are invitations to a birthday, a holiday card, a valentine, post card, or e-mails real letters? Have they ever received a letter addressed to them? Have students discuss a special letter they have received. What are the kinds of letters they might write to a friend?

Discuss the elements of a letter (date, salutation, body, closing, and signature).

Discuss the elements of an envelope (delivery address, return address, stamp). What is a postage stamp? Where do you get stamps? Do all letters have to have stamps and be taken to the post office or letter box? Do students know how letters get sorted and delivered?

Discuss the textual elements that go into the following letters. Discuss when each should be sent:

- ✿ An invitation to a party
- ✿ A thank you letter to a parent or other adult for a present, or for help on a special project
- ✿ A thank you letter to a friend who invited you for a sleepover
- ✿ A letter telling a friend or sibling that you are sorry you broke their toy

Discuss the etiquette of answering letters from friends. Should you write a thank you note for a thank you note?

## Leprechauns

- ✿ What are leprechauns? Are they real or imaginary?  
Have you ever seen a leprechaun?
- ✿ Where do leprechauns come from? Locate Ireland on a map.
- ✿ Is there a special holiday leprechauns celebrate?
- ✿ Where do leprechauns live? Do you think a leprechaun could live in a house?
- ✿ What is special about leprechauns?
- ✿ What do they look like?
- ✿ What color is their hair? Their eyes?
- ✿ What do their clothes look like? Do they wear anything special?
- ✿ What would you do if you suddenly caught a leprechaun by surprise?
- ✿ Where did Mr. Leprechaun live?
- ✿ Where did Marty look for Mr. Leprechaun?
- ✿ How is Mr. Leprechaun different from the leprechauns Marty reads about?
- ✿ What is one of the nice things Mr. Leprechaun does for Marty?
- ✿ What is one of the nice things Marty does for Mr. Leprechaun?

## Other Activities

Encourage students to save letters they get from family and friends by making a special box to store them in. This box can be an old shoe box or other small box they can cover with plain paper and then decorate by coloring, painting, stickering, or gluing other special things on them.

Have students write a letter to a special friend or family member, decorate it, make an envelope with colored paper for it, address it and send it via U.S. mail. Templates for envelopes can be made by taking apart an existing envelope.

Write a welcome letter to a new student in class and tell him or her three things they need to know about going to your school.

Plan a field trip to your local post office.

Share personal experiences by bringing letters you have received.

Have students draw a picture of themselves to enclose in a letter to someone who may not have seen them for awhile.

Invite students to write friendly letters and mail them to friends and family members near and far. Find locations on a map.

