

Seven Lucky Tips for Writing to a Leprechaun

BY MARTIN NELSON BURTON

*As a child, Martin Nelson Burton used to write to a leprechaun. He is the author of the classic St. Patrick's Day book, **Dear Mr. Leprechaun: Letters From My First Friendship**.*



Not only is March 17 St. Patrick's Day, it's also National "Write to a Leprechaun" Day! If you leave a note out at night, a leprechaun may visit while you're sleeping. When you wake up the next morning, you'll find his answer. Keep these tips in mind when you write.

1 Leave your note out at night.

Leprechauns prefer to move about at nighttime, when there is less chance they'll be seen.

2 Put the note on the kitchen table.

Don't hide the note: put it in full view and tell everyone in the family that it's there, so it doesn't get accidentally thrown away. The kitchen table is usually the first place a leprechaun will visit, as he'll be looking for good things to eat.

3 Write him a compliment.

Better yet, write several. Don't just write about yourself; leprechauns love to hear how smart, charming, and handsome they are. Of course, you've never met one, but that shouldn't stop you from telling him he's a witty, silver-tongued charmer. He'll love to write back to someone who he thinks really knows him.

4 Leave out a snack.

Leprechauns are fond of sweets, especially chocolates, and will drink up a cup of dandelion tea any time of day or night. Drop some common dandelions into a cup of water to make it.

5 Ask him to draw a picture of himself.

This is the next best thing to actually catching him. It will be a lot of fun to see what he wants you to think he looks like. Remember, he's a leprechaun, so don't be surprised if he tries to trick you.

6 Don't worry about his handwriting or spelling.

A leprechaun often borrows the handwriting of another person in the house. Don't worry. This is just an old leprechaun trick, designed to throw you off-track. And, since he's writing in the dark and trying to be quick about it, he may not spell every word correctly. This is a sign of a true leprechaun.

7 Don't expect a pot of gold.

A leprechaun who is writing to you wants to be your friend, not your genie. So don't think he'll be doing magic tricks for you. It's magic enough to know that he's been visiting your home and he's interested in you!

