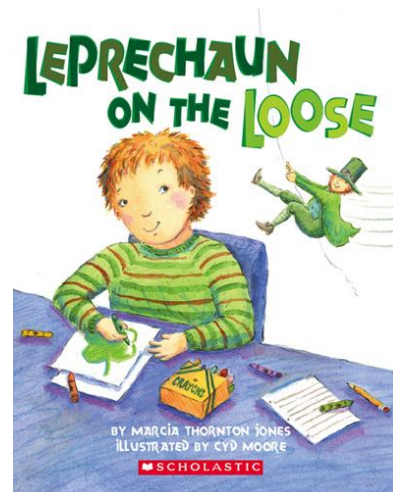
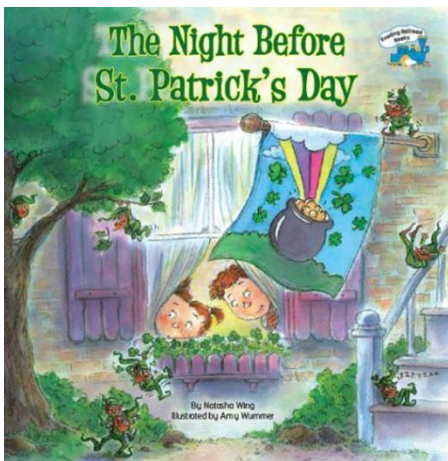


## Leprechaun Writing Fun

About one to two weeks before St. Patrick's Day, I tell the students about how a leprechaun got in our room last year and how we should set traps to catch him.

First, I read a few stories (pictured below) that discuss leprechaun traps so the kids can visualize what their trap might look like.



I also send home a parent letter requesting the students to design a leprechaun trap to bring to school. I tell the students to Google leprechaun traps for ideas if they need. There are a ton of ideas pictured online.

Dear Parents,



St. Patrick's Day is soon approaching, along with those mischievous, little leprechauns. We have heard that leprechauns sometimes sneak into classrooms and try to play some silly tricks on us! This year we have a plan to trap the leprechaun before he ruins our St. Patrick's Day party!!

If you are willing to help us out, please help your child design and construct a simple leprechaun trap. They can be made from boxes, cans, wood or whatever you may have handy at home. It doesn't need to be fancy! It might help to have some bait inside or maybe a message to help entice the little fellow into the trap!

This homework assignment is optional. However, we are hoping the more traps we set; maybe the luckier we will be in trapping a leprechaun! Please send your trap to school by March 16<sup>th</sup>, so we can set our traps for the next day!

Thanks for your help!

Mrs. Guttormson



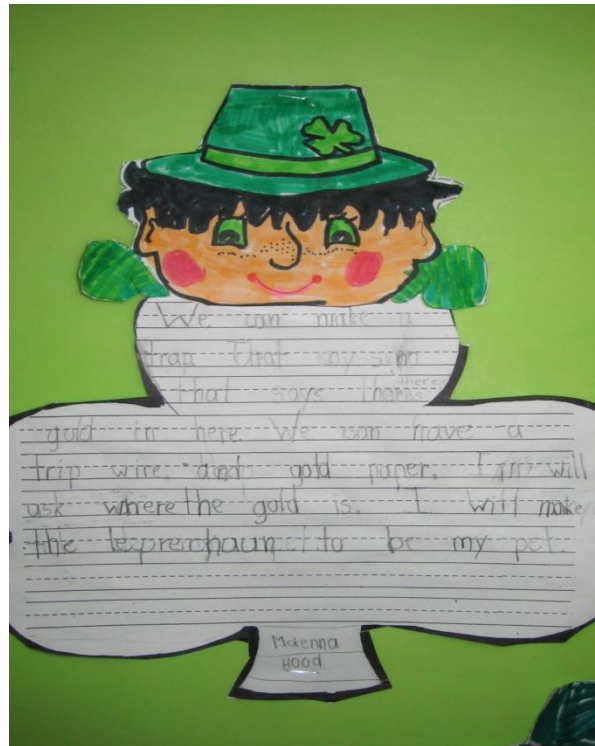
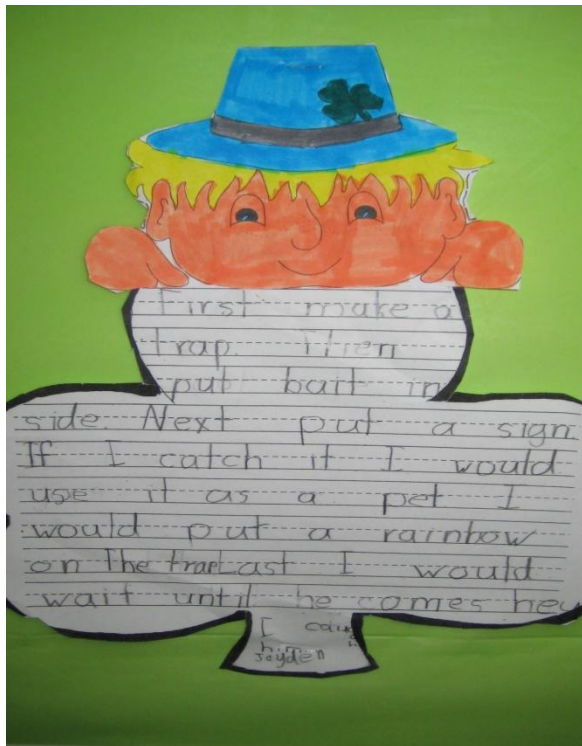
Next we brainstorm a list of ideas that their trap might include. Some ideas the students came up with included:

shiny bait, rainbow, trap door, slide, wire, cage, sticky tape, gold coins, ladder, signs (Gold in here!), etc.

Then, I give the students shamrock lined writing paper to **write their story** "How to Catch a Leprechaun". We focus on using words like First, Then, Next and Last in our descriptive writing.

Below are some of the completed stories and the finished bulletin.





The day before St. Patrick's Day, we take a class to practice our **speaking** strand in ELA as each student shares their traps. We sit in a circle and one by one the students tell about their traps. I discuss the criteria I am looking for before they describe their trap:

- What is your trap made of?
- Who helped you make your trap?
- How does your trap work?
- Do you think it will trap the leprechaun?
- Where do you plan to place your trap in our classroom? Why?

Then the students all set up their traps in their strategic places (by their desk, near the door, by their locker, near the window, under tables...)

Some of the traps...



After school the night before St. Patrick's Day, it's time for the leprechaun (teacher) to get busy!! I paint green footprints on everyone's desk and trails to all the traps (cut a small footprint out of cardstock and sponge paint). Sometimes the trails lead to the door, or the window. This year I went up the door frame to a vent above our door!! I also tip, or mess up the traps and leave little typed notes in each trap with small font saying things like:

Nice try wise guy!

Hee! Hee! Missed me!

You almost had me!

I liked you're shiny bait! But you can't trick me!

Better luck next year!

That box was heavy!

I was almost stuck!!

And 1 longer class note that I attach to the whiteboard that says:

Nice try grade one! But you missed us! We went back to Ireland! We really like you and are sad you didn't get our gold, so we left you a few treats. We have hidden five lucky pots in your room. Can you find them? Happy St. Patrick's Day!

I hide five treats in mini leprechaun hats in the cupboards with treats like chocolate coins, green jellybeans, green apple slice gummies, rainbow skittles, rainbow licorice, etc. to share as a class later in the day.



I mess up the entire room by knocking off their shoes, dumping book boxes, dumping the outdoor balls and equipment, etc. I also spread green Easter grass, confetti or shamrock shapes all over the floor and their desks. I also leave a pencil, green balloon and cupcake holder with Lucky Charms on each student's desk.



After cleaning everything up, the students are usually so excited, confused and wondering many things. Sometimes I have them record their questions on the following sheet. This is a good way to focus on asking words and question marks.

It is so much fun watching the students' reactions and wondering what really happened! And they are meeting the writing and speaking requirements in the curriculum while having fun!! Happy St. Patrick's Day!!



# My St. Patrick's Day

## Questions???

1.

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2.

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3.

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4.

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