

# That's What Leprechauns Do



# That's What Leprechauns Do

Book by Eve Bunting

Unit study and lapbook prepared by Ami Brainerd

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## SOCIAL STUDIES

### Geography- Ireland

Using your world map, help your student locate Europe and then locate Ireland. Ireland is an island off western Europe in the Northern Atlantic Ocean. The capital city is Dublin (you may want to locate this on the map as well).

Ireland is known for its vast green land and has a cool, often-cloudy climate. (Look at the illustrations and point out the clouds. If you've read [\*St. Patrick's Day in the Morning\*](#) with your student, you may recall the cloudy skies in that book as well.)

Ireland's flag is made of three equal-sized rectangles of orange, white and green. The green is by the flagpole.

Lapbook Components:

Where Is Ireland?

Flag of Ireland

### Legends: Leprechauns

Eve Bunting provides Leprechaun Legends information at the back of the book. Read through the information with your student, and help him record what he learned in the Leprechaun Legends book.

### Human Relationships: Practical Jokes

The leprechauns in our story are mischievous. They play all kinds of pranks on people. Explain to your student that sometimes practical jokes are funny, but sometimes they can be mean. If a joke could cause someone to get hurt (or hurt their feelings) or scare someone, it's not funny. However, there are lots of fun jokes we can play on people. Since April Fool's Day is right around the corner, consider letting your student choose some pranks to play on some family or friends.

## Lapbook Component: Practical Jokes Mini-book

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### LANGUAGE ARTS

#### Vocabulary

mischief- causing or tending to cause minor injury

duty- something you do because you have to or because you should

delay- to move or act slowly

long-johns- long underwear

arched- forming a curved shaped

Help your student remember these words and their meanings by recording them in the New Words book.

#### Language Arts: Listmaking

Recall and record the leprechauns' mischievous acts.

Lapbook Component: Leprechaun Pranks Mini-book

#### Language Arts: Creative Writing

After completing the listmaking exercise above, have your student create his own list of funny jokes leprechauns could play on people. Write a story including these mischievous acts. You may need to help your student choose a setting and a conflict for his story.

Lapbook Component: After your student writes a story, it can be stored in the pocket provided.

#### Language Arts Review: Simile

Before your daily reading, review similes (a comparison using like or as). Tell your student to listen for the simile in the story and to raise his hand when he hears it-- "quick as a cat pounce"; after you finish reading, try to think of other "quick as a \_\_\_\_\_" similes together.

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### SCIENCE

## Rainbows

Learn the colors of the rainbow in order: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet. Many people use the "name" ROY G. BIV to help them remember the correct order.

Give your student a paint palette (we use a plastic lid!) with red, yellow, blue, and violet paint.

Show your student the order of the rainbow colors. What happens when she mixes red and yellow? What happens when she mixes yellow and blue? What happens when she mixes blue and violet? Have fun with this.

Learn more about rainbows by checking out nonfiction books at your local library.

Lapbook Component: Rainbow Colors Window Book

## Clouds

My son has often asked, "what are clouds made of?" You may want to ask your student this question. Does she know? What does she think they could possibly be? Clouds are made up of millions of tiny droplets of water and ice. Each of these droplets of water is smaller than a grain of flour, and they are so light that they can float on air. Get out some flour. Can you find an individual grain? Show the flour to your student and explain that the water droplets in a cloud are tiny!

Lapbook Component: Cloud Shape Book

## Health: Dressing for the Weather

When the rain starts to come down, the leprechauns "pull their green slickers from their backpacks and settled their caps low to their ears." Why did they do this? Discuss with your student the importance of dressing for the weather. Why do we wear hats in the winter? Why is it a good idea to use an umbrella when it rains? Why do we use sunscreen in the summer?

Lapbook Component: Dressing for the Weather Tri-fold Book

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## ART

### Medium - Watercolor

Look at the beautiful watercolor rainbow illustration. Discuss how you can tell it's watercolor and not pencil, ink, or acrylic. Get out your student's watercolors (Prang really do work the best!). Let him experiment with different amounts of water and paint to create different effects. What happens as he adds more water? Less water?

Encourage your student to create a watercolor rainbow (he may even want to add a sky and clouds). If you've already completed the science lesson, you may want to remind your student the order of the colors of the rainbow as he paints.

Lapbook Component: Cut and paste your student's rainbow into the mini-book provided.

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## MATH

### Calendar Skills

The book makes reference to "a month of Sundays." Count the number of Sundays in the month of March. How many this year?

Does your student know how many full weeks makes a month? Get out a calendar and count the weeks in each month.

### Skip Counting by Threes

There are three leprechauns in this book. After a reading, go back through the book and count the group of three leprechauns in the illustrations. To do this, you can use skip counting by 3s. You may want to review this activity each day.

### Fun Manipulatives

Use chocolate coins for math manipulatives this week. You could use them for counting by threes, or you could make up some simple addition and subtraction problems with the chocolate coins.

Here are a few examples:

Elijah found three chocolate coins and Simon found six. How many total?

Elijah ate two of his chocolate coins. How many does he have left?  
Simon has six coins and he found one more. How many does he have now?

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### St. Patrick's Day FUN!

Stage a leprechaun visit! The leprechauns had fun stringing the kitchen, leaving tracks about the house, messing with the Lucky Charms cereal, and gifting the kids pots of gold (chocolate coins).

*Pictures and ideas used with permission from this [blog](#).*





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**Directions:** Cut on the solid lines. Write in definitions. Stack pages together with cover on top and staple on the left side.

<h1 data-bbox="326 380 797 562">My Book of New Words</h1> 	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
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**Directions:** Cut on the solid lines. Write in definitions. Stack pages together with cover on top and staple on the left side.

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Cut pocket out as one piece. Fold back up. Wrap flaps around the back and glue down.



# Leprechaun Legends



**Directions:** Cut out as one piece. Fold in half.

**Directions:** Cut out pieces. Write (or draw) one prank from the story on each piece. Stack together with cover on top and secure with a staple.

# Leprechaun Pranks!



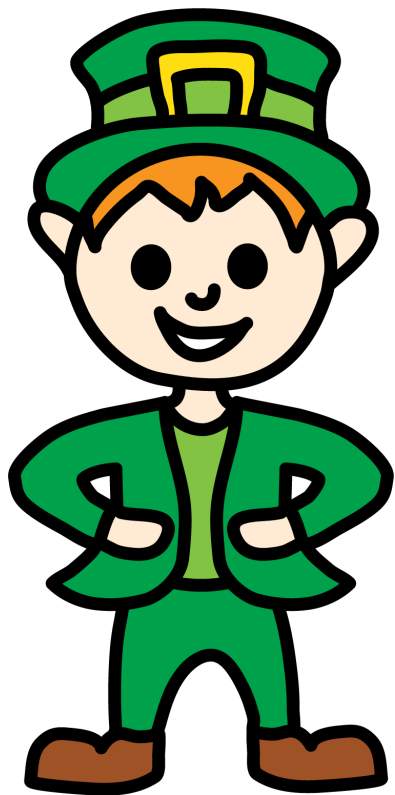


**Directions:** Cut out map as one piece. Fold in half. Paste cover piece to the front.

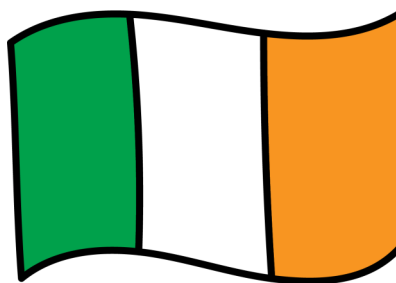
**Directions:** Cut out as one piece. Fold in half.

# My Watercolor Rainbow





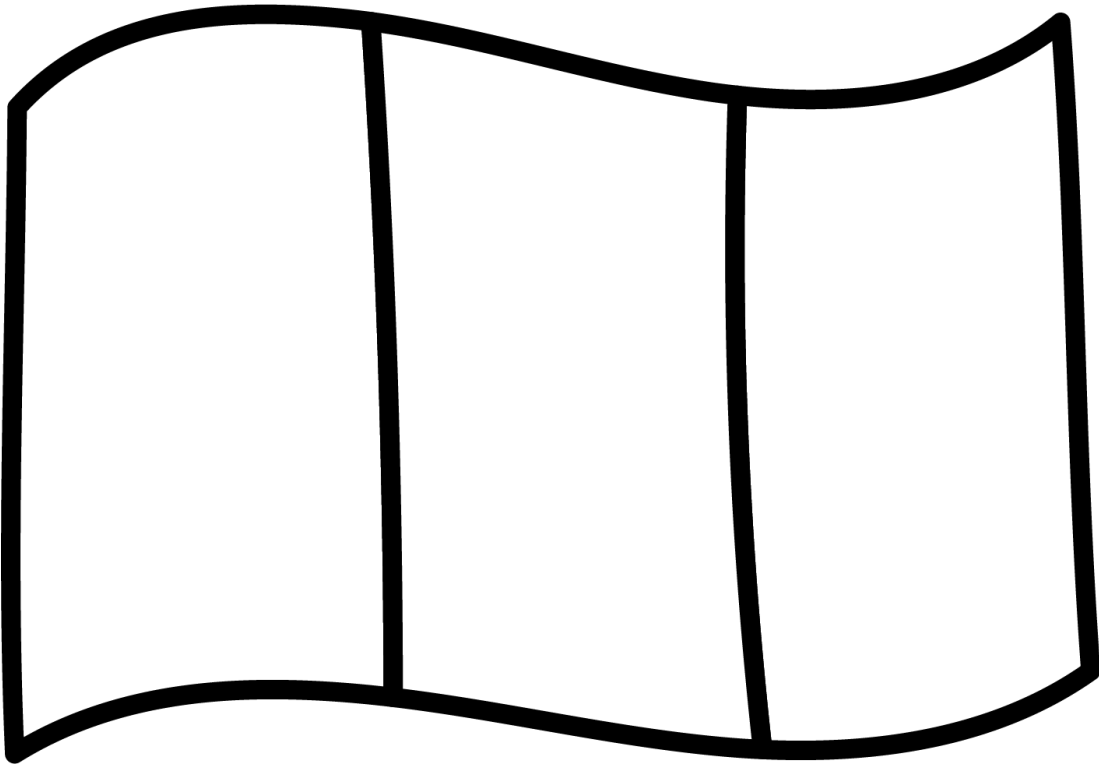
# The Flag of Ireland



**Directions:** Cut out as one piece. Fold in half.

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**Directions:** Color the flag. Cut out the flag. Paste it inside the Flag of Ireland mini-book.



**Directions:** Paste this cover piece to the tri-fold book on the next page.

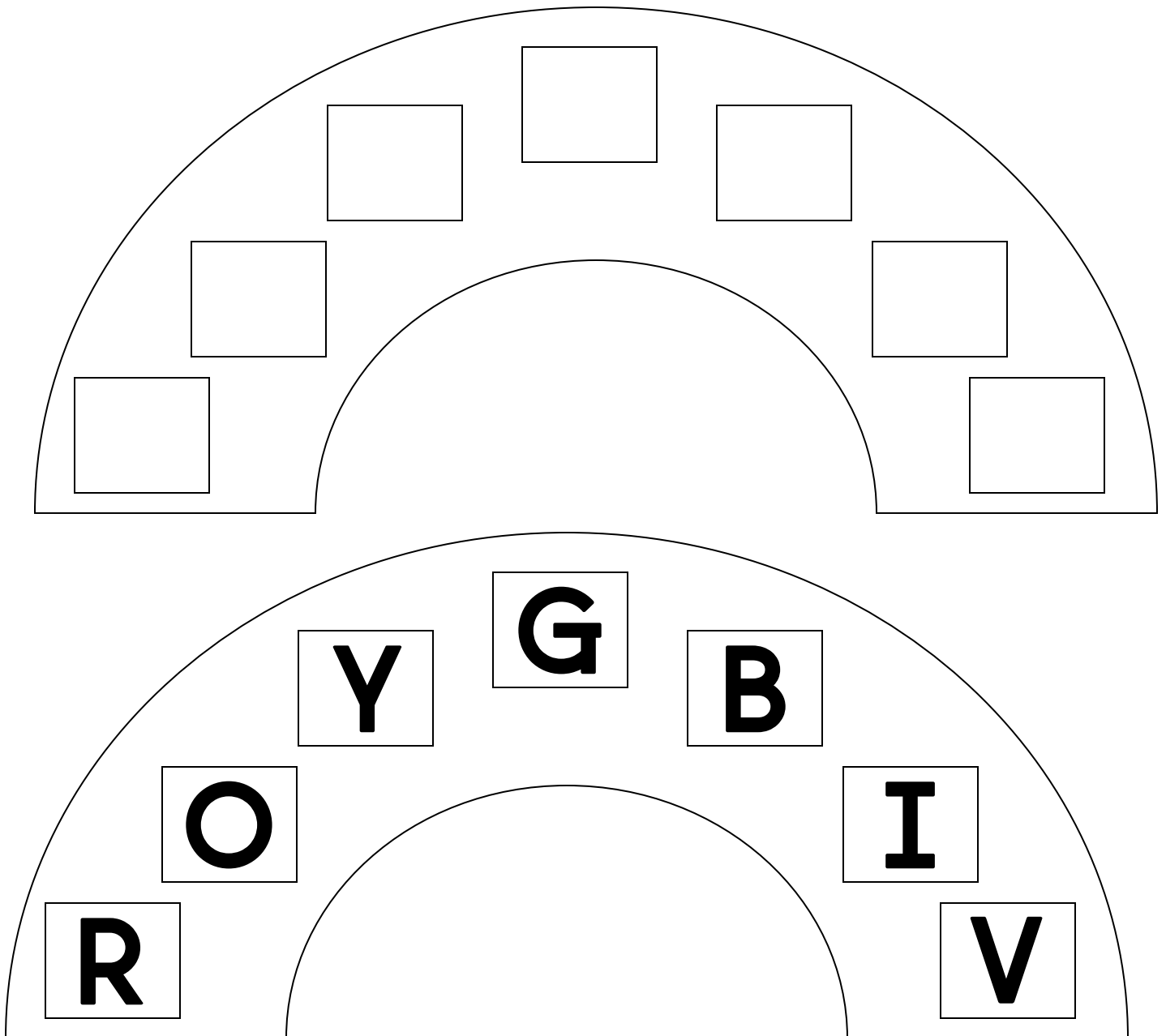


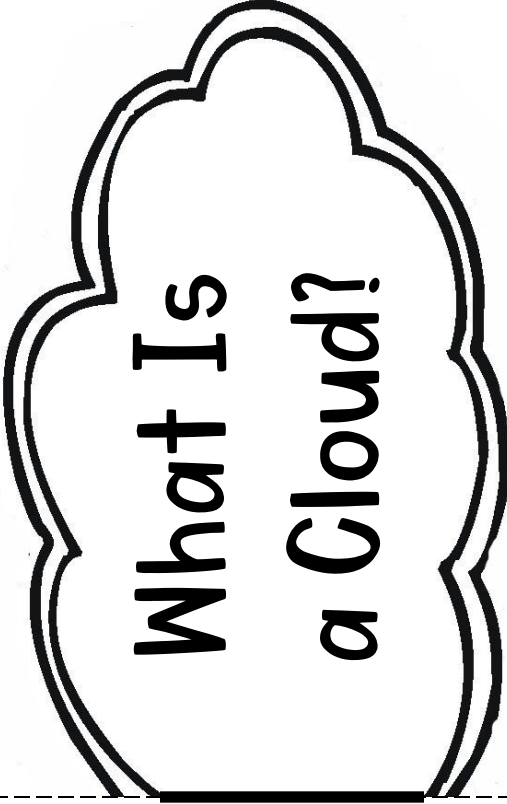


**Directions:** Cut on solid lines. Fold in thirds on the dotted lines. Paste cover piece (on the previous page) to the front of the book.



**Directions:** Print on cardstock. Cut out each rainbow shape. The rainbow with the ROYGBIV labels will go on top. Let your student color the squares of the bottom book in order (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet). On the first rainbow (ROYGBIV), use an exact-o knife to cut around three of the edges of each square to make a little window. Glue the two pieces together being careful not to get any glue on the colored squares. When complete, you student should be able to open each window (ROYGBIV) and view the color inside.





What Is  
*a Cloud?*

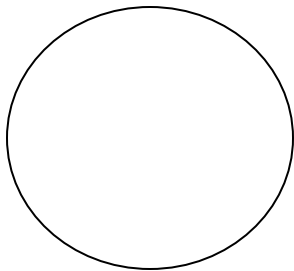
**Directions:** Fold paper on dotted line. Cut out a cloud shape book. Use the inside for your student to write (or for you to record) what a cloud is made of.



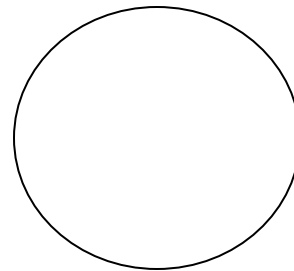
Putting sugar in  
the salt shaker



Putting a tack  
on a chair



**Funny Joke**



**Mean Prank**

# Practical Jokes



**Directions:** Cut out book on previous page as one piece. Fold in half. Re-open. Cut a slit on the front dotted line.

Cut out clip-art. Discuss the lesson in the unit study with your student. Let your student draw a happy face on the funny joke side and a sad face on the mean prank side.

Decide which piece is appropriate for a funny joke and which one is a mean prank. Glue the clip-arts in the appropriate places. Refold the book.

Cut out cover (on this page) and let your student glue it to the front (or let him add his own title).



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