



What's the craic? The Leprechaun's Stolen Gold



By Caleb Devitt

An interactive Kids Mystery Party game

(Approx. 10-14 years old)

Here's how to organize the investigation:

Before the party: (be sure to review the Bonus Pages (pages 18-21))

1. Print off one copy of the suspect roles (pages 8-15).
2. Print off enough copies of the notes, diagram and answer sheet (pages 4-7) so that everyone who is investigating the mystery has a set. You can, at your discretion, make "clipboards" by stapling these pages to sheets of cardboard.
3. Print off the solution (pages 16-17) and the crossword puzzle solution (page 22); keep it hidden.

At the party:

1. Assign the roles to eight suspects. Everybody else becomes private investigators hired to solve the case. No information needs to be memorized because each suspect has notes containing their answers to their questions.
2. Read "The Gold is Gone" and "Rules of the Game" (pages 2 & 3) out loud to everyone.
3. Distribute the notes and answer sheets and puzzle page to the investigators. The investigators will need to make notes to collect information. If the suspects are also investigating the events, they'll also need clipboards.
4. Tell the kids to talk with each other to find out what everyone knows about the events. You can organize this if you want to, or you can just let it happen.
5. When time's up (after an hour or so) gather everybody together and, one at a time, ask them the questions on the answer sheet.
6. Read the solution to the crime. You may want to award a prize(s) to the person(s) who came closest to the correct answers.



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The Gold is Gone!

There is an old legend, known around the world, that tells of leprechauns and their penchant for merriment, tricks, and of course for hiding gold at the end of rainbows. This legend originates in a town called Little Ireland, where to this day leprechaun hopefuls are trained under the tutelage of a senior leprechaun to be able to use their magic and hide their own troves of gold across the world. In this town, there is a particular pot of gold from which all other pots'o'gold takes their origin.

Of course, this gold is also notorious for being supremely tempting and prone to drawing thieves and the otherwise avaricious looking to claim it for themselves. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance that this gold is kept under a constant watch, to protect not just the value of the gold itself, but the very foundation of leprechaun culture.

Last night, this duty fell to the leprechaun-in-training Leppy Cohen. Leppy claims he kept a watchful eye over the gold, save for a brief bathroom break in the middle of the night. It was shortly after this that Paddy Day, Leppy's instructor, went to check on him, only to find his pupil panicking and the vault empty!

Now morning has broken. The town has been locked down and searched, but no sign of the gold has been found yet. Nobody has left, which means the culprit and the gold are still in the town somewhere. The suspect list has been narrowed down to eight people who could have had the opportunity to perpetrate the theft last night. There's the owner of the local inn and Leppy's older brother Ian Cohen; the Cohen Inn's server Todd Waits; the travelling musician Melody Bard; Leppy's mother and general old lady Mama Cohen; the town groundskeeper Clipper O'Toole; the retired town Leprechaun and Leppy's mentor Paddy Day; the mysterious stranger Danny Drifters; and even Leppy Cohen himself.



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Be sure to ask:

1. Who are you?
2. Where were you last night?
3. Who do you think did it?
4. Where do you think the gold is hidden?

 <p>Notes about Leppy Cohen</p>	 <p>Notes about Ian Cohen</p>
 <p>Notes about Clipper O'Toole</p>	 <p>Notes about Todd Waits</p>



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Leppy Cohen

You are a suspect. Always tell the truth when people ask you questions.

Who are you?

My name's Leppy Cohen, and I'm a leprechaun in training, soon to be a full-fledged leprechaun! Or at least I was... I was supposed to be watching the gold last night. At this point I'll be lucky if Paddy doesn't fail me outright.

Where were you last night?

I was watching the vault like I was supposed to! I slipped away to use the bathroom at one point; I was only gone for a moment, but that must've been when the thief struck.

Who do you think could've taken the gold?

It was probably some anonymous drifter who's already secreted it away somewhere and we'll never see it again! Oh shucks, at this rate I'll never get my license...

Where do you think the culprit could have hidden the gold?

How should I know that? It wouldn't be missing if I knew where it was, would it?

****You were seen at the inn last night. What were you doing there?***

Oh, uh, well, you see I- I was at the inn last night, but I was only trying to find my brother. I thought maybe he'd be able to help me find the gold, seeing as he is a licensed Leprechaun and all. I wanted to try to find it before Paddy found out so that I wouldn't get in trouble. Of course, I couldn't find Ian at the inn, and when I went back to the vault Paddy was already there. Oh what a mess this is...

****Why did you ask to be allowed to watch the gold yourself last night?***

I wanted the opportunity to prove myself. I've wanted to be a proper leprechaun for as long as I can remember, but well, the test is really hard you know? I thought that if I could impress Paddy by keeping guard of the gold, he might give me a little extra credit on my exam tomorrow. Plus, I figured that, while I was at it, I could study a little, y'know, practice for the test since I was just going to be sitting there.

****Were you nervous about the practical magic exam?***

Um, yeah. Yeah a little. You see, I've already failed that exam twice. I really want to be a Leprechaun, but I just have a lot of trouble with the magical part of it. I thought if I could just get in a little more practice, I could do it, y'know? I'll never be a leprechaun at this rate...



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return to the website:**

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*Bonus Pages
Suspect List
Fun Irish Slang
Customized Party Invitation
Puzzle Solution*



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