

Name: _____

Pot of Gold

By Kelly Hashway



“Not it!” everyone called before Jason.

“Oh, not again.” Jason wasn’t good at being the leprechaun when they played Leprechaun’s Pot of Gold, a game they made up last St. Patrick’s Day.

“Sorry, Jay. You’re the leprechaun first. Hide the gold.” Andrew handed Jason a bag of chocolate coins wrapped in gold foil.

“Fine. Go count to fifty,” Jason said.

“Fifty? We always count to twenty,” Julie said.

“Yeah, well, I’m not good at being the leprechaun.”

Everyone nodded, which didn’t make Jason feel any better. He watched them head for the back deck and face the house so they couldn’t see where he hid the chocolates. Jason knew if he didn’t trick them, he’d be stuck being the leprechaun all afternoon. He needed a really good hiding place.

Jason looked all around the yard. There was the tool shed, under the deck, in the bushes. No, those all seemed like places his friends would search. A real leprechaun would do a good job keeping the gold hidden. Jason thought about leprechauns some more. They hid their gold on the other side of a rainbow. Too bad it hadn’t rained in a while. There were no rainbows in sight.

Jason looked back at the deck. He could hear Andrew counting and he was already up to forty. Jason was running out of time. Then he saw the sun catcher in the window. A rainbow glistened onto the side of the house, ending on the rain gutter. That’s perfect! Jason ran for the gutter

and slipped the gold inside. He dashed back to the center of the yard and stood there, focusing his eyes on his friends and not on the hiding place.

“Ready or not!” Julie said.

Jason couldn't help smiling. He felt like a real leprechaun. He watched his friends search the yard. They checked the deck, the shed, the bushes, and the garden. Andrew even asked Jason to empty his pockets, thinking Jason was hiding the gold in his clothing. They were stumped.

“What did you do with it?” Julie asked.

“I'll give you a hint,” Jason said with a smile. “It's at the end of a rainbow, just where any leprechaun would hide a pot of gold.”

“There aren't any rainbows,” Andrew said, throwing his hands up in defeat.

“Okay, we give up,” Julie said. “Show us.”

Jason shook his head. “A leprechaun never reveals his pot of gold to humans.”

“Seriously, game's over,” Andrew said. “You win.”

“Okay.” Jason walked over to the sun catcher and pointed to the rainbow on the side of the house. He ran his finger along it, ending at the rain gutter. He pulled out the gold.

“It really was at the end of a rainbow,” Julie said.

“I guess I'm a good leprechaun after all,” Jason said with a smile.



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1. When does this story probably take place?

- a. in April
- b. in mid-March
- c. in June
- d. at the end of March

2. This story is mostly about...

- a. kids who search for a pot of gold that was hidden by a leprechaun
- b. a group of kids who find coins buried in the yard
- c. a group of kids who play a St. Patrick's Day game in the backyard
- d. a boy who wants to be a leprechaun

3. Why did Jason decide to hide the coins by the rain gutter?

4. When they are done playing the game, what will the children in the story probably do with the coins?

- a. save them for next year
- b. divide them up evenly and spend them
- c. bury them in the yard
- d. eat them

5. When he could not find the coins, Andrew asked Jason to empty his pockets. Why?

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In a few short sentences, explain how you play the game *Leprechaun's Pot of Gold*.

Tell how you might change *Leprechaun's Pot of Gold* to make it a Halloween game.

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The words below are scrambled words from the story. Unscramble each word and write it on the line. Check back in the story to make sure each word is spelled correctly.



1. _____

l f o i

clue: shiny aluminum wrap

2. _____

o y r f t

clue: ten less than fifty

3. _____

l s t g i n e d e

clue: shined; twinkled

4. _____

o e f c u d s

clue: looked at a single object or person

5. _____

f a e t d e

clue: to win a victory over someone else

6. _____

v a e s r l e

clue: shows

ANSWER KEY

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3. Why did Jason decide to hide the coins by the rain gutter?

He sees that a sun catcher is reflecting a rainbow on the gutter. He figures a real leprechaun would hide gold at the end of a rainbow.

4. When they are done playing the game, what will the children in the story probably do with the coins?

- a. save them for next year
- b. divide them up evenly and spend them
- c. bury them in the yard
- d. eat them** (The story says they're chocolate.)

5. When he could not find the coins, Andrew asked Jason to empty his pockets. Why?

Andrew thinks Jason is hiding the coins in his clothing.

ANSWER KEY

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In a few short sentences, explain how you play the game *Leprechaun's Pot of Gold*.



One player is the leprechaun, who has to

hide a bag of chocolate gold coins in the yard. The other

players count to fifty, then begin looking for the coins. If they find

the coins, the leprechaun has to re-hide them. If they do not find

them, a new leprechaun is chosen.

Tell how you might change *Leprechaun's Pot of Gold* to make it a Halloween game.

Answers will vary. Possible answer: Instead of hiding a bag of

gold coins, you could hide a pumpkin or a bag of Halloween

candy.

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1. **foil**

l f o i

clue: shiny aluminum wrap

2. **forty**

o y r f t

clue: ten less than fifty

3. **glistened**

l s t g i n e d e

clue: shined; twinkled

4. **focused**

o e f c u d s

clue: looked at a single object or person

5. **defeat**

f a e t d e

clue: to win a victory over someone else

6. **reveals**

v a e s r l e

clue: shows