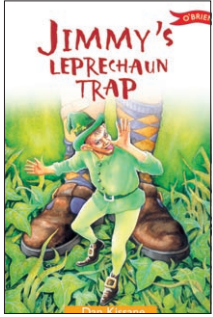


JIMMY'S LEPRECHAUN TRAP

by Dan Kissane, illustrated by Angela Clarke



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It all started in the month of April. Before Jimmy headed home for his dinner, he took a last look at the sheep in the field and noticed something small and slender, like a bird, but not a bird, like a frog, but not a frog. It was, in fact, a small, pointy leprechaun who lived under a *clochán* on the farm. Funny Things begin to happen when Jimmy's father prepares to clear the field in order to set turnips. Hens stop laying, a tractor takes off across the field without a driver, an egg smells of dead fish and mouldy cheese ... Grandfather knows that he must capture their mischievous tormentor in a leprechaun trap. It comes down to a battle of wits and riddles as Jimmy bravely tackles the little Bohannon.

LANGUAGE – ENGLISH

- ◆ Vocabulary extension: Fathom, gnarled, skittish, ingenious, rigmarole, installed.
- ◆ Descriptive language: '... won't be worth a hatful of crabs' (p.48); '... as though cabbages were creations of the devil ...' (p.17).
- ◆ Proverbs/sayings: Children discuss the proverb on p.86 and compile their own lists.
- ◆ Creative: Discuss the description of the smell of rotten egg (p.52). Would Jimmy's recipe recreate the smell? Suggest alternatives!
- ◆ Creative: Children think about the Funny Things that happened to Jimmy on pp.32, 38 and 43, and describe any Funny Things which they may have experienced.
- ◆ Word-games: Riddles (pp.73, 83, 90) and tongue-twisters (p.83), children give examples, invent their own riddles and tongue-twisters.

LANGUAGE – GAELIGE

- ◆ Cluichí teanga: Rabhlóga agus tomhais shimplí.

SESE – SCIENCE

- ◆ Plants and animals: Processes of life. Appreciating the seasonal changes which occur in living things, use pp.11, 18–19 to discuss the changes described by Jimmy.

SESE – HISTORY

- ◆ When my grandparents were young: Comparing the lives of people in the immediate past with the lives of people today. Discuss why Jimmy's dad 'took his place at the head of the table' (p.12), why Jimmy was 'kept at home from school to help look after the sheep' (p.7) and why Jimmy's dad made 'the sign of the cross' before leaving the house (p.38). Discuss Grandfather's pipe-smoking, consider the description of the 'cloud of fragrant smoke' (p.55); is

pipe-smoking so acceptable nowadays?

- ◆ Story: Distinguishing between accounts in stories/myth/legends and real past events. For facts and historical analysis about the underground dwellings known as fairy forts, see *Exploring Newgrange*, pp.103–105.

SPHE

- ◆ Food and nutrition: Exploring the importance of food for promoting growth, keeping healthy and providing energy, discuss the floury, boiled potatoes, bacon, cabbage and fresh mackerel eaten by Jimmy and his family. Were these balanced and healthy meals?
- ◆ Growing and changing: New life. Appreciating that reproduction, birth, life, growth and death are all part of a life cycle, discuss Jimmy's description of a lamb coming into the world (p.8).
- ◆ Feelings and emotions: Exploring feelings in different situations. Discuss Grandfather's feelings of hurt and rejection when Jimmy wouldn't tell him the riddle (pp.84–85), was Jimmy right not to trust Grandfather? Jimmy felt fear when facing the leprechaun (pp.86–87), how did he express and overcome his fears?

MUSIC

- ◆ Leprechaun song, words and music: see *Everything Irish*, pp.52–53.
- ◆ Listening and responding: Children listen to and talk about *The Mason's Apron*, discuss Spider's reaction to the same tune (p.75).

VISUAL ARTS

- ◆ Lamb mobile: See p.2, *Busy Fingers* series, No. 1, Spring.
- ◆ Symbolic spirals: See *Exploring Newgrange*, pp.38, 39, 41, 63, 66, 67, 69.