

Lucy and the Leprechaun

Lucy Lutin lived with her grandfather in a run-down old cottage on the edge of Warbling Woods. Her family had lived there for years but their home had seen better days. The windows had cracks, loose bricks hung from the walls and grass grew in clumps on the roof.

It wasn't that Lucy and her grandfather were lazy. For years, they had wished for their much-loved home to be repaired. But her grandfather wasn't as young as he once was. He no longer had the strength to haul bricks or balance on roofs, and they couldn't afford anyone else to help. Instead, all their money went on food for their meals.

Every morning, Lucy would wake her grandfather with a gentle kiss on his forehead. "Today will be a good day!" she would say.

"Today, you will find luck," he would reply.

Then, Lucy would do her chores before heading into Warbling Woods on her way to school.

But, today was different.

Today was St. Patrick's Day and there was a different look in her grandfather's eyes. "You must find it..." was all he whispered as Lucy headed out of the front door.



Lucy soon forgot about her grandfather's strange words as she skipped deep into Warbling Woods.

Before long, she came across a bag hanging from an old oak tree. On the bag were the words 'Catch me if you can'.

"Erm, do mind helping me?" the bag said.

Lucy jumped with fright. "H... help you?" she said.

"Yes," the bag replied. "I'm stuck."

Then, the bag began to fall! Thinking there may be a child inside, Lucy jumped and caught the bag before it hit the floor. She gently lowered it, untied the string, then stepped back.

A small man with a pointy red beard crawled out. He was dressed in green, with a funny hat on top of his head. "You caught me!" he said. "Thank you! You have earned your three wishes."

“Three wishes?” Lucy said.

“Yes,” the man replied. “My name is Gorm-Glas the leprechaun and I am magical. What is your first wish?”

“I can’t ask for any wishes,” Lucy said with a smile. “I caught you because you may have been hurt, not for payment.”

“Then, allow me to wish you luck,” the small man said with a twinkle in his eye.

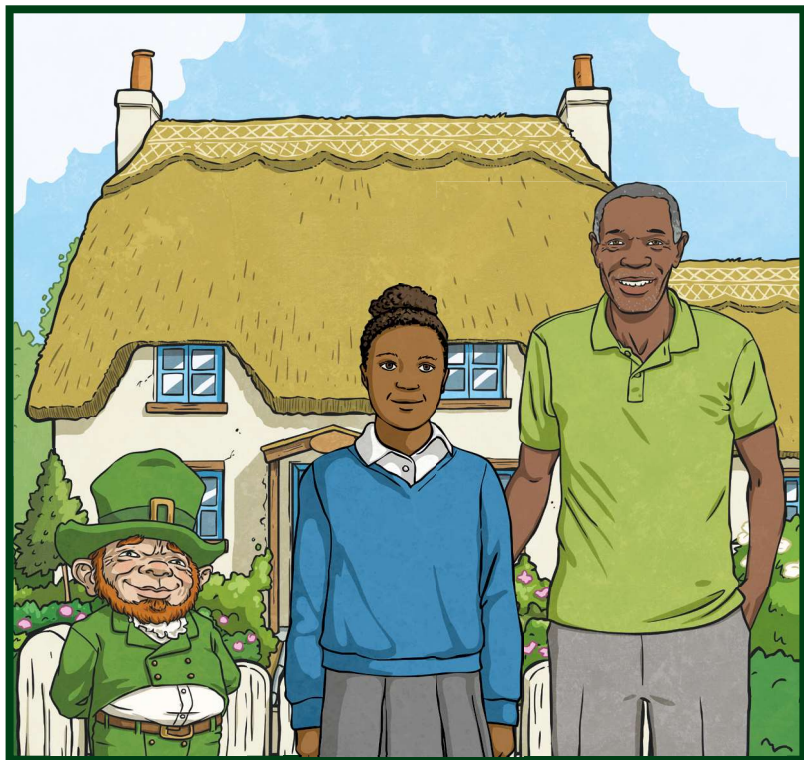
Lucy thanked him and skipped merrily on her way.

That evening, when she returned home, something amazing had happened. The cottage had been completely rebuilt! Somehow the little leprechaun had used his magic to make Lucy’s wishes come true for her! The bricks looked new, the window panes had been replaced and there were no clumps of grass on the roof!

“You found it!” cried Lucy’s grandfather. “I knew you would!”

“Find what, Grandfather?” Lucy laughed.

“That thing we’ve been looking for,” Lucy’s grandfather said, hugging her. “That little bit of magic luck...”



Questions

1. What is the name of the woods that Lucy and her grandfather live in? Tick one.

- Wembley
- Warbling
- Leprechaun

2. For years, Lucy and her grandfather had wished for what?

3. What was different about Lucy's grandfather on St. Patrick's Day?
Tick one.

- He smiled differently.
- There was a different look in his eyes.
- He didn't want to get out of bed.

4. Put these events in time order. Number 1 is the event that happened first.

- Lucy thinks there may be a child inside the bag.
- Lucy's grandfather whispers, "You must find it."
- 1 All their money went on food for their meals.
- Lucy's grandfather hugs her.
- Lucy jumps with fright.

5. "I can't ask for any wishes," Lucy said with a smile.

Why doesn't Lucy think the leprechaun should grant her any wishes?

6. Which words best describe how Lucy may have felt at the end of the story? Tick **three**.

- amazed
- sad
- happy
- relieved
- ungrateful
- depressed

7. Somehow the little leprechaun had used his magic to make Lucy's wishes for her!

Why do you think the leprechaun did this for Lucy?
