

Part 3

Read the text below and answer questions 17 – 24.

Irish Beliefs and Superstitions

The symbol of Ireland is the shamrock, or four-leaf clover. The Irish believe that anyone who has a four-leaf clover will have good luck.

Hi, I'm Will. I've written this information page about Irish beliefs and superstitions. I hope you enjoy reading it. The Irish people have kept a lot of their old superstitions and traditions. Many of these came from the Celts, who lived in Ireland and other parts of Britain about 2000 years ago.

FAIRIES

In the past, nearly everyone in Ireland believed in fairies. According to legend, fairies are little people who can do magic and bring people good or bad luck. A common name for fairies is 'The Good People', but they aren't always good. There are many different kinds of fairy. One well-known kind of fairy is the leprechaun, who likes to play tricks on people.

STONE CIRCLES

There are rings of stones all over the Irish countryside. According to legend, these are fairy rings, and if you destroy one, you'll have an accident before the end of the year. Local people have avoided them for centuries for this reason. However, archaeologists think that Stone Age people, not fairies, made them.

RAINBOWS

In Ireland, we say that leprechauns keep a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. If you catch a leprechaun, you can make him give you his treasure. Leprechauns are difficult to catch, though because they are very clever.

THE BLARNEY STONE

This is a stone in the walls of Blarney Castle near Cork. People say that if you kiss the stone, you will get 'the gift of the gab' and become a good speaker. Most Irish people have this gift already. We love to talk and are very good at it.

Thank you for reading this information page. I wish you all 'the luck of the Irish.'

Questions 17 – 24

Complete the following table.

Choose **no more than three words and/or a number** from the text for each answer.

For each question, write your answer in the space provided on your answer sheet.

Irish Beliefs and Superstitions	
Examples of superstitions	_____ (17). • Stone Circles • Rainbows _____ (18).
Fairies	Common name: _____ (19) Example: _____ (20).
Stone Circles	Another name: _____ (21) Consequences of destroying them: _____ (22)
Rainbows	Prize at the end of the rainbow: _____ (23)
The Blarney Stone	Location: Wall of _____ (24).