



MAGICAL CREATURES OF IRISH FOLKLORE

Irish folklore is full of mysterious and magical beings that have fascinated people for centuries. One of the most famous creatures is the **leprechaun** a small, bearded man dressed in green who is said to spend his time making shoes and hiding his pot of gold at the end of a rainbow. According to legend, if a person manages to catch a leprechaun, the creature must grant them three wishes in exchange for freedom. However, leprechauns are known to be clever **tricksters**, so catching one is nearly impossible.

Another magical being found in Irish tales is the **banshee**. Unlike leprechauns, banshees are not playful or mischievous. They are ghost-like women who appear to warn a family that someone close to them will soon die. Although the idea may seem frightening, the banshee herself is not meant to be harmful. She is simply a messenger between the world of the living and the dead.

Ireland's coastlines are also home to stories of **selkies**, **shape-shifters** who can transform from seals into humans by removing their seal skin. In many tales, selkies fall in love with humans, but the sea always eventually calls them back. Their stories often explore themes of freedom, belonging, and the conflict between land and sea.

These magical creatures reflect Ireland's deep connection to nature, storytelling, and imagination. They continue to inspire books, films, and traditions celebrated each year during St. Patrick's Day.

1. Match the bold words from the text to the correct definitions.

- _____ a traditional story passed down through generations, not always completely true.
- _____ a magical creature that can change its form from one shape to another.
- _____ a small magical man who hides gold and likes to play clever tricks.
- _____ a ghost-like woman who warns families about approaching death.
- _____ a clever and mischievous character who enjoys playing tricks.
- _____ a mythical being that can remove its seal skin and become human.

2. True or False?

Write T (true) or F (false).

1. Leprechauns are known for being honest and friendly. ☐
2. Catching a leprechaun can give you three wishes. ☐
3. Banshees warn families about good news. ☐
4. Selkies can transform from seals into humans. ☐
5. Magical creatures in Irish folklore are usually connected with nature. ☐

3. Multiple Choice – Text Understanding

Choose the correct answer

What job is a leprechaun said to do?

- A. Fishing
- B. Shoe-making
- C. Wood carving



Why is catching a leprechaun difficult?

- A. They can fly
- B. They are dangerous
- C. They are clever tricksters



What is the role of a banshee?

- A. To protect treasure
- B. To warn of an approaching death
- C. To grant wishes

Selkies can become human by...

- A. drinking magic water
- B. removing their seal skin
- C. touching a rainbow

What do selkie stories often explore?

- A. Conflicts between land and sea
- B. Technology and progress
- C. The history of Irish kings

