

Myths in different countries



Name:

Date:

Sure, gather around the campfire, everyone. Let me tell you about two famous Irish myths, tales that have been passed down through generations.

The Legend of the Banshee

Long ago, in the misty hills and ancient forests of Ireland, there was a spirit known as the Banshee. She was a mysterious and eerie figure, often described as a woman with long, flowing hair and a white dress that seemed to glow in the moonlight. Some say she had eyes red from weeping, and her wails could chill you to your bones.

The Banshee wasn't just any ghost, though. She was a messenger of death. It was believed that if you heard her mournful cry, someone in your family was destined to die soon. People would hear her keening, a sorrowful wail that echoed through the night, and they would shiver with fear, knowing that their time might be coming to an end.

One story tells of a young farmer named Sean who lived in a small cottage at the edge of a dark forest. One night, as he was tending to his crops, he heard the Banshee's cry. At first, he thought it was the wind, but then he saw her, standing at the edge of the forest, her eyes fixed on him. She let out another wail, and then she vanished into the night.

Terrified, Sean ran home and told his family what he had seen. They huddled together, praying for protection. The next morning, they found out that Sean's uncle, who lived in the next village, had passed away in his sleep. From that day on, Sean always made sure to listen carefully to the sounds of the night, dreading the day he might hear the Banshee's cry again.

The Tale of the Leprechaun's Gold

Now, let me tell you about the mischievous leprechauns, the tiny folk who live in Ireland's lush green fields and hidden glens. Leprechauns are known for their love of gold and their clever tricks. They are shoemakers by trade, often found tapping away at tiny shoes, and if you hear that tap-tap-tap, you might just be close to discovering a leprechaun.

One evening, a young lad named Finn was wandering through the woods when he heard a peculiar sound. Tap-tap-tap, it went. Curious, he followed the noise and stumbled upon a leprechaun hard at work. Quick as a flash, Finn grabbed the little man by the collar.

"Let me go!" cried the leprechaun, "and I'll give you my pot of gold!"

Finn knew that leprechauns were tricky, but he was determined not to be fooled. "Show me the gold first," he demanded.

The leprechaun sighed and led Finn to a large oak tree. "It's buried right here, under this tree," he said. Finn looked around and realized he had no shovel. He tied a red ribbon around the tree to mark the spot and made the leprechaun promise not to move the gold. The leprechaun agreed, and Finn let him go.

Finn ran home to fetch a shovel, but when he returned, he couldn't believe his eyes. Each tree in the forest had a red ribbon tied around it! The leprechaun had tricked him after all. Though he searched and searched, Finn never found the pot of gold.

And so, the legend goes that if you ever catch a leprechaun, be wary of their tricks, for they are clever and cunning. But if you're lucky and clever yourself, you might just find a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

Now, these are just tales, but they remind us of the magic and mystery of Ireland, a land full of stories waiting to be told.

Decide whether these statements are true or false

The Banshee is said to have long, flowing hair and a white dress that glows in the moonlight.

True False

Hearing the Banshee's cry means someone in your family will get good news.

True False

Sean lived at the edge of a dense forest when he first saw the Banshee.

True False

Sean's uncle passed away the same night he heard the Banshee's wail.

True False

Leprechauns are known for their love of farming and agriculture.

True False

Finn heard a sound that led him to discover a working leprechaun.

True False

Finn tied a blue ribbon around the tree to mark the spot of the gold.

True False

The leprechaun tricked Finn by putting red ribbons on all the trees in the forest.

True False



Myths

Myths are traditional stories that have been passed down **through generations**, often with the purpose of explaining natural or social phenomena. They typically involve **supernatural beings or events** and are set in a time that is often considered to be the **distant past**. Myths are an important part of many cultures and are often used to teach **moral or cultural values**.

One of the key literary characteristics of myths is their use of **symbolism**.

Another common characteristic of myths is their use of **archetypes**, or recurring character types that represent universal patterns of human behavior.

Myths are typically told in a **narrative form**, with a clear beginning, middle, and end. They often include a problem or conflict that must be resolved, and the resolution of this conflict often serves as the climax of the story.

Name the supernatural elements present in the first story that classify it as a myth.

Describe how the setting in the second story contributes to its mythical nature.

Explain the role of traditional symbols in the first myth and how they contribute to its mythical quality.

Identify the common themes in both myths and explain how they reinforce the mythical format.

Write your own myth involving an ancient Irish hero.
