Jack And The Leprechaun (Turtleback School & Library Binding Edition) (Random House Picturebacks)
Synopsis

FOR USE IN SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES ONLY. While visiting his cousin Sean in Ireland on St. Patrick’s Day, Jack the mouse tries to catch a leprechaun for himself. Children will delight in learning about Irish folk tales and traditions and the customs of St. Patrick’s Day.

Book Information

Series: Random House Picturebacks
School & Library Binding: 24 pages
Publisher: Turtleback; Bound for Schools & Libraries ed. edition (January 1, 2000)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0613217888
Product Dimensions:  7.8 x 0.4 x 7.8 inches
Shipping Weight: 7.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review:  4.5 out of 5 stars  (See all reviews) (38 customer reviews)
Best Sellers Rank: #1,426,936 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)  #71 in Books > Children’s Books > Holidays & Celebrations > St. Patrick’s Day  #817 in Books > Children’s Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Non-religious  #2206 in Books > Children’s Books > Animals > Mice, Hamsters, Guinea Pigs & Squirrels
Age Range: 4 - 7 years
Grade Level: Preschool - 2

Customer Reviews

My 3-1/2 year old daughter and I both love this book! Jack Mouse travels to Ireland (via the Galway Bay ship) to visit his relations for St. Patrick’s Day. The little mouse enjoys some real Irish hospitality and along the way chases a legendary leprechaun. My daughter learned about shamrocks, a shillelagh, soda bread and “cead mile failte”. This is a great read for both parent and child. The illustrations are lovely too. I enjoy reading it to my daughter almost every night and she loves to giggle “Tee hee hee” along with Liam the Leprechaun.

There is no excuse for not buying this book if you are looking for a way to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day with your child. The paperback is very inexpensive and as such one might think it doesn’t have much to offer but it does. Ivan Robertson managed to write a cute story of a leprechaun while packing a lot of Irish culture and history into this little book. For instance we learn about the date and
type of celebration one has in Ireland, what a shillelagh (shaw lay lee) is, what "Cead mile failte" (cade meela fall-cha) expresses, that Gaelic is their oldest language, why shamrocks are important, that green is the national color of Ireland, soda bread is traditional, and "Danny Boy" is a song special to the Country. Katy Braun's illustrations are fun, festive, and green. This is the best St. Patrick's day book I have found so far for my wee lass.

Read this to a first grade class. Lots of sights of how St. Patrick's Day is celebrated in Ireland: parade, special food, a family gathering. The children liked the added feature that it was a mystery to guess what the mice received at the end of the book.

Ivan Robertson writes a delightful yarn about Irish customs and folklore. The story mentions Gaelic, the oldest language in Ireland, the oak club called a shillelagh, and the importance of the three-leaf clover. The 24-page book is recommended for children 3 to 7 years, which I think is appropriate for the age group. The text is easy to read, and doesn't bite off more than it can chew like many works attempt to do. Jack and the Leprechaun is illustrated in watercolor, which is bright and cheerful and bursting with details. One could literally spend an hour looking at all the fine points painted into the scenes. The only inharmonious feature of the book is Katy Bratun's version of the Irish flag. The Irish flag is green, white, and orange not orange, white, and orange. Most readers won't notice such minutia, but it is curious with all the research required for this work, the illustrator got it wrong. I only spotted it because I have a bit of Irish in me. My son, William, is currently into leprechauns, and it's no wonder with his beautiful red hair, and traditional name. He's taking a liking to Jack and the Leprechaun I think mostly because Liam is short for William, and everybody knows leprechauns have red hair. Somehow at five, I think it's okay to identify with the fairies even though their fabled creatures. Had I known when I purchased this book that there were so many well-written leprechaun stories, I surely would have settled on another. Although, considering the economical price, it's hard to be critical.

I think the writer must have Googled "Irish Stereotypes" before writing. It's all in there, except for the excessive drinking. Looking past that, it's a cute little story about a mouse who thinks he meets a leprechaun while visiting family in Ireland. For a toddler, the story is cute. I wouldn't recommend this for any child over age 4 or 5.

After we visited an genuine Irish restaurant full of antiques and pictures and a waitstaff with great
stories, we bought this book to teach our granddaughters about customs in another land with other children. It is made clear that the leprechaun is a product of the imagination --- or is it??? CUTE story and good lesson in other cultures.

Great book! Bought 2 for gifts. Unfortunately they came bent, the binding looks like the books been worn and ised, sadly can’t give it as a gift any longer. The book is cute, and a great read for St. Patrick’s day.

This book looked very cute, but it’s not a very fun read for me or for my 3 yo. The author tries to pack way too many Irish words and phrases into the story, which gets in the way of the narrative. After reading it once, she never asked for it again. St. Patrick’s Day in the Morning, illustrated by Jann Brett, is a much more engaging read.

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