

Reader's Theater:

The Case of the Missing Gold



Characters:

- Narrator
- Finn McShenanigan – A mischievous leprechaun
- Molly O'Malley – A clever and curious girl
- Patrick O'Toole – Molly's best friend
- Grandpa O'Malley – A wise old storyteller
- Lucky the Sheep – A very opinionated talking sheep.
- Timmy O'Reilly – A boy whose very bad wishes cause absolute chaos.

Optional Props:

- A small pot of "gold" (gold-painted coins or chocolate coins).
- A green hat for Finn McShenanigan.
- A magnifying glass for Molly, to play detective.
- A fake mustache or walking stick for Grandpa O'Malley.
- A fluffy scarf or small plush toy for Lucky the Sheep.
- Fake potatoes (plastic or crumpled paper) for the potato avalanche scene.
- Running shoes or a cape for Patrick's super-speed wish.

Narrator:

It was a fine and misty morning in the village of Cloverfield. The birds chirped, the air smelled of fresh-baked soda bread, and everything was peaceful—until... (Finn bursts onto the scene, eyes wild, waving his hat in the air.)

Finn:

OH, BLARNEY AND SHAMROCKS! Me gold is missing! Gone! Vanished like a sneeze in the wind!

Molly:

Wait... your gold? I thought leprechauns hid their gold so no one could steal it?

Finn:

Aye, and I did! I hid it under a perfect rainbow last night! But this morning—poof! It's gone!

Patrick:

Mysterious! Did you leave a note saying, "Gold here, please steal me"?

Finn:

(glaring) Oh, sure, lad, because I'm that daft.

Molly:

(thinking) We'll help you, Finn! But we need clues. Who was near your gold last?

(They arrive at a farm where Lucky the sheep is casually chewing on some grass.)

Lucky the Sheep:

(chewing) Baah. You're too late. The gold's already caused trouble.

Patrick:

(staring) Did that sheep just... TALK?

Lucky the Sheep:

Baah. Maybe. Maybe you're just losing your mind.

Finn:

(grabbing his hair) Just tell us what happened, wooly one!

Lucky the Sheep:

Last night, I saw a sneaky shadow creeping near the rainbow, mumbling something about wishes and not sharing.

Molly:

Wishes?

Finn:

(gasp) NO! If someone makes the wish using stolen leprechaun gold, the magic goes wild!

Patrick:

Ohhh, I hope they wished for something awesome. Like infinite cake.

Finn:

(groaning) Infinite cake? No, lad, the magic gets unpredictable and turns every wish into chaotic nonsense!

Molly:

We have to find who made the wishes—fast!

(They arrive at the wishing well, where Timmy O'Reilly stands, looking TERRIFIED.)

Timmy:

(panicked) I only made one wish! Just one!

Patrick:

(excited) Ooh! What did you wish for?

Timmy:

(guiltily) I wished for... infinite mashed potatoes.
(There is a sudden, LOUD BOOM! and potatoes start raining from the sky, rolling down the hills in an avalanche.)

Finn:

(dodging potatoes) AHH! MAAAAAT! We're gonna be BURIED ALIVE in starch!

Molly:

Timmy, who's the second wisher?!

Timmy:

(gasp) That should be... me again. I wish to be the meanest person in the world.

Patrick:

Oh, that's not good.

Timmy:

(suddenly speaking fast) ACTUALLY, ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLES OF QUANTUM MECHANICS, AN OBJECT CANNOT BE IN TWO STATES AT ONCE UNLESS MEASURED—OH NO, I CAN'T STOP TALKING LIKE THIS!

Finn:

(laughing) Serves ye right! Now what's the third wish?

Patrick:

(nervously) Um... I might have wished to be the fastest person ever.

Molly:

Oh no.

Patrick:

(suddenly zooms across the stage) AH HH! I CAN ONLY MOVE AT FULL SPEED! HELP!

(Patrick runs around bumping into things, sliding on mashed potatoes and causing absolute mayhem)

Goat:

(shouting over the madness) WE NEED TO FIX THIS!

Finn:

Aye, but I don't have enough gold left to wish everything back!

Patrick:

Wait! What if we trick the magic?

Finn:

(intrigued) Go on...

Molly:

(thinking fast) What if instead of undoing the wishes, we use the last bit of magic to make a wish that balances everything?

Finn:

Aye, but we only have one coin left—so we have to make it count.

Patrick:

(panting from running) PLEASE, JUST FIX THIS!

Molly:

I wish that all the magic would return to Finn's pot of gold—except for the good luck it was supposed to bring! (A sparkle of green light swirls, the chaos settles, and everything returns to normal—except Finn now has a tiny, harmless glow around him.)

Finn:

(grinning) A clever wish, lass! Now I'll have just enough luck to keep me gold safe next time.
(Everyone laughs, relieved the madness is over!)

Moral of the Story:

Be careful what you wish for; Sometimes the best solution is using wisdom rather than quick fixes.

Name: _____

Date: _____

What did Timmy wish for, and what problems did it cause?

What lesson can we learn from the story?

If you had one wish, what would you choose and why?

Finn McShenanigan



Molly O'Malley



Patrick
O'Toole



Grandpa O'Malley



Timmy O'Reilly



Lucky



Narrator



Teacher Suggestions:

Assigning Roles: Consider your students' reading levels and confidence when assigning roles. Encourage students to practice their parts at home or during independent reading time.

Practicing Fluency: Have students practice their parts multiple times to build fluency and expression.

Props & Costumes: Use the optional props list to create simple, engaging props.

Character Labels: Students can also use the provided character names to either cut out to hang around their neck to help identify characters to the audience or alternatively draw and illustrate what they imagine their character to look like.

Performance: Arrange a space in the classroom where students can perform. Invite other students to watch the final performance to boost students' confidence and make it more special.

Reader Response Questions: Use the provided questions to facilitate a post-performance discussion. This will help assess comprehension and encourage students to think critically about the play.

Extension Activities:

- **Creative Writing:** Have students write their own short story about a wish gone wrong and how characters fix it.
- **Art & Design:** Students could draw a picture of what they think the potato avalanche looked like or design a leprechaun's pot of gold.
- **Role-Playing:** Have students act out an alternative ending where they come up with a different way to fix the curse.

Math Challenge: Use the potato avalanche to create a fun math problem (e.g., "If 10 potatoes fall every second, how many fall in a minute?").

- **Discussion Activity:** Ask students to brainstorm wishes that might sound great at first but could have surprising consequences.