

10-11 “Leprechaun’s Gold” by Kathryn Hall

Narrator: One day a leprechaun came to a village and made an announcement.

Leprechaun: There is some gold buried in Old MacArthur Woods. Whoever finds it first will get to keep it.

Narrator: Everybody thought it was a gag except a little boy named Jimmy. Jimmy was about four feet tall with blond, curly hair and blue eyes.

Jimmy (excitedly): Oh, boy! I’m going to find the gold!

Narrator: Jimmy decided to go and look for it. Now Old MacArthur Woods was a scary place to be this time of year. There was a rumor that whoever goes in the woods doesn’t come back out. That didn’t scare Jimmy. For a boy of six, he was very brave.

Jimmy (mumbling): I’ll sneak out tonight while everybody’s asleep.

Narrator: That night Jimmy sneaked out of his house and took food, clothes, and his stuffed teddy bear Snickers. Not knowing where he was going, he set off. On the way he met an owl.

Owl: Where are you going, little boy?

Jimmy: I’m going to Old MacArthur Woods to find a pot of gold. Do you know the way?

Owl: Ah, a pot of gold! How exciting! Yes, I know the way.

Narrator: Owl was actually thinking of how he was going to get the treasure instead of Jimmy. He had heard about it before and had tried to find it but wasn’t successful. He thought he knew approximately where it was and so pointed Jimmy in the wrong direction.

Owl: Okay, go straight until you see a stump. Then go right until you come to a cave. Then enter the cave and go approximately thirty-five meters. The treasure will be right under your feet.

Narrator: To get to the treasure, Jimmy would’ve had to go straight at the stump instead of turning right like Owl had told him. If Jimmy had followed the way Owl had directed him, he would’ve been digging in the middle of a river, not a cave. These directions were not any help to Jimmy anyway because he didn’t know what a meter was, but he set off toward MacArthur Wood. He finally entered the woods and met a sly, tricky Fox.

Fox: Where are you going in the middle of MacArthur Woods?

Jimmy (scared of the fox): I... I’m l...l...looking f...f...for a p...pot of g...g...gold.

Fox: A pot of gold, eh. What is your name, dear boy?

Jimmy (not as scared): Jimmy, Mr. Fox.

Fox: I see. Well, dear Jimmy, you're going the wrong way.

Jimmy: I am?

Fox: Yes, you're going right into a dark, deep, scary part of the woods. Now if the leprechaun wanted you to go that way, would he send a boy of um...six? Are you six, dear boy?

Jimmy: Yes I am, and I would love to be going on my way. Could you point me in the right direction?

Fox: Look over there, and you will see a stump. Turn left at that stump and continue until you see an X. That will be where the treasure is.

Narrator: Like Owl, Fox wanted to get his hands on the treasure before Jimmy and actually pointed him in the direction of the deep, dark, scary part of the woods. He had also heard about the treasure before and thought he knew where it was but had not been able to find it. Unknown to Fox, Turtle, a friend of Owl, slept behind him. He woke up and just happened to overhear the conversation that was going on between Jimmy and Fox.

Turtle (talking to himself): I must go back and report this to Owl.

Narrator: And he did just that. Owl was surprised to find out that his enemy Fox was back in the woods. Owl set out to find Jimmy and persuade him to follow his directions.

Owl (seeing Jimmy): Jimmy, I don't think you're following my directions. I said, go right, not left.

Narrator: Jimmy was getting quite confused and remembered an old fable he had read called "The Fox and the Owl." He found himself in the same situation as the boy in the fable and decided to play a trick on Owl and Fox who had found each other in the woods and started arguing about the gold. He wanted them to be out of his way so he could look for the treasure.

Jimmy (worried about his plan): Now, Owl and Fox, stop quarreling. Why don't you each go your own way and see which one's right, and settle your differences?

Narrator: They agreed to try Jimmy's suggestion because by now they had gotten so confused that they convinced themselves that their directions to the treasure were the correct ones. Jimmy walked to the nearby stump and sat down. As he thought about what

Owl and Fox had told him, he realized that Owl and Fox were trying to trick him and take the treasure for themselves. He then was able to figure out the right way which was to go straight to the stump. He walked until he found the X hidden in a thicket. Jimmy dug and dug until his shovel hit something hard like a rock.

Jimmy (excited): I wonder if this could be the pot of gold!

Narrator: He dug around the object and found out it was just a rock. It was an odd-shaped rock with a yellowish cast. It was now getting dark, and Jimmy decided to give up and go home. He was pretty disappointed that all he found was a rock. When he reached the house, his mother met him at the door.

Jimmy (breathless): I didn't find the gold. All I found was this....

Mother: Wait! Wait! You went and looked for that silly gold that the leprechaun told you about? You should have at least told someone where you were going. I was worried sick.

Jimmy: Could you please just look at the rock?

Mother: Where did you get this rock? This is gold!

Jimmy: But, Mom, I thought the leprechaun said a pot of gold, not a gold rock.

Narrator: Suddenly there was a knock at the door. It was the leprechaun!

Leprechaun: I see you've found a gold rock. May I see it?

Jimmy (handing the rock to the leprechaun): You said a pot of gold, not a gold rock.

Leprechaun: Ah, but you misunderstood something. I said you would find *some* gold, not a pot of gold.

Jimmy: Can we keep it?

Leprechaun (handing the rock to Jimmy's mother): Of course, you can! Finders keepers. I must be going. Ta, Ta!

Narrator: Then Jimmy and his mother saw the leprechaun vanish into thin air. The leprechaun was never seen again. By the way, Fox and Owl are still looking for the pot of gold to this day.