

The Mystery of the Stolen Shamrocks: St. Patrick's Day

It's the day before St. Patrick's Day and a calamity has occurred. All the shamrocks are missing from the parade floats. Someone has taken every shamrock that was meant to be worn during the parade! They need to be found so that the celebrations can continue with a bit of Irish luck.

As the Detective Chief Inspector, it is your job to find out where the shamrocks have gone. Your officers have taken down the names and descriptions of the 30 children who were preparing for the parade.

There are also five top secret clues that have been left. To crack the case, you will need to solve each clue and use the information to narrow down your list of suspects.

Good luck!



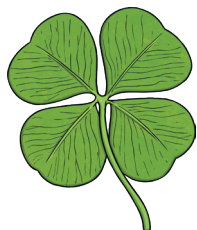
List of Suspects

Child's Name	Male or Female	Favourite Colour	Parade Costume	Has a Garden?	Age
Abban	M	Green	Leprechaun	Y	15
Aileen	F	Orange	Irish flag	Y	8
Aisling	F	White	Snake	N	13
Alina	F	Orange	Leprechaun	N	9
Berkeley	M	Green	Rainbow	Y	10
Brighid	F	White	Leprechaun	Y	8
Cacey	M	Green	Irish flag	Y	14
Caitlin	F	White	Leprechaun	N	7
Codi	F	Green	Snake	N	14
Damon	M	White	Leprechaun	Y	7
Darcey	F	Orange	Rainbow	N	14
Dermot	M	Green	Irish flag	Y	16
Eileen	F	White	Snake	N	9
Eion	M	Orange	Rainbow	N	8
Ewen	M	Green	Irish flag	Y	13
Farrell	M	White	Rainbow	Y	9
Gail	F	Green	Leprechaun	N	12
Kyle	M	Green	Irish flag	N	12
Maude	F	White	Rainbow	Y	10
Niall	M	Orange	Snake	Y	9
Noreen	F	Orange	Rainbow	N	9
Patrick	M	White	Irish flag	N	15
Roisin	F	Green	Leprechaun	Y	13
Shannon	F	White	Rainbow	Y	12
Sullivan	M	White	Snake	N	8
Taryn	F	Orange	Irish flag	N	11
Terence	M	Orange	Rainbow	Y	7
Toran	M	Orange	Snake	Y	15
Tyrone	M	Green	Irish flag	N	9
Zaira	F	Orange	Snake	N	16

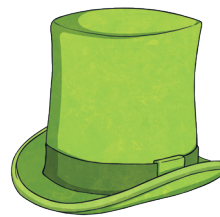
The culprit was _____.

Clue 1: It's 'A' Mystery!

Choose 'a' or 'an' for each of the following words. If you use 'a' more, the culprit is male. If you use 'an' more, the culprit is female.



___ shamrock



___ green hat



___ leprechaun



___ Irish flag



___ rainbow



___ pot of gold



___ horseshoe



___ Irish harp



___ snake



___ ice cream

I used a/an more so the culprit is _____.

Clue 2: Saint Patrick's Prefixes

Match the words below to the correct prefix to make a new word.

The prefix with the most words will reveal the culprit's favourite colour.



The prefix with the most words is _____ so the culprit's favourite colour is _____.

Clue 3: What Did They Say?

These statements were given to the police by the culprits and should have been written in direct speech with the correct punctuation. If they are, give them a tick but if not, give them a cross.

If there are more ticks, then the culprit is 11 years old or younger. If there are more crosses, then the culprit is 12 or older.

Statement	✓ or ✗
"I was nowhere near the parade floats earlier," said Abban.	
"I don't even like green said Eileen.	
"Although I was next to the floats, I didn't see anything," said Kyle.	
My sister said that she heard "lots of giggling coming from behind the floats" said Taryn.	
"Shamrocks are meant to be lucky but I certainly didn't steal them all," said Zaira.	
"If the shamrocks don't turn up, the parade will be cancelled." said Darcey.	
"Every year, there are usually extra" shamrocks said Shannon.	
"I'm sure we could find some more shamrocks said Berkeley."	



There are more _____ so the culprit is _____.

Clue 4: Pronoun Problems

Choose the correct pronoun – my, they, he or it – to complete each of these sentences.

If you use 'my' most, then the culprit wore a leprechaun costume. If you use 'they' most, then the culprit wore an Irish flag costume. If you use 'he' most, then the culprit wore a snake costume. If you use 'it' most, then the culprit wore a rainbow costume.



I can't wait for the parade. _____ costume is amazing.

The rainbow costumes took a long time to make because _____ used a lot of material.



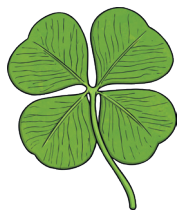
My friend is sad to not be wearing a costume. I think _____ has a very important job carrying an Irish flag.

I wear a green hat with my leprechaun costume but _____ won't look good without a shamrock.



My brother's class have been learning yoga, so _____ are going to do the snake pose on the float during the parade.

The float should be decorated with shamrocks, but _____ have all gone missing.



I used _____ most, so the culprit wore _____ costume.

Clue 5: Detailed Descriptions?

These descriptions were written by the police and should contain expanded noun phrases rather than just nouns. If they do, give them a tick but if not, give them a cross.

If there are more crosses, then the culprit has a garden. If there are more ticks, then the culprit does not have a garden.

Statement	✓ or ✗
Damon is a young boy with curly, ginger hair.	
Farrell is dressing as a rainbow tomorrow.	
Wearing a green, scaly snake costume is Aisling, who has a younger brother called Niall.	
Dermot enjoys playing in his garden.	
Even though the vital shamrocks were missing, Gail seemed pleased to be wearing her bright green leprechaun outfit.	
Eileen is wearing a snake costume with a lengthy tail extending out behind her.	
Roisin is dressing as a leprechaun.	
Spending time playing in her extensive garden with its modern play equipment is Shannon's favourite thing to do.	



There are more _____ so the culprit does/does not have a garden.

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Answers

Clue 1: It's A Mystery!

a shamrock

a leprechaun

a rainbow

a horseshoe

a snake

a green hat

an Irish flag

a pot of gold

an Irish harp

an ice cream

I used **a** more so the culprit is **male**.

Clue 2: Saint Patrick's Prefixes

super-

market

natural

hero

human

star

sonic

anti-

clockwise

freeze

social

auto-

graph

biography

pilot

mobile

The prefix with the most words is **super-** so the culprit's favourite colour is **green**.

The Mystery of the Stolen Shamrocks: St. Patrick's Day **Answers**

Clue 3: What Did They Say?

Statement	✓ or ✗
"I was nowhere near the parade floats earlier," said Abban.	✓
"I don't even like green said Eileen.	✗
"Although I was next to the floats, I didn't see anything," said Kyle.	✓
My sister said that she heard "lots of giggling coming from behind the floats" said Taryn.	✗
"Shamrocks are meant to be lucky but I certainly didn't steal them all," said Zaira.	✓
"If the shamrocks don't turn up, the parade will be cancelled." said Darcey.	✗
"Every year, there are usually extra" shamrocks said Shannon.	✗
"I'm sure we could find some more shamrocks said Berkeley."	✗

There are more **crosses** so the culprit is **12 or older**.

Clue 4: Pronoun Problems

I can't wait for the parade. **My** costume is amazing.

The rainbow costumes took a long time to make because **they** used a lot of material.

My friend is sad to not be wearing a costume. I think **he** has a very important job carrying an Irish flag.

I wear a green hat with my leprechaun costume but **it** won't look good without a shamrock.

My brother's class have been learning yoga, so **they** are going to do the snake pose on the float during the parade.

The float should be decorated with shamrocks, but **they** have all gone missing.

I used **they** most, so the culprit wore **an Irish flag** costume.

The Mystery of the Stolen Shamrocks: St. Patrick's Day **Answers**

Clue 5: Detailed Descriptions?

Statement	✓ or ✗
Damon is a young boy with curly, ginger hair .	✓
Farrell is dressing as a rainbow tomorrow.	✗
Wearing a green, scaly snake costume is Aisling, who has a younger brother called Niall.	✓
Dermot enjoys playing in his garden.	✗
Even though the vital shamrocks were missing, Gail seemed pleased to be wearing her bright green leprechaun outfit .	✓
Eileen is wearing a snake costume with a lengthy tail extending out behind her.	✓
Roisin is dressing as a leprechaun.	✗
Spending time playing in her extensive garden with its modern play equipment is Shannon's favourite thing to do.	✓

There are more **ticks** so the culprit **does not** have a garden.

The culprit was Kyle.