

# The Greedy Farmer and the Floating Pot

Once, on a misty morning in the green hills of Ireland, a farmer named Silas was out tilling his fields. Silas was a hardworking man, but he had one big problem: he was never satisfied. If he grew ten pumpkins, he wished for twenty. If he found a silver coin, he grumbled that it wasn't gold.

As the sun began to peek through the clouds, a magnificent rainbow stretched across the sky. Silas looked up and saw something shimmering at the very end of the colors.

"The legend!" he whispered. "The pot of gold!"

He dropped his shovel and ran as fast as his boots would carry him. When he reached the spot, he didn't find a pot on the ground. Instead, he saw a tiny man in a bright green coat, sitting on a floating black kettle filled with shimmering gold coins. The man was a leprechaun named Pip, and he was busy polishing a coin with a tiny velvet cloth.



"Excuse me!" Silas shouted, out of breath. "That gold belongs to whoever finds the end of the rainbow. That's me!"



Pip the leprechaun looked up and smiled a very small, very clever smile. "Is that so? Well, Silas, I am a fair fellow. I will give you this pot of gold on one condition: you must carry it home without looking back. If you look back even once to see if the rainbow is still there, the gold will turn into heavy stones."

Silas laughed. "That's easy! I don't care about the rainbow; I only care about the gold!"

Pip handed over the heavy pot. It was so heavy Silas had to use both hands to carry it. He began the long walk back to his farmhouse. He walked past the creek. He walked past the old oak tree. His arms ached, and his back hurt, but he kept his eyes straight ahead.

Suddenly, he heard a loud WHOOSH behind him. It sounded like a thousand birds taking flight. Then, he heard a sound like a beautiful harp playing a melody.

It must be the rainbow disappearing! Silas thought. Or maybe it's Pip playing a trick!

Silas fought the urge to turn around. But then, he heard a voice that sounded like his neighbor. "Silas! Look at the sky! It's turning into solid silver!"

Silas couldn't help himself. He wanted the silver too! He whipped his head around to see the silver sky. But there was no silver. There was only the blue sky and the fading rainbow.

When he looked back down at the pot in his arms, it felt much heavier. He reached inside, but instead of cold, hard gold, his fingers touched rough, grey rocks.



Pip appeared on a nearby fence post, chuckling. "You were so busy looking for the next treasure, Silas, that you lost the one you already had in your hands."

Pip vanished in a puff of green smoke, leaving Silas alone in the field with a pot full of stones.

1. At the beginning of the story, what is Silas's biggest problem?

- A) He doesn't have enough land to farm.
- B) He is never satisfied with what he has.
- C) He is too lazy to do his work.
- D) He doesn't believe in leprechauns.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

2. What specific condition does Pip give Silas in order to keep the gold?

- A) He must carry it home without looking back.
- B) He must share the gold with his neighbors.
- C) He must find another rainbow before sunset.
- D) He must give Pip his farm in exchange.

3. Why did Silas finally turn his head around?

- A) He heard Pip laughing at him.
- B) He thought the sky was turning into solid silver.
- C) He wanted to see if the rainbow was still there.
- D) He wanted to say goodbye to his neighbor.

4. Read this sentence from the story: "He whipped his head around to see the silver sky."

What does the word "whipped" tell you about how Silas moved?

- A) He moved very slowly and carefully.
- B) He moved circle.
- C) He moved suddenly and quickly.
- D) He moved painfully because his neck hurt.

5. What is the moral of the story? \_\_\_\_\_

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