

“St. Patrick’s Day Shamrock” Radio Show

By Carol Montgomery

Performance time = a wee bit less than 5 minutes :)

Readability = 4.4

Cast (3):

Shammy (radio host)

Kelly

Dr. Ireland

Note: If you want to involve more students choose from the following:

- add some creative student-written commercials or a different radio broadcast with a different cast.
- change roles--have more than one cast
- read several scripts in small groups then choose one to perform
- divide the class into 2-3 groups and read chorally (e.g., Teacher or mature reader for Shammy, girls read Kelly, boys read Dr. Ireland)

Vocabulary:

Argentina	immigrated	missionary	shamrock
associated	registered	monk	trademark
celebrated	journalist	official	tradition
Emerald Island	marketers	professor	
identify	mentioned	researcher	

Irish sayings* and vocabulary:

- Top ‘o the mornin’ to ya! (not often used, but the answer is “and the rest of the day to you”)
- Away on! = You’re kidding!
- Aye = Yes (pronounced like “eye”)
- wee = little
- shillelagh [shi-LAY-lee] -- Irish walking stick

* These sayings come from my research. My apologies to native Irish speakers. I tried to catch the fine flavor of Irish speech for student enjoyment--not because I’m an expert...



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Shammy: “Top o’ the mornin’ to ya!” I’m Shammy O’ Leary with Right as Rain Radio. Today, in honor of St. Patrick’s Day, we’ll interview two experts about the shamrock and “Why wear green?” But now, let’s meet our experts. First, we’re pleased to have Kelly Green, researcher and journalist with the Green Growers Gazette. Thank you for coming, Kelly.

Kelly: Thanks for having me.

Shammy: My pleasure. Next, we’re honored to have Dr. Ireland, professor of history at Shamrock University. Thank you for coming, Dr. Ireland.

Dr. I: Top o’ the mornin’ to ya, Shammy and listeners! It’s grand to be here again.

Shammy: Aye. Isn’t it grand? So, let’s start with you, Dr. Ireland. First, tell us a wee bit about Saint Patrick since we’re talking about his day.

Dr. I: Aye. Pirates from Ireland captured Patrick when he was just a lad of sixteen. He was taken as a slave to tend sheep in Ireland. Somehow, he became a Christian, escaped to France, and became a monk. In 432 he returned to Ireland as a missionary because of a vision he had. He founded over 300 churches in Ireland.

Shammy: Quite a story. I can’t imagine how horrible it must have been to be captured by pirates from Ireland and then choose to go back and love the same people. But, enough of the sad lad...he overcame his problems and changed the world. What else can you tell us, Dr. Ireland?

Dr. I: You’re right. Ireland learned a lot about love and God because of one man, Patrick. In fact, that’s where the shamrock comes in. Legend has it that Patrick used the shamrock to teach the Irish pagans about God using the shamrock’s three leaves—three leaves on one stem, a trinity.

Shammy: I’m glad you mentioned the shamrock. Kelly Green is a plant expert. Kelly, will you tell us more about the shamrock, please?

Kelly: Of course! Some say that the shamrock is Ireland’s national flower, while others say it’s not really a flower at all. Actually, shamrock means three-leaved. So, a shamrock is any of several plants that have three heart-shaped leaves. Most people say they look like clover. In fact, a small, blue-green clover with little white flowers is often considered the real shamrock.

Shammy: Aye, I have some in my yard. Anything else to share, Dr. Ireland?

Dr. I: Aye. Shamrocks often represent Ireland in history. And, the government of Ireland has registered the shamrock as an official trademark of the nation. I even have a shamrock carved on my shillelagh. [shi-LAY-lee]

Shammy: Don’t tell me YOU have a shillelagh! Away on! Tell our listeners what a shillelagh is, please.

Dr. I: Aye. A shillelagh is simply a wooden walking stick. Usually it’s made from a thick, knotty stick with a large knob at the top. I have one because it’s associated with Ireland and Irish folklore. It was a gift from my students. They chose one with a shamrock so I’d be known as a green professor!

Shammy: Wonderful! Perhaps Patrick carried a shillelagh.

Dr. I: Aye. Perhaps. It would be helpful walking those green hills.

Shammy: Speaking of green...Kelly, I’ve been meaning to ask you, since your last name is Green, can you tell us why folks wear green for St. Patrick’s Day?

Kelly: I will, but may I tell you a short story first?

Shammy: Aye. We’d be grateful for one.

Kelly: My name is Kelly Green. So, I remember kids asking me when I was growing up if I was green on the inside. I used to say, “I’m Green on the outside, Green on the inside, and I breathe Green air!”

Shammy: *(laughing)* Ho, ho, ho! That’s as green as they come! I supposed some even thought your blood was green, right?

Kelly: *(laughs)* How did you know? But, back to your question...I think people like to wear green for St. Patrick’s Day for many reasons. For some, it’s a tradition to honor Saint Patrick and the story of the shamrock. For others, it’s a way to identify with Ireland—the Emerald Island. For others, it’s just plain fun. And for marketers it’s a way to sell more stuff. They push the greenness to get more green money.

Dr. I: Aye. And remember the Irish flag is green, white, and orange. So, since the Irish people have immigrated all over the world, St. Patrick’s Day is celebrated in many nations from Argentina to Japan. That means you’ll have folks all over the world wearing something green on March 17.

Shammy: I think I’ll wear a wee little green.....*(pause)*....frog.

Dr. I & Kelly: *(laugh)*

Dr. I: Just don’t croak.

Shammy: Aye, I might wake someone with my snoring echoes. *(smiles)* Thanks to our great guests today. This has been Right as Rain Radio thanking you all for sharing this time with us. Tune in next week when we’ll still be Right as Rain. And, be careful now if you go outside—it’s a fine day for young ducks.



Curriculum Links (Valid in 2026):

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shamrock>

Wiki has info on and photos of shamrocks (clover). You could grow your own in paper cups!

<https://www.dltk-holidays.com/patrick/about.htm>

DLTK’s page on St. Patrick’s Day

<https://www.dltk-holidays.com/patrick/index.html>

DLTK’s page on St. Patrick’s Day crafts, games, and activities.

<https://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/calendar-activities/today-patrick-20451.html>

From the International Reading Association comes a page on St. Patrick’s Day encouraging teachers to read Irish folk tales, eat Irish soda bread, and listen to Irish folk music.

https://www.amazon.com/St-Patricks-Day-Shillelagh/dp/0807573450/ref=sr_1_1? s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1361929683&sr=1-1&keywords=st+patrick%27s+day+shillelagh

Amazon book that MAY be at your local library for grade 2 and up: [The St. Patrick’s Day Shillelagh](#). The summary states: “A family retells the story of the shillelagh that was whittled from a tree. During the Irish potato famine, Fergus and his family left for America. But first Fergus cut a branch from a blackthorn tree to take a piece of Ireland with him.” Four, 5-star reviews, including this excerpt: **“Teachers in grades 2-4 may find this especially useful when introducing family traditions and/or a unit on Immigration.”**

https://www.confessio.ie/more/article_kelly#

“Saint Patrick’s Confessio—Read **what St. Patrick actually wrote in his own words.**” Very small print. I didn’t read this long page.

https://eslholidaylessons.com/03/saint_patricks_day.html

ESL page on St. Patrick’s Day with a “Tapescript,” a comprehension “Phrase Match” (matching phrases from the article), a “Listening Gap Fill” (blanks in the script to be filled in by student) multiple choice, sequencing, scrambled sentences, asking questions, and more.

You Tube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvnICfqeujA>

“Happy St. Patrick’s Day from my cat!” 52 seconds of cat play with fun music.

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BJRTIKWBLnM>

Polar bears “Animal Enrichment” play at an Oregon zoo with St. Patrick’s Day toys. 1:26

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7hH-5CtMdzQ>

Irish soda bread demo with “real Irish food by a real Irish girl.” 4:50

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xKnZgDyS38g>

“Celtique Irish Folk” music with flute, guitar, fiddle... 3:59

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XIxUvOrI6c0&feature=related>

“We Are the Irish,” folk-type song by the Wolfe Tones tells the story of Irish immigration with historic photos, drawings... 3:44

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QjnJB_HSc2U

From History.com comes this short, quick-moving video on the **“History of St. Patrick’s Day.”** Includes historical video clips. (Young men toast their ale glasses at the end.)

3:30

