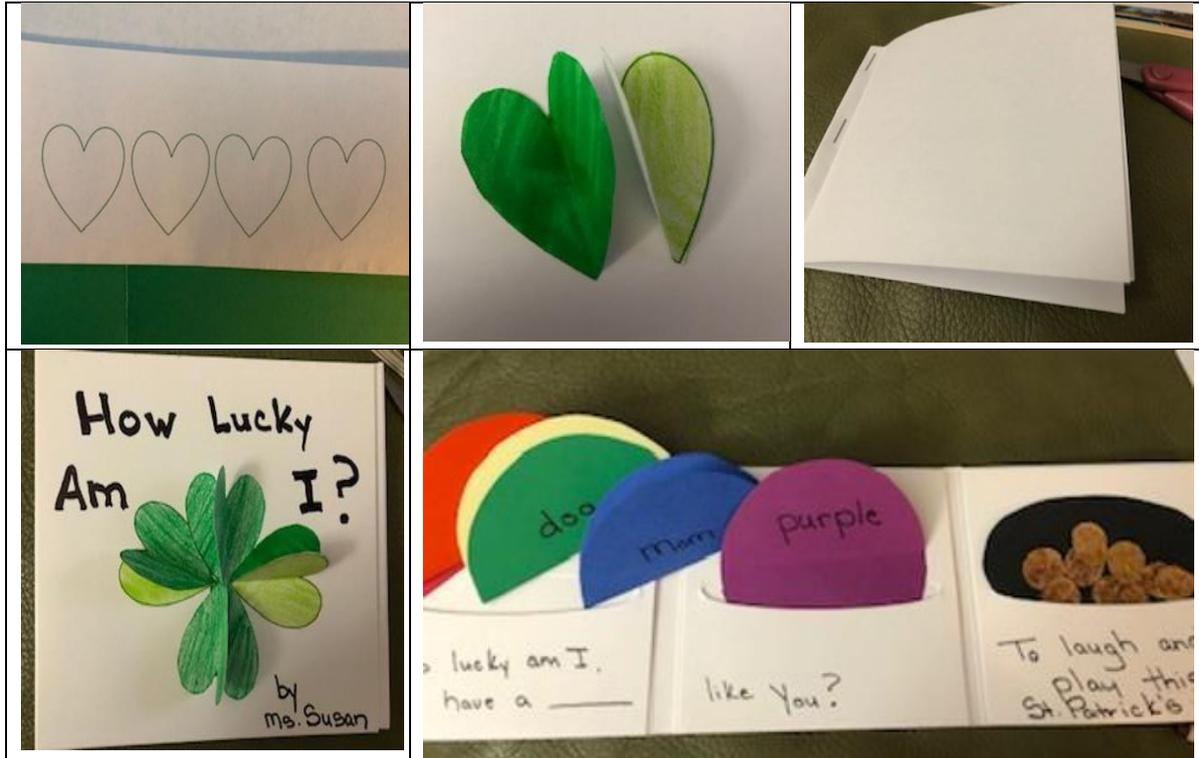


This is Ms. Susan from the Shorewood Public Library. This week, we are going to have some fun celebrating Irish tradition by creating our own book of luck and charm. The green shamrocks you see around St. Patrick's Day is really a three-leaf clover and is thought to bring luck to those who adorn themselves with it. When Irish immigrants came to the United States in the 18th century, there were no clover plants, so they substituted the image and wore the shamrock in their hats and on the collar of their jackets. Poor Irish farmers also believed that there was not a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow and that you should always work hard to make your dreams come true. We can always take time to have some fun while being grateful for the good things we do have in our life.



1-Fold over one edge of a piece of paper. Draw four hearts in a row. You can color the hearts before or after you cut them out with crayons or pencils. If you have a sheet of paper and use markers, the paper soaks up the ink and may pucker-up. Cut out the hearts. Try to cut through the two layers of paper and you will have eight hearts. Fold each heart in half and glue two sides together. Make a book out of paper by folding a paper in half and then in half the opposite way. Tape or staple the edge to make the spine of the book. Cut open the top edge after you have stapled the edge. On the front cover, glue the four shamrock leaves in a circle. You can add a title to the book and write your name as the author.

2-Open the cover to all sorts of creative ideas. Write a story about all the things in your life that you are lucky to have. Cut out rainbow-colored circles and write words to fill in the blank on your story page. "How lucky am I, to have a _____ like you? To laugh and play on St. Patrick's Day?" Make a "pot full of gold" coins. Win a coin for everything that you are so lucky to have in your life. Maybe you feel lucky to have crayons to draw, books to read, a wonderful friend, or maybe, blue skies and rainbows, is all you really need. Spread the luck and share your book with a special someone!



May the luck of the Irish follow you all week!

Miss Susan