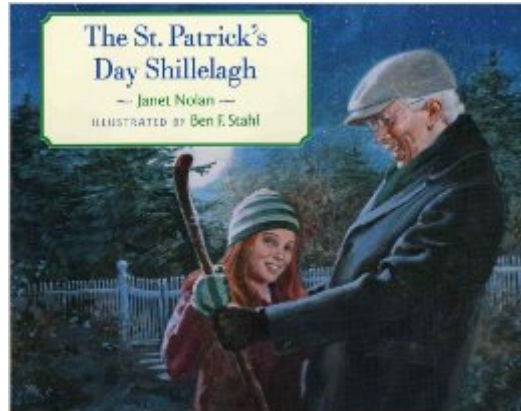


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# The St. Patrick's Day Shillelagh (Albert Whitman Prairie Paperback)



## Synopsis

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.

## Book Information

Series: Albert Whitman Prairie Paperback

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Albert Whitman & Company; Reprint edition (January 1, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0807573450

ISBN-13: 978-0807573457

Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 10.2 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (13 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #475,352 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #28 in [Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > St. Patrick's Day](#) #117 in [Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Religious](#) #340 in [Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Non-religious](#)

Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

## Customer Reviews

Excellent story that is beautifully written and illustrated. It captures an important part of our heritage while emphasizing the importance of family tradition and roots. My 8 year old just loved it and I can see my self reading this to her over and over again. The story teaches U.S. history on one level and family sharing on another. The illustrations are beautiful. I strongly recommend this book.

A very sweet story with a lovely message about traditions and remembering your heritage even as changes through the generations blur the past. Well written in a style that respects both the subject and the readers, and lovely illustrations as well. Hope to see more from this author!

Between 1845 and 1851, thousands upon thousands of Irish men, women and children died when the potato crop failed. Fergus and his family immigrated to the U. S. during this time. On his last

night home, he cuts a branch from his favorite blackthorn tree in order to "take a piece of Ireland with him on the journey across the ocean". The branch is whittled into a shillelagh, a walking stick. Within this shillelagh lies the story of the Fergus's family. Every St. Patrick's Day, the story of their flight from Ireland is told. Fergus grows up and gives the shillelagh to his son Declan. In turn, Declan gives it to his son Emmet and so it goes, on through the generations. The object becomes an heirloom and continues to be handed down with poetic stories told by family elders. Realistic illustrations add to the passage of time. This is a great introduction to Irish immigration and concepts of family traditions. Teachers in grades 2-4 may find this especially useful when introducing family traditions and/or a unit on Immigration.

This is a special book. It is not just a book for St. Patrick's Day, though it does figure into the story. This book encompasses family history, heritage and tradition. The illustrations are lush and detailed. This could even be used in teaching about the gathering of oral history and the importance of collecting the stories while someone is still remembering to tell them. This especially touches me because my husband has Irish heritage and he lived in Ireland for a time. This story speaks to me of the importance of not losing the connections to our past. Excellent book.

Cheers for this book. I am 4th generation Irish on both sides of my family and my father had a blackthorn walking stick that he used all the time. It came to me upon his death and then to my youngest son. It means a lot to my whole family..for the Irish history and the life of my dad. This book personifies all that is dear in each Irish family and I highly recommend it for the young ones in your family to remember and carry on the memories.

My grandkids and I really enjoyed reading this book. I think that knowledge of other cultures is a good thing, and traditions are important to introduce even to kids. What we learn as kids is certainly valuable as we grow up. I'd recommend this!

Loved it! As the granddaughter of an Irish immigrant, it struck very close to home for me. Our history is shared orally from one generation to the next. This lovely book gave a genuine view into what it is to be Irish in America. My students loved it as well.

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