

IAO

OCTOBER 2020

ACCREDITOR

FEATURED

SAFE WAYS TO CELEBRATE HALLOWEEN DURING COVID-19

- ➔ Virtual Costume Competitions
- ➔ Decorating Pumpkins
- ➔ Movie Nights

10

**Not-So-Scary,
Teacher Approved
Halloween Books**

EXCLUSIVE

7 SPOOKY STEM CHALLENGES FOR HALLOWEEN



Editor's Note

It is the month of Halloween and with coronavirus, the threat of infecting your loved ones is looming over everyone. People want to go out and celebrate as this is the first holiday that has arrived after summers during such pressing times.

However, staying at home is more important. Governments all over the world are making sure we remain safe and for that to happen, cooperation is important. But that does not mean you cannot celebrate.

Like all the other things this year, Halloween is also going to be unique and so you need different ideas. Like all the other things this year, Halloween is also going to be unique and so you need different ideas. This is one occasion where kids get to dress up and eat candy without anyone stopping them. For that, we require innovation.

This is why, in our October's issue, we have compiled the best ways to spend your holiday with your loved ones.

“Magic is really very simple, all you've got to do is want something and then let yourself have it.” Aggie Cromwell

Jeff Wright, Editor in Chief



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05. **10 NOT-SO-SCARY, TEACHER APPROVED HALLOWEEN BOOKS**

Halloween is the holiday kids dream of: dressing up, silly fun and, of course, the candy! These not-so-spooky Halloween books for kids have been favorites in my classroom to enjoy the novelty of this fun holiday.

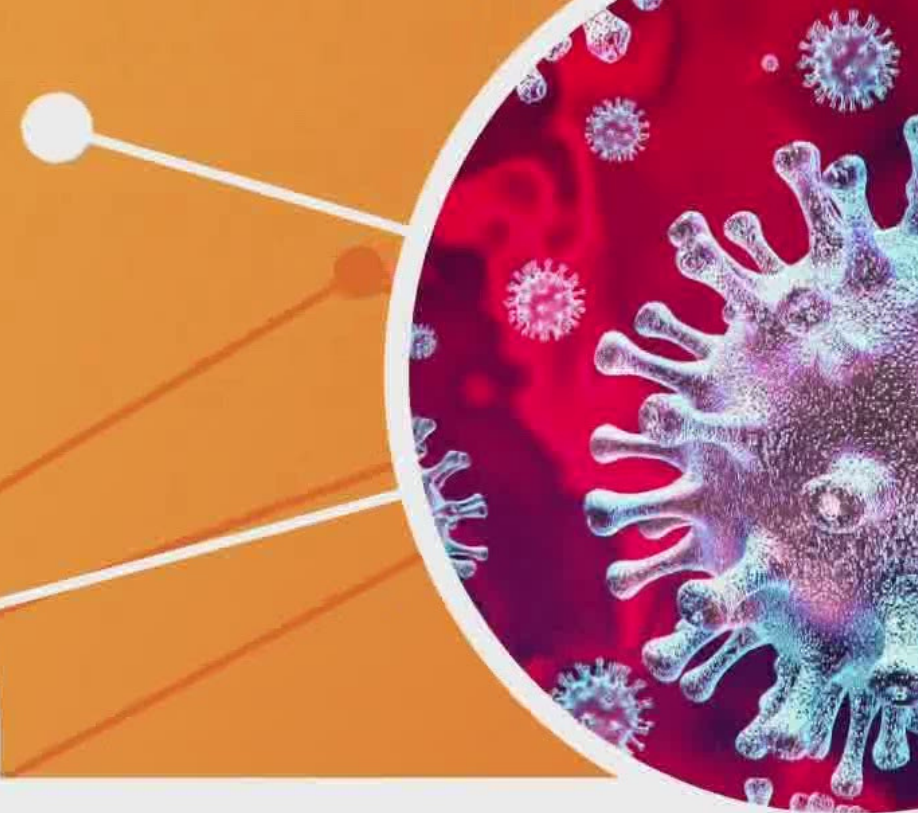


09. Exclusive

7 SPOOKY STEM CHALLENGES FOR HALLOWEEN

It's hard for kids to contain their excitement as Halloween approaches. Of course, the best way to keep your students focused and learning during the lead up to trick-or-treat is to bring Halloween into the classroom.

We've curated this list of Halloween-themed STEM activities to give you some easy and productive ways to make the holiday part of your curriculum, whether you're teaching preschool, kindergarten, third, or even eighth grade. You can find even more ideas on our Pinterest board.



Featured

HALLOWEEN IN JEOPARDY?

SAFE WAYS TO CELEBRATE HALLOWEEN DURING COVID-19

There's a new spooky character this Halloween that we're all trying to avoid – COVID-19. The CDC and AAP aren't recommending traditional trick-or-treating, and some communities may even discourage it, so it's time to get a little creative.

Your family doesn't need to trick-or-treat to celebrate Halloween! There are plenty of ways to get into the spooky spirit without going door-to-door. All these activities can be done with members of your own household. If you're going to include neighbors or friends, stay outside, keep a safe distance, and limit it to only a couple of neighbors or friends.



IN-HOME SOLUTIONS

- Virtual Halloween costume contest with friends and family to show off those costumes. This is a great opportunity to celebrate Halloween with non-local friends and family! Create age-appropriate themes and award prizes to the winners. There are plenty of free video-chat options available.
- Halloween movie night with themed snacks and movie-related costumes.
- Decorate pumpkins with paint, markers, and stickers. Display your decorated pumpkins outside or in the window. If carving pumpkins, children can draw on the pumpkin and adults should do the cutting.
- Find more trick-or-treat alternatives here.

If trick-or-treating is allowed and you're interested in participating, here are some steps you can take to make the night safer for everyone.

BE SAFE

For children and families going into the neighborhood:

- Masks for everyone. Make sure everyone in the group wears a mask – children older than two and adults alike. Costume masks are not a safe substitute for COVID masks. If you are handing out treats at your house, you also need to wear a mask.
- Make them shine. Put reflective tape on your child's costume so other trick-or-treaters and, importantly, cars, can see them. While you're at it, make sure that shoes fit well and that costumes are short enough to prevent tripping.
- Small groups. Restrict groups to just family or only a couple of friends and limit the number of houses you visit.
- Watch for cars. Remember to watch carefully for cars. Halloween is one of the biggest nights for pedestrian injuries in the US.





For parents and families handing out treats at home:

- Stay outside: Hand out treats outside. Spread them out on a table at the end of the driveway or edge of a yard so kids only touch what they will take. Consider handing out individually wrapped treat bags.
- X marks the spot. Mark Xs on the ground with sidewalk chalk or tape to keep groups six feet apart from each other.
- Germ control. Make sure you are wearing a mask. Have a bottle of hand sanitizer available for trick-or-treaters to use.



10 Not-So-Scary Teacher Approved Halloween Books

Halloween is the holiday kids dream of: dressing up, silly fun and, of course, the candy! These not-so-spooky Halloween books for kids have been favorites in my classroom to enjoy the novelty of this fun holiday.

We all love to celebrate for the fun, novelty, candy and costumes of Halloween. It also comes with some themes that can be scary and aren't always appropriate for the early childhood classroom.

Many of these books approach themes and characters that could be scary, like witches, ghosts and even a mummy. Instead these characters are fun, sweet, caring and relatable. There are also books that don't have any of those things and focus on themes like pumpkins.

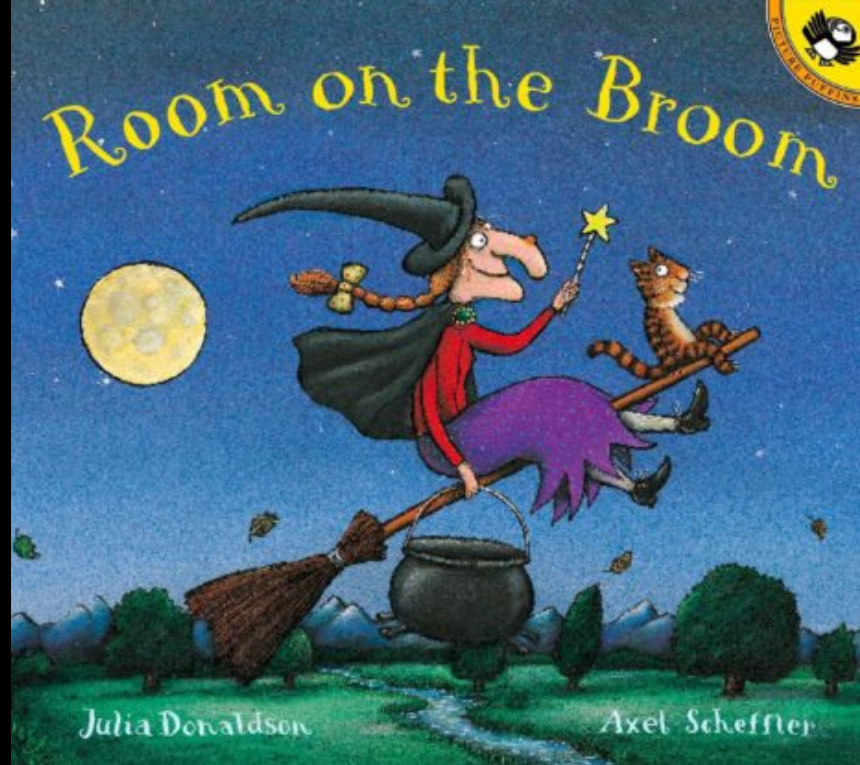
There is something for everyone on this list!

1. Room on the Broom

In this story, a witch and her cat are riding on a broom when the wind carries her hat away. When they swoop down to get it, a friend wants to join their journey. There is definitely room on the broom! It happens again and again.

Will there be room for everyone who wants to ride?

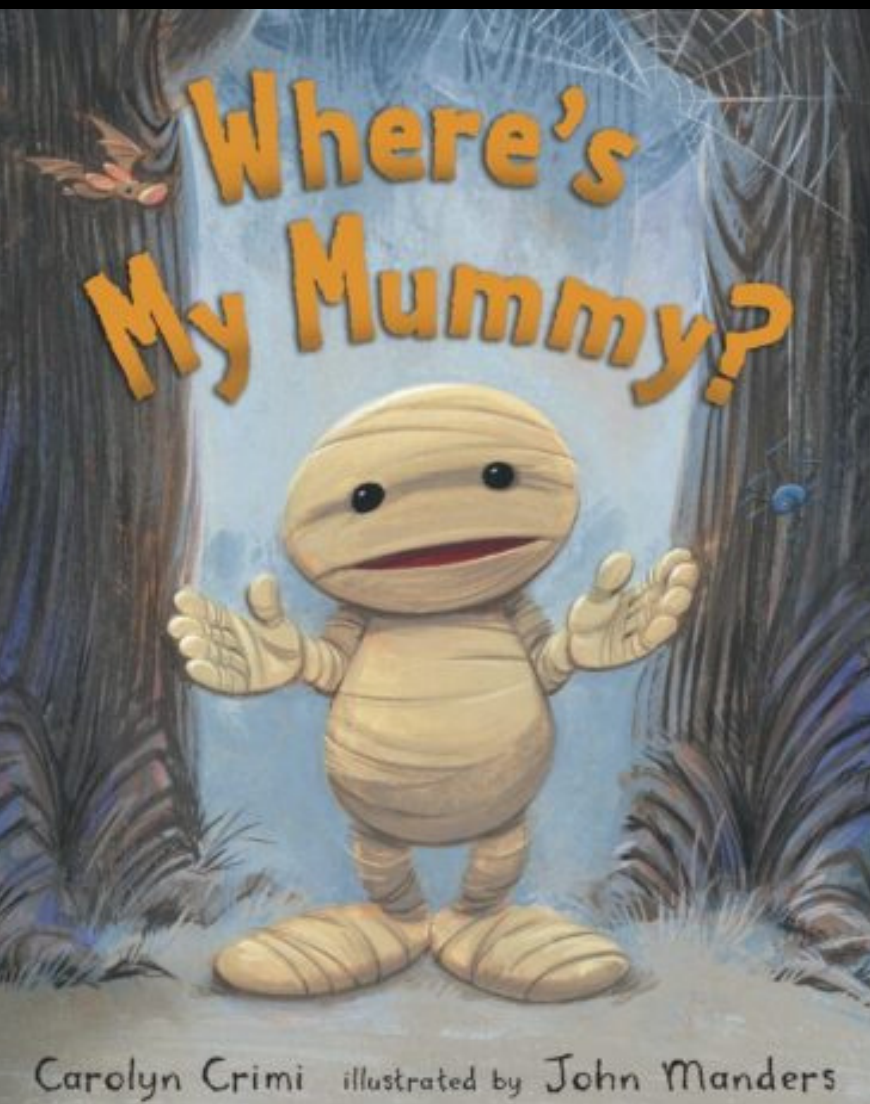
The cat doesn't think so, but when a disaster strikes, it turns out to be a great thing that everyone was riding on the broom!



2. Where's My Mummy?

This book walks the fine line between scary and silly with a little mummy who plays hide-and-shriek with his Big Mama Mummy. You are introduced to several different could-be-scary characters that really aren't.

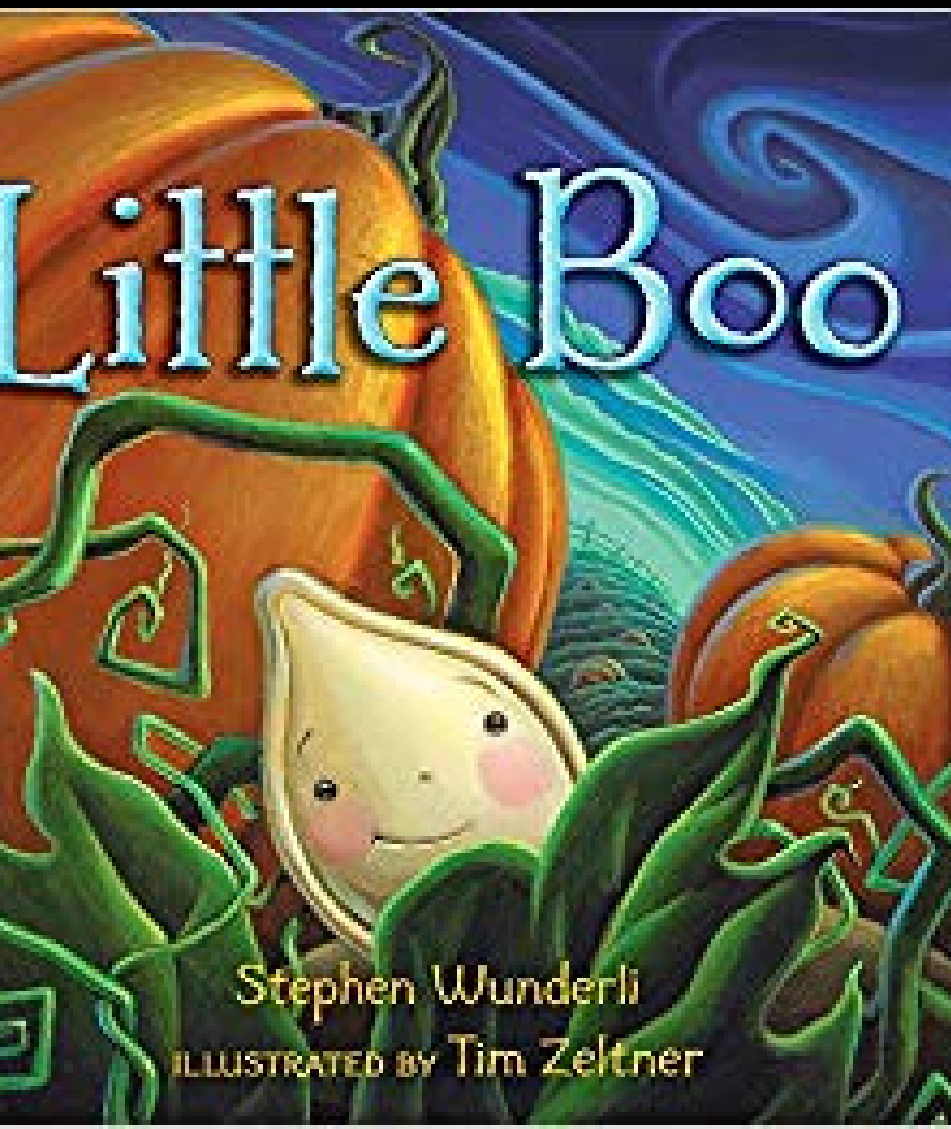
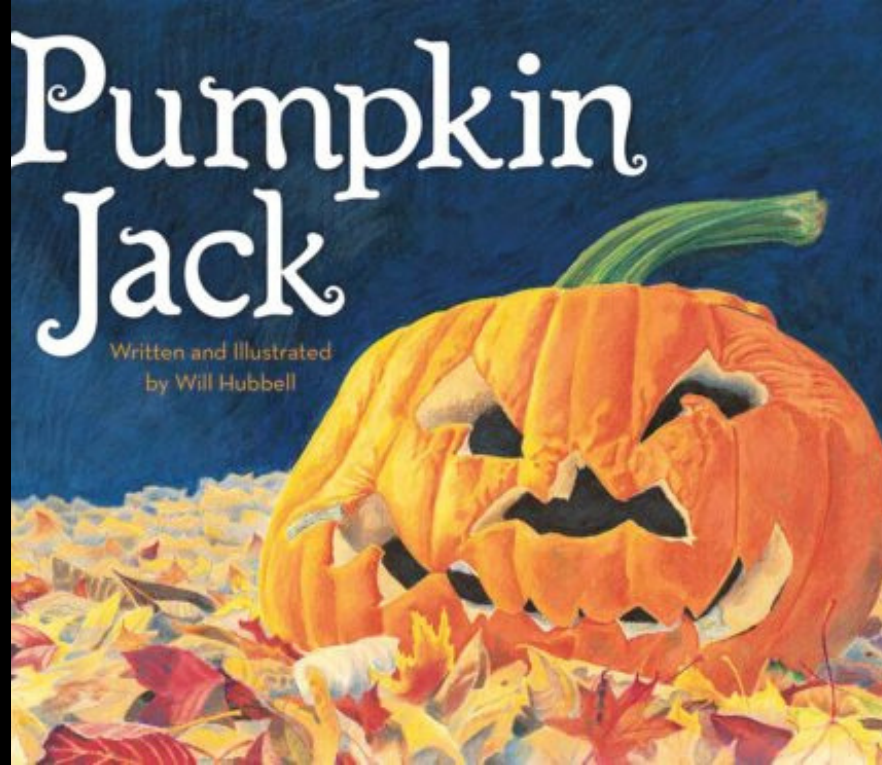
The students love this sweet book and can easily relate it to their own bedtime adventures with mom or dad. This book is always requested again and again.



3. Pumpkin Jack

Pumpkin Jack is a book is a story about a boy named Tim and the first pumpkin he ever carved. He set it out for Halloween but when the holiday was over, it began to rot and change.

The story takes students through the cycle of a pumpkin through an engaging story and intriguing illustrations. Everyone loves to use this book as an accompaniment to our pumpkin unit, too.



4. Little Boo

This adorable story is about a pumpkin seed named Little Boo who is doing his very best to be scary. He tries to scare the snowflakes in winter, the bees in the spring and even a watering can...but he just can't do it!

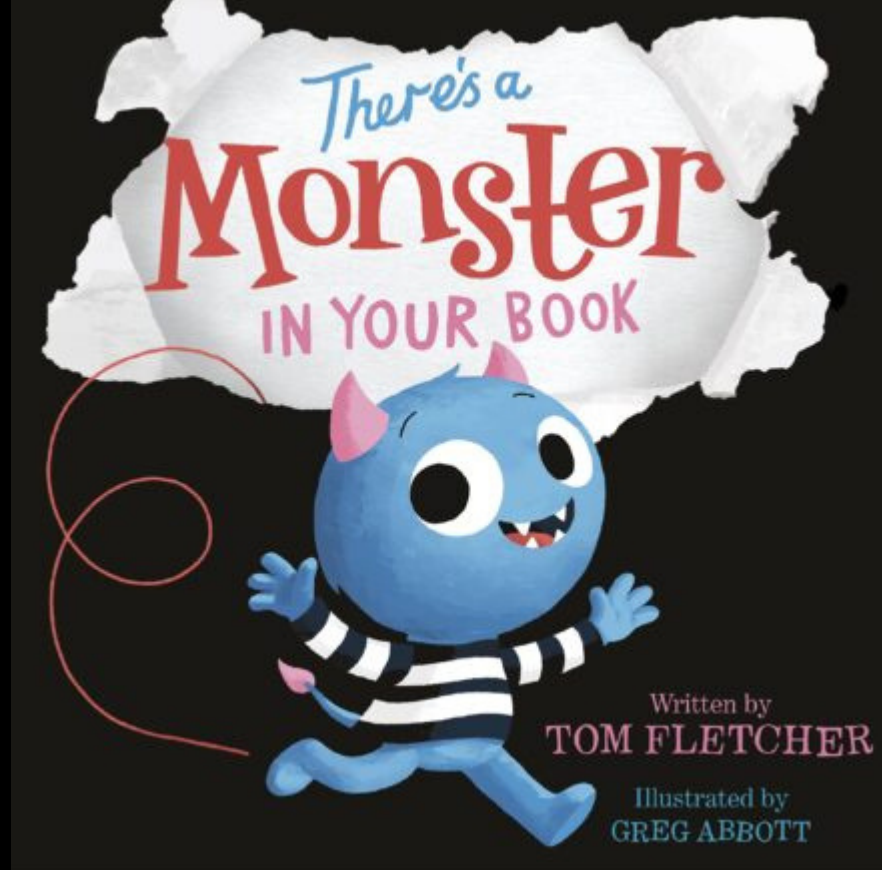
He waits and waits but doesn't know if he'll ever be truly scary. This story is a great lesson in patience as well as the life cycle of a pumpkin. Does Little Boo's wish to become scary ever come true? You'll have to read it to see!

5. There's a Monster in Your Book

Let's pull this Halloween book for kids out when we all need a break.

They will tilt, shake, wiggle and spin to get the silly monster out of this book. The twist at the end will have everyone giggling.

This interactive book is so much fun, we guarantee you'll read it at least 10 times and that still won't be enough for your students.

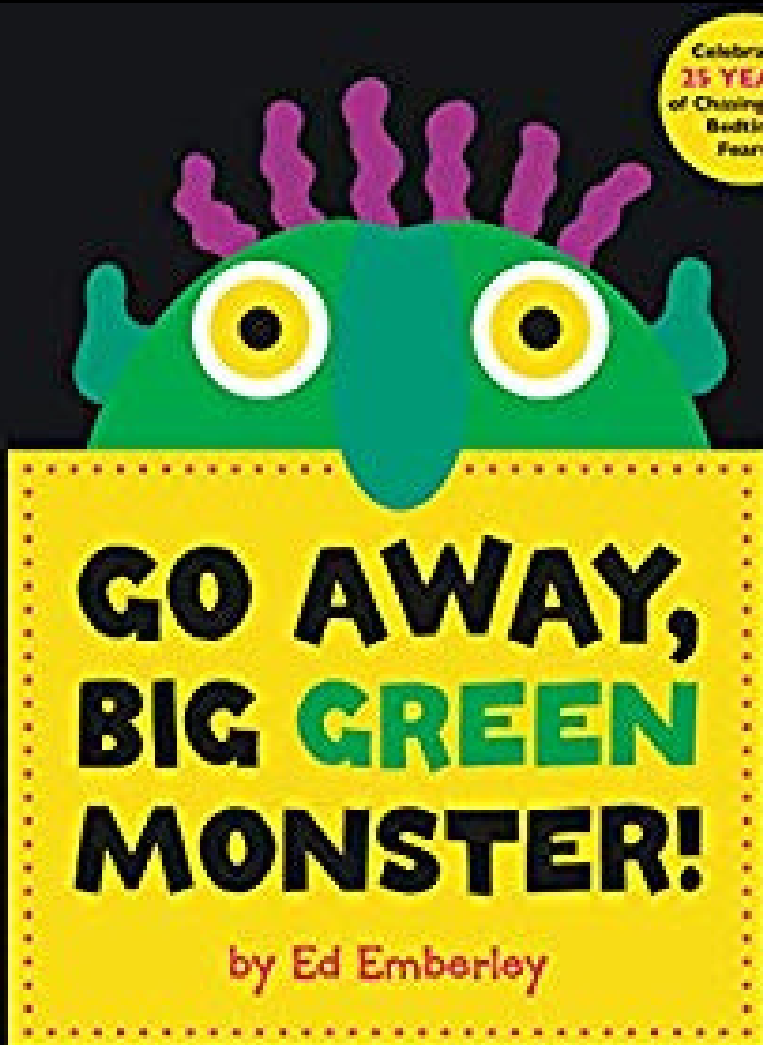


6. Go Away, Big Green Monster

This book is amazing for helping students overcome a fear of monsters at bedtime or other scary themes. It's vibrant, die-cut pages are super engaging for kids and the underlying message is excellent.

Readers "construct" a monster as they turn pages. New adjectives and elements are added until the monster is complete. Then you all tell the monster, "You don't scare me. Go away!"

Then you "deconstruct him," a page at a time, taking elements away.



7. Bonaparte Falls Apart

Bonaparte is a skeleton who just can't keep it together...literally! When he tries to throw a ball, his arm goes with it. At lunch, his jaw really drops. He is especially nervous to start school.

Thankfully he has friends who are ready to help him pull himself together. In the end, it's all about his confidence.

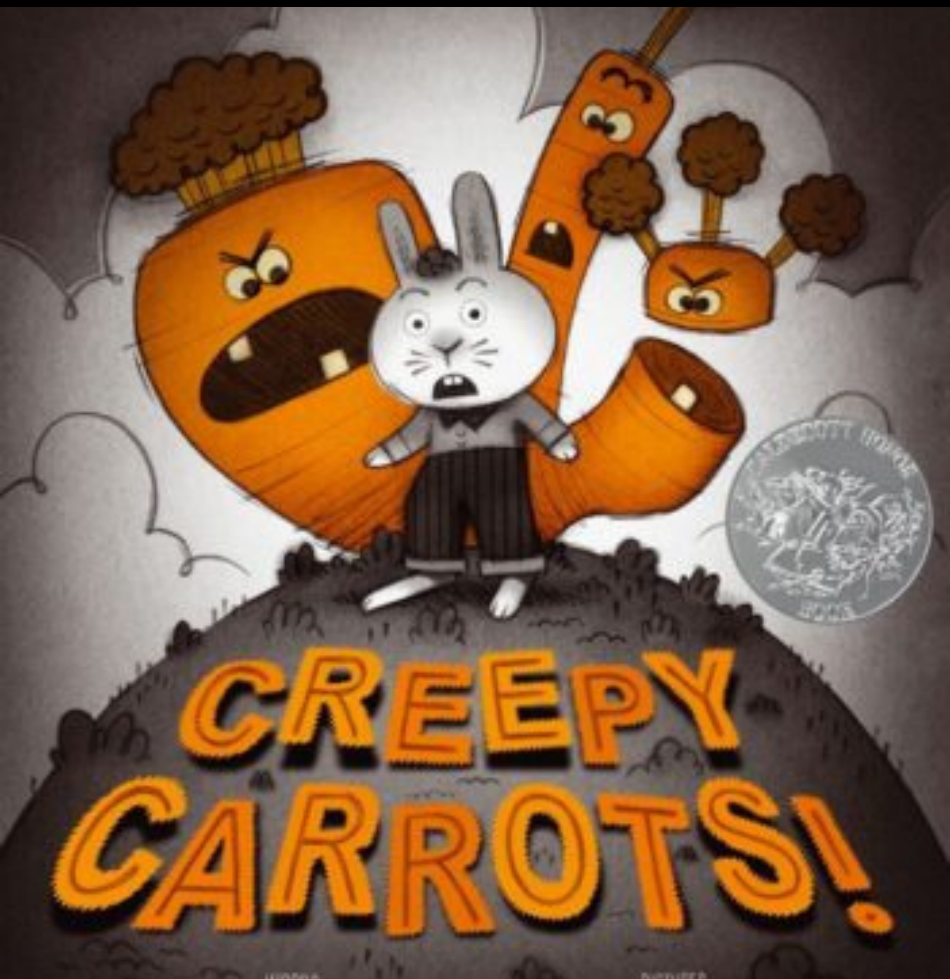
This story makes characters who would normally be scary, very sweet, funny and kind. It covers themes that are familiar to our students in a way that is approachable. It teaches that friendship and believing in yourself can help you overcome your fears.



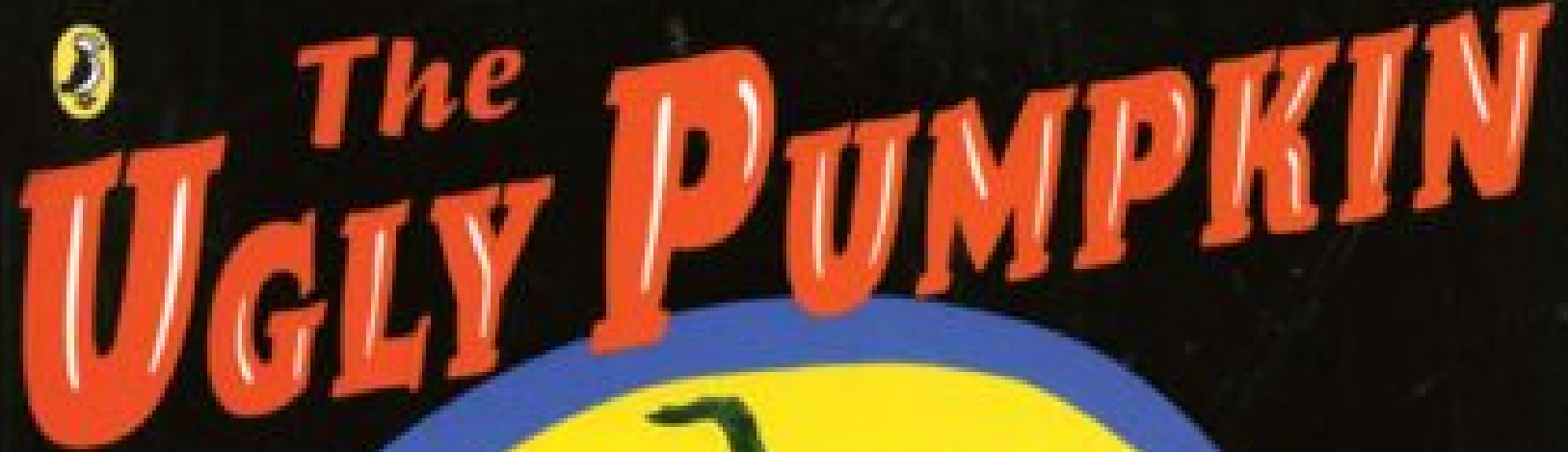
8. Creepy Carrots!

We know this book has “creepy” in the title, but it is anything but creepy! Jasper Rabbit really loves carrots, probably a little too much. He gets greedy and soon he fears the carrots are following him.

We are especially drawn to the illustrations and how genius they are. A lot of students recognize that the use of black and white illustrations with just orange helps draw their attention to the carrots. There are also a lot of illustrations without words that encourage inferencing.



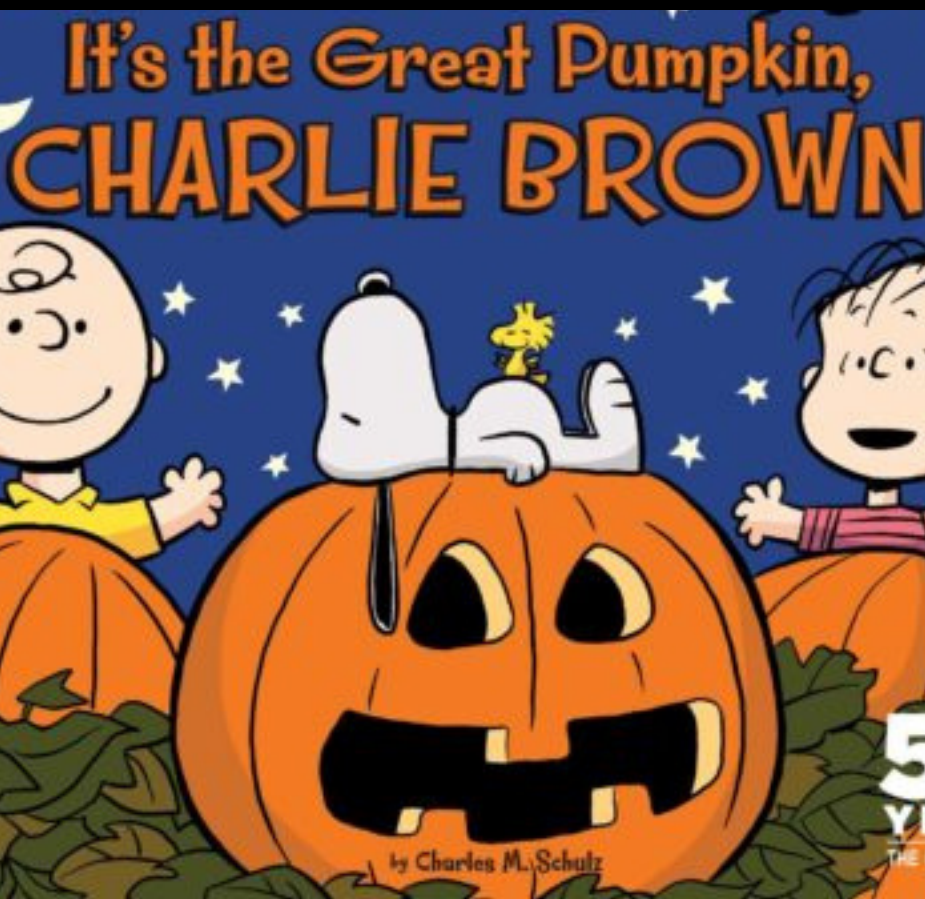
The UGLY PUMPKIN



9. The Ugly Pumpkin

This book may not seem like a Halloween book because it's about an ugly pumpkin that doesn't get chosen for Halloween. All October, he feels sad and lonely. He leaves the pumpkin patch in search of a place he can fit in.

Little does he know, he is the perfect Thanksgiving pumpkin! We love reading this story the day after Halloween. It's such a great example of things not working out how we expected. Sometimes they are even better!



10. It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown

The list wouldn't have been complete without this classic. We love this story of Linus and his dreams of the Great Pumpkin. It includes all of the things we love about Halloween: costumes, candy, friends and pumpkins.

It also explores the idea of believing in something, despite people telling you it's not real. We always end this book with writing our own letter to the Great Pumpkin, asking for another great Halloween.

HALLOWEEN CHALLENGE

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			1 Fog	2 Blood	3 Owl	4 Hay
5 Frog	6 Monster	7 Ghost	8 Scary	9 Candy	10 Cat	11 Moon
12 Skeleton	13 Dusk	14 Horror	15 Creature	16 Pumpkin	17 Haunted	18 Mask
19 Movie	20 Music	21 Decoration	22 Candles	23 Slime	24 Leaves	25 Forest
26 Pumpkin	27 Pumpkin	28 Trick	29 Grave	30 Spider	31 Costume	

8

SPOOKY STEM CHALLENGES FOR HALLOWEEN

@tourmalinenow

It's hard for kids to contain their excitement as Halloween approaches. Of course, the best way to keep your students focused and learning during the lead up to trick-or-treat is to bring Halloween into the classroom.

We've curated this list of Halloween-themed STEM activities to give you some easy and productive ways to make the holiday part of your curriculum, whether you're teaching preschool, kindergarten, third, or even eighth grade. You can find even more ideas on our Pinterest board.

If your school doesn't celebrate Halloween, don't worry – many of these activities work well in class apart from that holiday. Several involve apples or pumpkins, which you can always incorporate into your lesson plans around Thanksgiving.

1. SPIDER WEBS

Spiders may be creepy crawlies, but they are also master engineers. Similarly, making spider webs out of yarn is more than a fun art activity to do during Halloween. It gives you a chance to talk about these remarkable animals, their silk, and geometrical webs before your students get a chance to create their own designs. Encourage them to be inventive: no two spider webs in nature are the same, so their webs shouldn't be the same either!



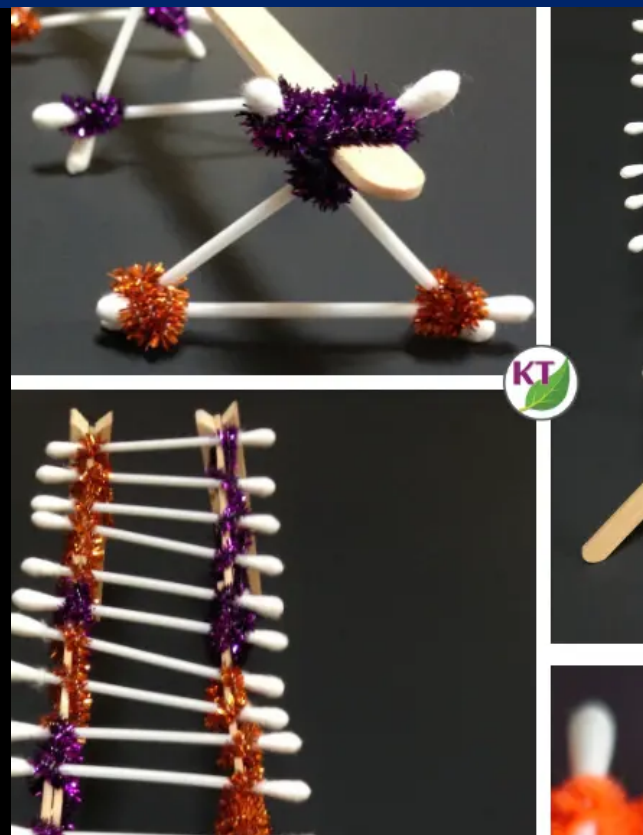
2. PAPER BATS

You've probably seen your students fly plenty of paper airplanes (with or without your permission). But what about paper bats? Getting a heavier, less streamlined body to stay in the air offers your students a whole different engineering challenge, giving your class a chance to explore concepts like aerodynamics and weight vs. lift — as well as bat biology.



3. BONE BRIDGE

Building a “bone” bridge out of q-tips, pipe cleaners, and clothespins offers your older students an in-depth, Halloween-themed structural engineering challenge that feels like holiday fun. These components aren’t just inexpensive: they’re able to produce a tremendous variety of structures, which means you can reward a variety of your students’ achievements, such as the strongest bridge, the most flexible bridge, and the bridge that can hold the most candy.



4. ARTICULATED HANDS

Your students can play with skeletons in a biology or engineering class by making these paper, straw, and string articulated hands. Once made, these simple toys are more than fun Halloween fidgeting tools: they accurately convey how muscles and tendons move muscles within the human body.





5. PUMPKIN INVESTIGATION

Introduce the basics of scientific observation to your younger learners with this simple pumpkin investigation, which even includes a simple experiment testing whether your pumpkin sinks or floats. Of course, after the initial investigation, the class can carve the pumpkin together and roast the seeds for a full afternoon of Halloween fun.

6. Five Little Pumpkins

The popular Halloween rhyme “Five Little Pumpkins” has been made into songs, videos, and books – your pre-k, kindergarten, first, and second grade students may already know it! This rhyme also contains the inspiration for an easy STEM challenge: building a “gate” on which the round, rolling pumpkins can sit. With ping-pong balls for pumpkins and Legos for the “gate,” this challenge is safe and achievable for even the youngest students.



7. Candy Pumpkin Catapults

Constructing candy pumpkin catapults offers a slightly more advanced (and entirely more edible) STEM challenge that is still accessible for the youngest elementary school students. Best of all, they can take their catapults home to be used in a huge variety of play, such as shooting acorns outside or making Lego figures soar over newly-built castles.

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