

Pumpkin Nights

Pumpkins on the windowsills
shining out so bright.

Gleaming, glowing jack-o'-lanterns
lighting up the night.

Watching us with winking eyes
as we walk down the street.

Flashing us their zigzag grins
as we call "trick-or-treat!"

Pumpkins on the windowsills
shining out so bright.

Gleaming, glowing jack-o'-lanterns
lighting up the night.

Pumpkin Nights



Introducing the Poem

- Write the poem on chart paper. Draw the outline of a pumpkin around the words.
- Children may enjoy using the following hand gestures to highlight the different images within the poem as you read it aloud:

Lines 1-2: Spread hands open around face in a circular motion to suggest the pumpkins' shining faces.

Lines 3-4: Extend arms over head in a circular motion to suggest the pumpkins lighting up the night.

Lines 5-6: Point to eyes and wink.

Lines 7-8: Point to mouth, then trace a zigzag shape in the air.

Lines 9-12: Repeat actions for first four lines.

Talking About the Poem

- Ask children to use their imaginations to think of reasons the jack-o'-lanterns might be grinning. Are they happy it's Halloween? Do they like the children's costumes?
- Draw students' attention to alliterative phrases such as *gleaming, glowing* and *watching us with winking eyes*. What sounds do they hear repeated?
- Challenge children to find and underline all the words that contain the phonogram *-ight*.

Working With Words

Word Family Pumpkin Toss: On chart paper, write the following list of words from the *-ight* word family: *bright, light, night, fight, might, right, sight, tight, flight, fright*. Then lead children in a sound blending activity. Begin by making the initial consonant sound for one of the words on your list, for example /l/. Pause briefly before saying *-ight*. Toss a miniature pumpkin to a student and ask him or her to blend the sounds together to say the word (in this instance, *light*). Then have that student toss the pumpkin back to you. Repeat the activity, tossing the pumpkin around the circle until you've segmented and blended all the words on your list.



Shared Writing

Pumpkin Expression Sentences: Write the following frame on the chalkboard:

Pumpkins can be _____.

Draw a picture of a grinning pumpkin. Ask children to finish the sentence by providing a word that describes the pumpkin's expression (for example, *happy*). Change the pumpkin's expression several times and each time ask students to substitute other words in the place of *happy*. Then provide each child with a copy of the pumpkin pattern on page 20. Have children cut out the pumpkin. Then have them complete the sentence frame on the front of the pumpkin and draw a matching expression on the back. Children can then color the pumpkin and fill in their name. Punch holes in the tops of the pumpkins and bind them together to make a class shape-book.

Extending the Poem

Pumpkin Magic

Students will enjoy a bit of Halloween "magic" as they make their own brightly shining pumpkins using coffee filters and tinted water.

Materials

- ❁ water
- ❁ paper cups
- ❁ food coloring (red and yellow)
- ❁ old newspapers
- ❁ round coffee filters
- ❁ eyedroppers
- ❁ precut green paper rectangles (about 1/2 by 3 inches)
- ❁ precut black paper triangles (about 1 1/2 inches tall)
- ❁ glue

- 1 Put about 1/4 cup of water into each of a number of paper cups. Add 8 to 10 drops of red food coloring to half of the cups, and 8 to 10 drops of yellow food coloring to the other half. Set out enough cups of each color for your class to share.
- 2 Spread out newspapers and provide each child with two coffee filters stacked together and flattened. (Using two filters provides added durability.)
- 3 Have children use an eyedropper to squeeze drops of the red and yellow water onto the filters. Wow! Students will be fascinated as they watch the colors "magically" mix together to make orange.
- 4 After the filters dry, students can glue on a green rectangle "stem," and black triangles for eyes, a nose, and a toothy grin.

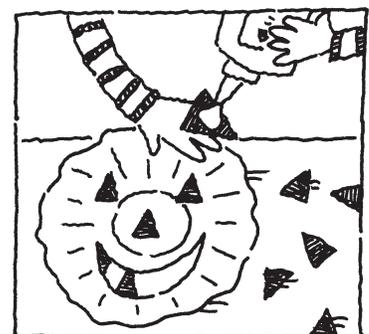
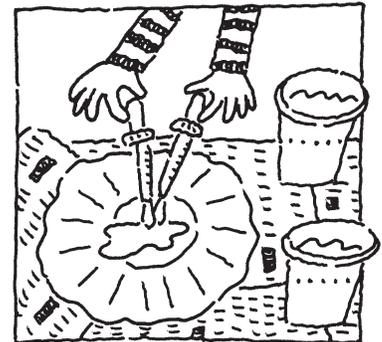
Literature Links

These books offer playful takes on the Halloween ritual of picking pumpkins:

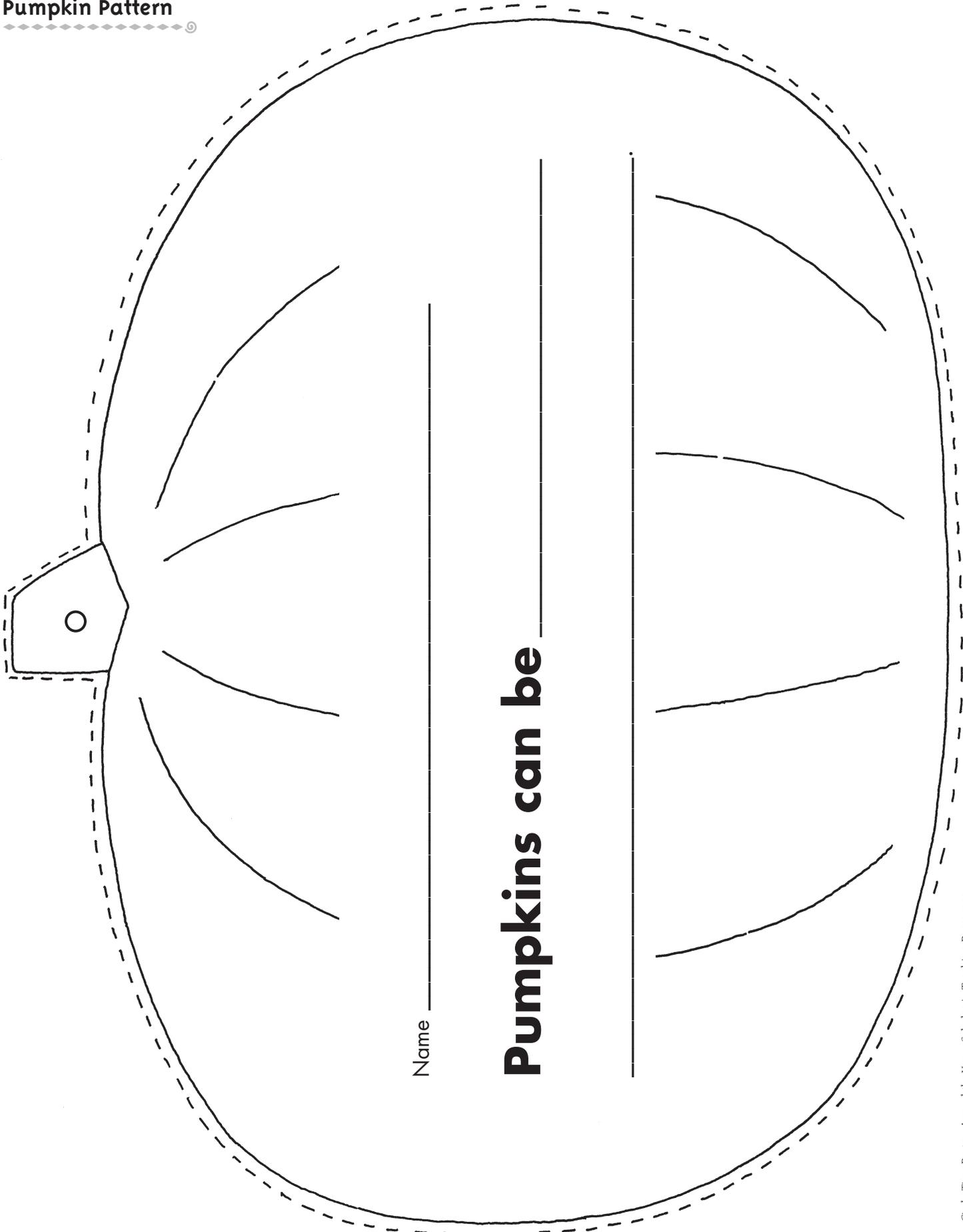
Big Pumpkin by Erica Silverman (Simon & Schuster, 1995)

It's Pumpkin Time! by Zoe Hall (Blue Sky Press, 1994)

Pumpkin Day, Pumpkin Night by Anne F. Rockwell (Walker & Co., 1999)



Pumpkin Pattern



Name _____

Pumpkins can be _____