



Teacher Share

LANGUAGE ARTS

Character Costumes

Plan a Halloween parade that doubles as a literature lesson. Ask students to create costumes that represent favorite book characters. These costumes do not have to be elaborate—for example, a child can dress up as Harry Potter with a pair of round, non-prescription glasses, a cape, and a broom. Have children hold the books that match their costumes as they parade through the halls. This parade will introduce students to new books and eliminate the problem of gory costumes that make some people uneasy about allowing costumes at school.

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Tip

Look for Halloween-related objects at a dollar store, and collect stuff lying around the house, to make this an easy and inexpensive addition to your writing program!

LANGUAGE ARTS

Spill a Scary Story

Inspire creative writing in the classroom with this independent-writing activity. Fill tennis ball containers with small plastic toys that have a Halloween theme—such as ghosts, pumpkins, cats, spiders, skeletons, keys, fake teeth, and so on. Label the containers “Spill a Scary Story.” Place the Spill a Scary Story containers at a center, along with writing paper and pencils. Have students take turns shaking the containers, then spilling some of the goodies and writing stories about the objects. The objects will help students write details and plot the events of their scary story.



Book Break

Miss Hildy’s Missing Cape Caper

by Lois G. Grambling (Random House, 2000)

This easy-reader mystery follows Miss Hildy as she sets out on Halloween night to find her stolen cape, cap, magnifying glass, and little black book. Children will laugh and be surprised by the ending, too!