

Halloween Lesson

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Halloween Vocabulary

Halloween	N. a holiday celebrated on October 31 in which people dress in scary costumes
to carve	V. to cut with a large knife
pumpkin	N. a large, orange vegetable associated with Halloween
Jack-o-lantern	N. Americans traditionally cut out scary faces in pumpkins and put a candle inside. These pumpkins with faces are called "Jack-o-lanterns." Jack-o-lanterns are made to scare away evil spirits on Halloween.
costume	N. scary clothing or disguises worn on Halloween
"trick or treat"	On Halloween, children go from house to house and say "trick or treat." This phrase means give me candy or I will play a trick on you. Families usually give the children candy. If the children don't get candy, they sometimes play mean tricks like breaking the house's Jack-o-lantern or putting soap on its windows.
a costume party	N. a party where everyone dresses in scary costumes
bobbing for apples	This is a traditional Halloween game. You put apples in a barrel of water and people try to take the floating apples out of the water using only their mouths.
a skeleton	N. a body of nothing but bones
a ghost	N. the spirit of a dead person which appears again
a ghoul	N. an evil spirit which takes bodies from graves and eats them
a goblin	N. an unkind spirit which plays tricks on people
a witch	N. a woman with magic powers (usually evil)
a warlock	N. a man with magic powers (usually evil)

Vocabulary in Writing

Use the above vocabulary to fill in the blanks in the following poem. Your answers can be checked by clicking at the bottom of the page.

Little Monsters

Choose your _____ and carve it right,
 For tonight is the night of fright.
 A most dangerous eve is _____,
 Disguise yourself from dangers unseen.
 Beware!
 The witches and _____ prepare their brews,
 Deadly mixtures and magic stews.

Those without _____ should run and hide,
 Or, better yet, stay inside,
 For the darkest night is the night of fools,
 Souls unprepared for bone-eating _____,
 Ghosts and _____ who seek to annoy
 Or, perhaps, even destroy.
 Listen!
 Hear the sounds of laughter and little feet,
 As they threaten you with "_____."
 Give them candy, they will go away.
 Lock your doors and pray
 That the _____ candle stays lit,
 And the devilish children quit.

A. E. Martin

Halloween Adjectives

cackling	to make an evil, witch-like laughing sound
evil	very bad in thought and behavior
gruesome	terribly shocking and sickening (often describes an act or event)
haunted	containing evil spirits or ghosts (usually describes a building or location)
hideous	describes something which is so sickening and ugly that you can't look at it
horrified	very shocked and scared
howling	making a long, loud cry like a wolf or a dog
possessed	controlled by an evil spirit or ghost (usually describes a person)
shrieking	sounding like a high-pitched, terrified screaming
wicked	very bad or evil (often associated with witches)

Vocabulary in Writing

Use the above vocabulary to fill in the blanks in the following sentences. Your answers can be checked by clicking at the bottom of the page.

1. There are two kinds of witches according to legend: good witches who help and protect people, and _____ witches who use their magic to hurt people.
2. Every Halloween, the children tell stories about the _____ house on the hill. They say that the ghost of an old man wanders the hallways looking for the spirit of his long lost wife.
3. The people of the little town said that they could hear _____ sounds coming from the forest. Some said it sounded like the cries of an old woman calling for help.
4. At night, the villagers could hear the _____ werewolves just outside the village wall. They locked their doors and shutters and prayed that the creatures would not find a way into their homes.

5. "Halloween" is a classic horror movie with plenty of _____ murders. We rent the video every year on October 31.
6. Centuries ago, they thought that people could be controlled by evil spirits. These " _____ " people were often burned at the stake.
7. He was not a good person. He was an _____ person, and everyone knew that he was dangerous.
8. The monster's _____ face was green and covered with warts.
9. The _____ witch stirred her brew with delight. She laughed because it was Halloween, and evil was in the air.
10. The woman shrieked because she was _____ at the sight of the skeleton lying in her bed.

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