

## JOSH'S HALLOWEEN PUMPKIN

By Kathryn Lay

Teacher's Guide

### PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

Find pictures of giant pumpkins. Talk about the weight of giant pumpkins. (Check out [www.giantpumpkins.com](http://www.giantpumpkins.com) )

Check out [www.youthonline.ca/halloween/101pumpkins.shtml](http://www.youthonline.ca/halloween/101pumpkins.shtml)

Learning about pumpkins: Pumpkin Facts –

1. Pumpkins are not vegetables. They are fruits!
2. There was probably some kind of pumpkin served at the first Thanksgiving Feast since they are one part of the 3 basic diet foods of American Indians – maize, beans, and squash.
3. Pumpkins vary in color from white to yellow to orange.
4. Pumpkins are used as feed for some farm animals.
5. About four months after planting, pumpkins are ready to harvest.
6. Pumpkins are 90 percent water.
7. Once, pumpkins were recommended for removing freckles and curing snake bites.
8. Pumpkins are grown on six of the seven continents (not Antarctica). Even in Alaska.

### WRITING ACTIVITIES:

JOSH'S HALLOWEEN PUMPKIN is the story of a brother and sister and their Grandpa. Draw a picture of your family and label them.

It is also a story of a boy doing something unselfish for his sister. What does being unselfish mean?

Tell about a time when you have done something special for someone?

### DISCUSSING THE BOOK

1. Who did Josh and his sister visit?
2. What special job did they have?
3. What did Josh find in the pumpkin patch?
4. What did Josh want to do with the giant pumpkin?
5. What happened to Callie?
6. What was Josh's big idea to find her?
7. What did the townspeople do after Josh carved the giant pumpkin?

8. Did Josh keep the pumpkin for himself in the end?

### GROWING

Grow a Pumpkin:

Simple version: Put pumpkin seeds into a plastic bag with a wet paper towel. When they sprout, put them in soil.

Pumpkins grow in all sizes. Small ones that can be used in decorating a table or basket and all the way up to the giant pumpkins that are so big they need to be carried on a truck or wagon and entered into contests all around the country.

Check out:

[http://kiddiegardens.com/growing\\_pumpkins.html#how\\_to](http://kiddiegardens.com/growing_pumpkins.html#how_to)

### USING OBSERVATION:

Find the black cat throughout JOSH'S HALLOWEEN PUMPKIN. How many times can you count the cat in the book?

### FALL SEASON

Pumpkins are picked and used in the Fall for decoration and food. They are sold and seen at pumpkin patches, farms, grocery stores, farmers markets, and festivals in many places.

What else do you see in the Fall?

Start a leaf collection or draw pictures of colorful Fall leaves.

### MATH

1. If someone grew a giant pumpkin and put it on a giant scale and it weighs 530 pounds, how many small pumpkins weighing 5 pounds each would need to go on the other side of the scale to make it even? Answer: 106 pumpkins.
2. Pumpkin Seed Math - Place some seeds from a pumpkin in a ziplock bag. Give each student a bag and a sheet of paper. Have them write a math problem using their seeds.

### GAMES

Some fun games with pumpkins.

1. Hot Pumpkin. Play this game like hot potato using a small pumpkin.

2. Musical Pumpkins. Stand beside pumpkins placed in a circle and remove one each time someone is out.
3. Pin the Stem on the Pumpkin. Play like pin the tail on the cat.

ENRICHMENT:

Visit a pumpkin farm or patch.

PLAN A PUMPKIN MEAL

Find recipes for pumpkin pies, bread, pancakes, cookies, cheesecake, muffins, soup, roasted pumpkin seeds, ice cream, apple butter, pudding, and fudge.

A GREAT WEBSITE for ideas for using pumpkin theme to teach:

[www.teachingheart.net/apumpkinunit.html](http://www.teachingheart.net/apumpkinunit.html)