



Activity Guide

800-788-1121

The Pumpkin Book

This Live Oak Readalong can be correlated to the following Common Core State Standards (CCSS):

RI.2.10: By the end of year, read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts, in the grades 2–3 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.

SL.2.2: Recount or describe key ideas or details from a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media.

RI.3.10: By the end of the year, read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts, at the high end of the grades 2–3 text complexity band independently and proficiently.

SL.3.2: Determine the main ideas and supporting details of a text read aloud or information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

The accompanying activities can be correlated to the following Common Core State Standards:

RI.2.1: Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.

RI.2.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 2 topic or subject area.

W.2.7: Participate in shared research and writing projects (e.g., read a number of books on a single topic to produce a report; record science observations).

W.2.8: Recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.

SL.2.2: Recount or describe key ideas or details from a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media.

SL.2.4: Tell a story or recount an experience with appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details, speaking audibly in coherent sentences.

2.MD.A.1 Measure the length of an object by selecting and using appropriate tools such as rulers, yardsticks, meter sticks, and measuring tapes.

RI.3.1: Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

RI.3.2: Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea.

RI.3.4: Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 3 topic or subject area.

RF.3.3.c: Decode multisyllable words.

W.3.7: Conduct short research projects that build knowledge about a topic.

W.3.8: Recall information from experiences or gather information from print and digital sources; take brief notes on sources and sort evidence into provided categories.

SL.3.2: Identify the main ideas and supporting details of written texts read aloud or information presented graphically, orally, visually, or multimodally.

BEFORE LISTENING

About the Story

Many children are familiar with the sight of pumpkins around Halloween, but do they know any real facts about pumpkins? This book will tell them everything they've always wanted to know about these enormous vegetables, from how they grow to how they are used.

Activate Prior Knowledge/Build Background

Ask children if they have ever carved pumpkins into jack-o-lanterns at Halloween time. Then ask them if they have ever eaten pumpkin. Explain that there is much more to the pumpkin than its ability to be carved, and tell them that they will learn all about pumpkins in the book they are about to read.

AFTER LISTENING

Standards-Linked Activities

Listening/Speaking

CCSS: RI.2.1, SL.2.2; RI.3.1, RI.3.2, SL.3.2

Ask children the following questions about the book. Call on volunteers to respond orally.

- To what family do pumpkins belong?
- Name two kinds of pumpkin varieties.
- What do you call the small circular areas where some pumpkins are planted?
- What color are pumpkin flowers?
- What did people once believe about Halloween?
- Why do you think pumpkins are so popular? (Draw conclusions)

Vocabulary

CCSS: RI.2.4; RI.3.4, RF.3.3.c

Write these words and definitions on the chalkboard. Have children copy them and draw lines to match each word with its definition.

variety	to cut down crops
tendrill	scissors
stigma	type or kind
harvest	begin to grow
shears	small part of a vine
sprout	part of a female flower

Science: Grow It Yourself

CCSS: 2.MD.A.1

Bring in pumpkin seeds for the children to grow themselves. Plant each seed in a paper cup. Have children water the seeds regularly. Encourage them to watch the seeds and note on a chart when they sprout and how quickly they grow, measuring them with a ruler. If possible, when the plants are a few inches high, have the children plant them outside.

Social Studies: History of the Jack-O'-Lantern

CCSS: W.2.8; W.3.7

Before people began making jack-o'-lanterns from pumpkins, they used other vegetables. Have children work in small groups to find out about the history of jack-o'-lanterns. Have them answer these questions:

Where were jack-o'-lanterns first used?

What was the original purpose of the jack-o'-lantern?

Children can report on what they have learned to the class.

Health: Pumpkin Recipes

CCSS: W.2.7; W.3.7

Have children look in cookbooks for pumpkin recipes that sound interesting, or bring in recipes that they have tasted and enjoyed at home. Ask them to copy the recipes and draw illustrations for them. You can collect the recipes in a class book of pumpkin recipes.

On the Internet: Great Pumpkin Designs

CCSS: W.3.8

Before you send children to do research using any of the keywords listed below, you may wish to try them yourself to be sure the sites are suitable.

Have children use the keywords "jack-o'-lantern designs" to find designs on the Internet. If possible, have them print out their favorite design. Work with children to choose the best two or three designs, and try to create them together on actual pumpkins.

Additional Activities

Art: Design a Jack-O'-Lantern

Have children use orange construction paper and markers to design their own jack-o'-lanterns. Encourage them to make their creations as imaginative as possible. Provide them with glitter and paint to add to their art. When they are finished, they can display their jack-o'-lanterns around the classroom.