

Five Little Pumpkins

Five little pumpkins sitting on a gate
The first one said, "Oh my it's getting late."
The second one said, "There are witches in the air!"
The third one said, "But we don't care."
The fourth one said, "Let's run and run and run."
The fifth one said, "I'm ready for some fun!"
Poof went the wind, and out went the light,
And away they all rolled into Hallowe'en night.

Yes, Jack O-Lanterns is, strictly speaking, more accurate, but I like the word "pumpkins" --the word is more fun to say, pop the "p"s!

xylophone, glockenspiel, percussion

Music & Drama Five Little Pumpkins

(rhythmic chants/poems are spoken music)

- 1** "I know five little pumpkins who could talk! I'm going to tell you what they said. If you listen really carefully, maybe you'll be able to tell me what they said. Ready to listen?" Say and do the actions for "Five Little Pumpkins".

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Actions

*begin with 5 fingers on one hand
then one finger for first, etc.
while the other hand does actions*

*hand covers mouth in a yawn
pointing up into sky
shrug, lift hand palm up
circle beside as in running
thumb points at self*

*both hands fly up and open
close the light by closing fingers on hands
roll hands around each other
and move them away from body*

- 2** "Hands up if you can tell me one of the things the pumpkins said." (Take ideas from students. If needed, give hints by re-doing the actions.) "Good listening. This time I'm going to say the words out loud. Your job is to say the words with magic lips. Your lips move, but no sound comes out! (It's Hallowe'en, a little magic is part of it eh?) Magic lips and do the actions with me. Ready ... Five little pumpkins ..."
- 3** "Excellent. Now its time to say the words out loud. Ready, let's go, Five little pumpkins ..."
- 4** "This chant/poem is like a play with a narrator. The narrator tells what is happening, and the pumpkins are the actors in the play. They are talking to each other. I'm going to be the narrator, and you (the whole class) are going to say the pumpkin lines. So, I'll say, "Five little pumpkins sitting on a gate, the first one said," (Make a gesture to the class to encourage them to fill in the missing words, and continue through the chant.)



5 "I'm the director of this play, so I choose the actors." (Choose children to be the pumpkins and have them line up at the front of the class as if on a gate. Number them from one to five. It's helpful to give each child a card with their number on it.) **"Here are our pumpkins, the rest of us are the narrators. Pumpkins are you ready? Make sure you use big voices so we can all hear what you say. Narrators, we begin, ready let's go ... Five little pumpkins ..."**

6 **"Good work! What could we do to make our play better?"** (add some sound effects at the beginning, have the pumpkins roll away into the night at the end, turn the lights down in the classroom) **"Let's try it once more."** (Repeat with the same children being the pumpkins.)

7 **Time for a little Halloween havoc!** Have the students who have just acted as pumpkins, spaced around the edge of the mat ---one on each corner and one extra squeezed in? Count off the children who have not been pumpkins. As each is given a number between one and five, they go and stand with the pumpkin who has the numbered card. Try the poem with each group saying its part according to the number.

If there is time, go on to the next step, which is having 4 or 5 "gates" around the classroom, and one pumpkin of each number at each gate. (I've found it goes more smoothly, and it's easier to coach shy pumpkins, if every student has a card showing which "number" pumpkin they are acting.) Encourage students to speak audibly when it's their turn. **Do it again just for fun!**



Performance Strengths and Growing Edges

Take a few minutes to have students reflect on their performance.

Ask: What do you think you did well as you performed in the drama?

audible voice
came in with words at the correct time
quiet when waiting for turn
attentive when others were performing
put the feelings from "my" line into my voice

Ask: What could you do to make the drama better if it was being done again?

Enjoy the Repertoire Student Choice of Song or Dance

New Repertoire



Five Little Pumpkins

Dance(A) & Drama(B) Music(C)

Hallowe'en Songs are fun, but short-lived. Take today to sing, dance and act through the Hallowe'en repertoire.

Warm-Ups(3 minutes)

Choose Favourite/Fun Warm-Ups

Practice and Review

Rhythm Counting Costumes/Characters

Music & Movement/Dance

Character Music (page 50)

Optional Ideas



Work Page

*guided group work



*illustration/drawing/labouring



Variations on Nursery Rhymes

*Humpkin Pumpkin

*Peter and Patsy Pumpkin Eaters



Seasonal Song Pages

*practise and perform



Work Page: Group Work OR Illustrating a Chant/Poem

1. Divide the class into 4 drama groups. Ask the groups to decide who is going to be director (or appoint someone e.g. shortest person in group?)
2. Give each director a work page. Groups decide who is going to say each part --the director prints the name beside the part. **Note:** students may do more than one part and/or more than one student may do a part.
3. Give a limited time for groups to practise.
4. Call students back into a large group. Drama groups take turns presenting.
5. After everyone has performed ask: What was done well? What could use more practise?

I can do music in Lesson 8 . My name is _____

Five Little Pumpkins

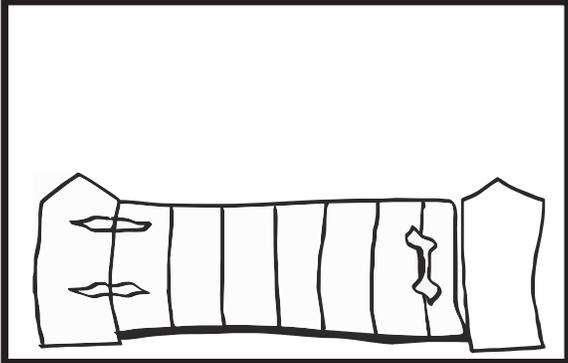
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The third one said, "But we don't care."
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The fifth one said, "I'm ready for some fun!"
Poof went the wind, and out went the light,
And away they all rolled into Hallowe'en night.



These pumpkins are fired. Draw them sitting on their gate so they can rest a while.

Your job today is to be an actor. Practice saying the words. Now decide how to act as you say the words. Where will you stand or sit? Will the words be loud or soft? Practise your play about the pumpkins. When you are ready to put on your play, tell the teacher.

Actors	
First Pumpkin	_____
Second Pumpkin	_____
Third Pumpkin	_____
Fourth Pumpkin	_____
Fifth Pumpkin	_____
Narrator(s)	_____



Ask me to recite "Five Little Pumpkins."

Each student gets a copy of the "script" to colour and take home.

B Variations on Nursery Rhymes

1. Say one of the rhyme variations. Ask: **"Does this sound familiar?"** Say it again.
2. If students are familiar with the original, they'll probably guess the connection. If not, explain how nursery rhymes evolved over time and are still changing today. Say the original one. Ask how it has changed.
3. **Pocket Chart Pumpkin Music**
Change to the "pumpkin" word set for the pocket chart. With student help, compose a few phrases and practise reading them. Choose two to use in a composition. Decide on a form. Add dynamics. Practice and perform. (See pages 38 and 39.)

Humpkin Pumpkin sat on a wall,
Humpkin Pumpkin had a great fall,
All of the children and women and men
Ate pumpkin pie again and again.

Peter, Peter, pumpkin eater
Had a wife, and couldn't keep her
Put her in a pumpkin shell,
And there he kept her very well!

Patsy, Patsy, Peter's wife
Tired of pumpkin, took a knife
Into the shell, she carved a door
That's all to tell, there is no more!

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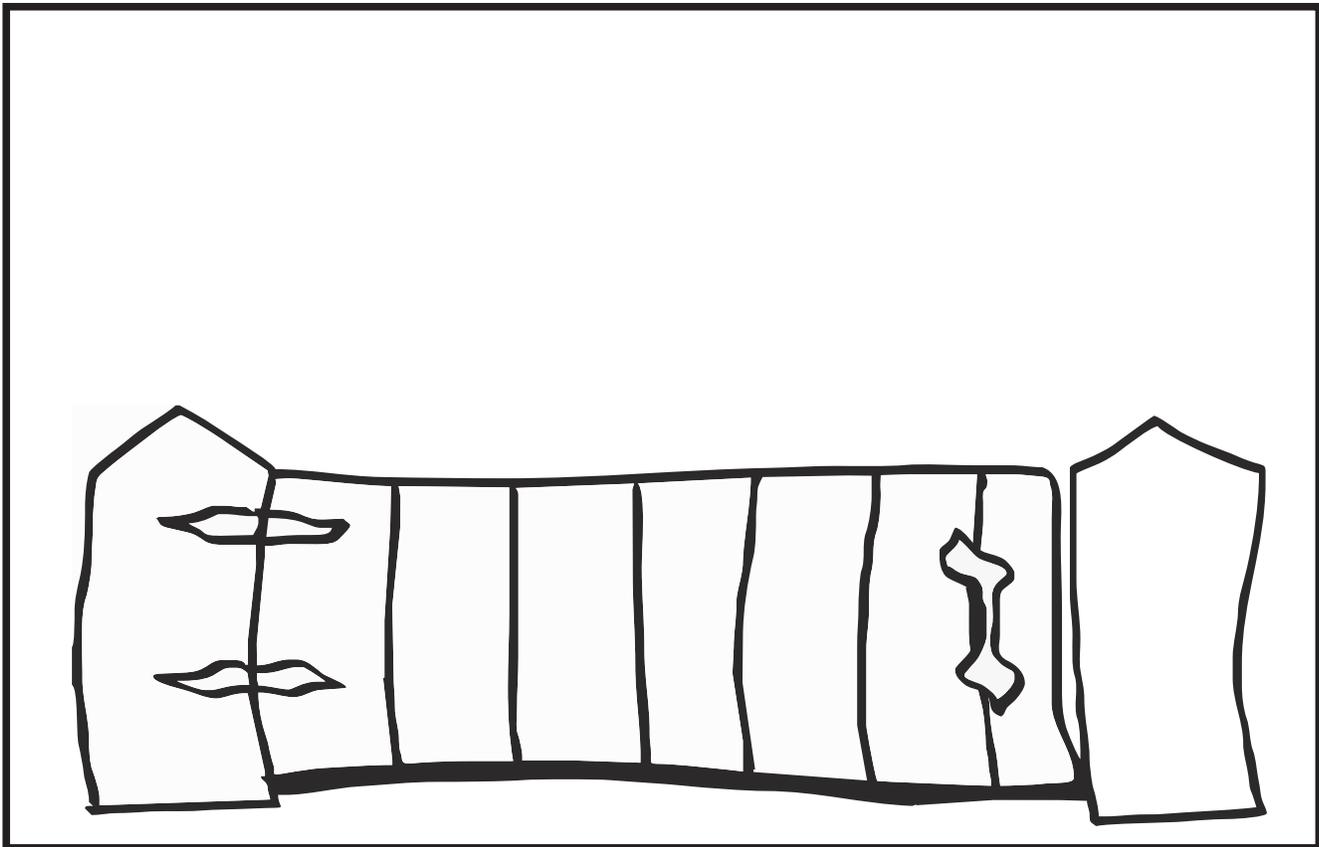


These pumpkins are tired. Draw them sitting on their gate so they can rest a while.

Your job today is to be an actor. Practice saying the words. Now decide how to act as you say the words. Where will you stand or sit? Will the words be loud or soft? Practise your play about the pumpkins. When you are ready to put on your play, tell the teacher.

Actors

- First Pumpkin _____
- Second Pumpkin _____
- Third Pumpkin _____
- Fourth Pumpkin _____
- Fifth Pumpkin _____
- Narrator(s) _____



Ask me to recite "Five Little Pumpkins."