

Halloween 1, 2, 3s: Storytelling tips and Learning tools

Before narration:

- Introduce this book as a counting book with a Halloween theme
- Are all the children familiar with Halloween? Have a discussion about what Halloween is about and how it is celebrated. Invite children to provide inputs

Storytelling:

- Use the illustrations for the below activity suggestions:
 - Illustration 1:
 - ✓ Pretend to think like the witch with a hand on your cheek. Ask the children to guess what she must be planning (Clues are in the illustration-treats, tricks, chores, guests)
 - ✓ Ask children if they know when Halloween is celebrated. After they answer, ask them what the mouse is pointing at.
[Answer: Calendar showing Oct 31]
 - Illustration 2:
 - ✓ Ask the children:
 - To close their eyes, imagine how it would be to have a really big, full moon like in the picture in their back yard, and describe/draw it
 - To guess why the witch was flying on a broomstick
 - To count the number of cats, spiders, ghosts, brooms, and bats in the picture
 - Illustration 3:
 - ✓ Ask the children:
 - To guess what haunts the ghosts were planning
[Possible answer: To sneak up and say Boo!]
 - What is the 'person' wrapping paper around number 3 called?
[Answer: Mummy?]
 - Illustration 4:
 - ✓ Ask the children:
 - When they thought bats slept
 - What the z z z near the first bat meant
[Answer: It is fast asleep]
 - To count the bones in the dog's pumpkin basket
 - Illustration 5:
 - ✓ Ask the children to:
 - Spot and count the spiders and apples
 - Illustration 6:
 - ✓ Imitate the kittens (folded hands, hands on hips) when you read this page
 - Illustration 7:
 - ✓ Ask the children to count the cauldrons and identify who is eating from each cauldron
 - Illustration 8:
 - ✓ Ask the children: Which pumpkin looks the scariest? Why?
 - ✓ Describe what vampires and scarecrows are
 - Illustration 9:
 - ✓ Count the purple notes

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- ✓ Ask the children: Is the scarecrow scary or friendly? Crows are sitting on it instead of being scared!
- Illustration 10:
 - ✓ Ask the children:
 - To spot the 10 costumed friends
 - What the host witch is doing
[Answer: Catching candy from the piñata]
 - To spot the #10
[Answer: On the book cover-10 scary stories]
- Last Illustration:
 - ✓ Ask the children to count the number of creatures sleeping past dawn. Note that even broomsticks and pumpkins are counted. They have faces! Plus its Halloween, who knows what might come alive!
- Teach any new words in the story
- Read aloud each number in the book and ask the children to repeat after you

Extended activities:

- Use colored paper (or paper from magazines) to cut out the different Halloween elements in the book to make a collage