Learn to Read with Mother Goose

Halloween Fun

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Halloween is a favorite holiday for children and grownups alike. Warm autumn colors, the welcome change of season, and the excitement of dressing up all contribute to the fun during the days leading up to October 31st. The following pages offer materials that will help you teach your child to read in a Mother Goose way by practicing familiar words, silly words, and rhymes that celebrate this spooky holiday.

Learn to Read with Mother Goose Halloween Fun includes password-free access to a collection of spooky clip art: Jack O’ Lanterns, Ghosts, and Witch’s Hats. Use these images in your computer publishing projects or print them out to add to colorful Halloween decorations like treat bags, place cards, and invitations. Print the ghosts and pumpkins out in their largest size, then paste to popsicle sticks for quick Halloween puppets. The printable paper chain strips featuring Halloween-themed words and numbers for tracing can be used to add festive decor to a party or classroom, while also teaching young children how to write and read simple words and numbers.

Continue the Halloween-themed learning with two worksheets that your child can practice reading from. The worksheets include familiar Halloween words like “candy,” “witch,” and “bat,” and onomatopoeia (words that replicate the sounds of objects or actions). For a theatrical event, encourage your children to read the onomatopoeia (sound words) with expression and creative acting. There are many marvelous ways scary creatures can say “Boo,” and “ooooo,” “eeek,” and “hoot!”
Batty the Bat and Pretty Witch are two printable paper toy craft projects. Pretty Witch is a paper doll with a companion kitty witch. Children will have fun coloring her dress in different variations. Limit their crayons or markers to traditional Halloween colors - orange, purple, yellow, brown, green - for an especially pleasing effect. Offer glitter glue, sequins, and scraps of fabric and yarn for a truly gorgeous paper doll creation.

Batty Bat includes two smaller bat buddies: Bert Bat and Baby Bat. Try printing the bat craft sheet on different colors of paper, perhaps yellow, orange, and bright green. Hang all three bats from long strands of black yarn for a colorful flying Halloween mobile. Imagine a classroom ceiling festooned with 100s of different Halloween bats! Enrich this craft activity by presenting a science lesson that explains the beneficial habits of these often misunderstood, nocturnal mammals who pollinate our fruits, help disperse flower seeds, and eat up pesky insects.

A coloring page featuring the classic nursery rhyme “Three Little Ghostesses” can be used as a quiet-time break between puppet shows and boisterous performances of spooky sound words. Pass out small pieces of lightly buttered toast so your children can enjoy the same treat as the ghosts. Tasting and smelling engage additional senses that will make the rhyme and its story of three little ghosts especially memorable. Toast for twenty children, or just one, is an easy snack for a parent to prepare.

An illustrated, read-out-loud collection of “Slightly Spooky Rhymes” rounds out these Halloween Fun activities that can be used all together for an at-home or in-classroom Halloween Party that mixes creativity and learning with the fun colors, images, and sounds of this favorite holiday.
Halloween Clip Art Collection

Your Halloween Clip Art Collection includes 12 Jack O’ Lanterns, 9 Ghosts and 13 Witch’s Hats. Each clip art image is offered in 3 sizes to best match your various Halloween creative projects. Click on the links below for password-free access to your clip art collection. From the web page that displays the Halloween Clip Art, simply right-click (Windows) or hold the mouse button down (Macintosh) to download images directly to your hard drive.

Click Here for 12 Jack O’ Lanterns

Click Here for 9 Ghosts

Click Here for 13 Witch’s Hats
Halloween Fun paper chains include short words to trace. Tracing will help your child learn the shapes and letters that make up familiar words. Six of the paper chain strips contain panels that tell a story of two ghosts who interact with that most ghostly of words “Boo!”

Stories are made of sentences. Sentences are words linked together to form an idea. For a simple story-telling activity, have your child play with the order of the ghost panel paper strips. How many different stories can they come up with, simply by changing the order of the strips? When they have a story they like, assemble it into a chain.

Ask your child to tell you the story by using the links of the chains as reminders for each part. Turn down the lights for a little atmosphere and encourage a theatrical performance. Your child can introduce their story by saying “I have a ghostly tale to tell! Once upon a time...”
Tell a Ghostly Tale
Part 2

For a richer, more embellished tale, have children choose from number paper chain strips to add in spooky characters to their ghost story.

By mixing up number paper strips that enumerate creepy creatures with paper strips that illustrate sound words, and paper strips featuring the two ghosts, your child will create a very interesting and entertaining tale to tell, complete with sound effects.

“I have a ghostly tale to tell. Once upon a time, eight black cats went looking for a ghost. They wanted the ghost for a pet. A little girl wanted the cats for pets, but before she could grab them, a giant spider scared her. She said ‘eeek’! One of the ghosts looked in the mirror and saw the eight cats. He knew they were up to no good, so he hid in the closet and...”
Read & Trace for Jack O’ Lanterns - Halloween Words
Practice reading and tracing each of these words. Read as many as you can. Color in a Jack O’ Lantern each time you try!

bat  bat

cat  cat

candy  candy

witch  witch
Sound Words are onomatopoeia, that is, words that imitate sounds of objects or actions. Practice reading each of these words. Make them sound like owls and ghosts! Color in a Jack O’Lantern each time you try!

- Boo
- eeeeee
- eek
- hoot
- oooooo
- yum
- zzzzzz
Boo, Dude!

Boo

candy

witch

eeeeeeek

Boo-bye!
Boo!

Boo!

Boo!

Boo!

Boo!
cat
candy
Boo
Fall
eeeek
Boo!
Meet Baby Bat and Bert Bat, Batty Bat's little brothers! They make great finger puppets!

Cut out bats along dotted black line. Attach side A to side B.
Attach wings to back of bat. Batty Bat can stand. Or tape a string to his back so Batty can fly!

Here are wings for Baby Bat!

Here are wings for Bert Bat!
Pretty Witch

Cut out witch along dotted black line.

Attach side A to side B.

Her Jack o’Lanterns.

Kitty can stand with her Jack o’Lanterns.

Attach side A.

Cut out Kitty along dotted black line.

Make incision and slip on Pretty Witch's head!

Cut out hat along dotted black line.

Attach side B so Kitty can stand with her Jack o’Lanterns!
THREE GHOSTESSES

Three little ghostess,
   Sitting on postesses,
Eating buttered toastess,
   Greasing their fistess,
Up to their wrisstess.
   Oh, what beastess to make such feastess!

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Three little ghostesses,
Sitting on postesses,
Eating buttered toastesses,
Greasing their fistesses,
Up to their wristesses.
Oh what beastesses
To make such feastesses!

A wise old owl sat in an oak,
The more he heard the less he spoke;
The less he spoke the more he heard.
Why aren't we all like that wise old bird?

Ipsey Wipsey spider
Climbing up the spout;
Down came the rain
And washed the spider out;
Out came the sunshine
And dried up all the rain;
Ipsey Wipsey spider
Climbing up again.

Bat, bat, come under my hat.
And I'll give you a slice of bacon;
And when I bake, I'll give you a cake,
If I am not mistaken.

There was a little boy went into a barn,
And lay down on some hay;
An owl came out and flew about,
And the little boy ran away.

There was an old woman tossed up in a basket,
Seventeen times as high as the moon;
Where she was going I couldn't but ask it,
For in her hand she carried a broom.

Old woman, old woman, old woman, quoth I,
Where are you going to up so high?
To brush the cobwebs off the sky!