



BIG PUMPKIN

AUTHOR: ERICA SILVERMAN

ILLUSTRATOR: S.D. SCHINDLER

See a video of the book read aloud here: [Big Pumpkin](#)

**** REMEMBER: HAVE FUN AND THE KIDS WILL TOO! ****

OVERVIEW

ABOUT THE BOOK

The witch has grown the biggest pumpkin ever, and now she wants to make herself a pumpkin pie for Halloween. But the pumpkin is so big she can't get it off the vine. It's so big the ghost can't move it, either. Neither can the vampire, nor the mummy. It looks as if there'll be no pumpkin pie for Halloween, until along comes the bat with an idea to save the day. How can the tiny bat succeed where bigger and stronger spooky creatures have failed? You'll be surprised! (Amazon.com)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Erica Silverman is the author of the *Cowgirl Kate* and *Cocoa* early reader books, the first of which received a Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor. *Lana's World* is her newest easy reader series. She has also written many picture books for children, including *When the Chickens Went on Strike*, *Big Pumpkin*, *Hanukkah Hop*, and *Don't Fidget a Feather*. She lives in Los Angeles, California. (www.ericasilverman.com Amazon.com)

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

S. D. Schindler is the popular illustrator of many bestselling picture books, including *How Santa Got His Job*, *Big Pumpkin*, the Math Start title *Betcha!*, and the 2005 Newbery Honor Book *Whittington*. S. D. Schindler lives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. (Harpercollins.com)

THE READ ALOUD

BEFORE READING

Use these before reading the story to help students activate background knowledge and make predictions:

- Looking at the cover, I wonder why the author called this book *Big Pumpkin*. What do you think?
- If you've heard this book before, touch your nose! If not, touch your head!
- If you haven't heard this book, what do you think it might be about?
- Where do you think the setting could be?

DURING THE STORY

Use these while reading the story to help students interpret the action and content:

- (p. 6) What do you think the problem in this book could be? What makes you think that?

BIG PUMPKIN

TOPICS & THEMES:

- Sequencing
- Halloween
- Cause & effect

Tips for every book!

POWER PHRASES:

I WONDER...

I NOTICE...

TELL ME MORE...

DIGGING DEEPER:

"Tell me more, why do you think that?"

"How do you know that?"

"Why do you think they feel like that?"

"Interesting, did you notice anything else?"

- Have the children repeat with you the phrases: “It’s big and its mine and it’s stuck on the vine! First, he pulled hard and then he pulled harder! Drat.”
- (p. 16) Why does the vampire say “drat?”
- (p.19) why are the characters laughing at the bat?

AFTER READING

Use these after reading the story to help students understand what they just read:

- How did the problem get solved?
- Have the children recall the order of the characters up through the mummy.

BRINGING THE BOOK TO LIFE!

- What would be your ideal Halloween costume?
- What’s your favorite thing about Halloween?
- What are you scared of at Halloween?

COOPERATIVE LEARNING

- p.22. Thumbs up if you think the pumpkin will come out of the ground. Thumbs down if you think it will still be stuck. And thumbs sideways if you’re not sure. Why do you think this?

SMALL-GROUP IDEAS

1. DISCUSSION ACTIVITY

- Conduct a picture walk and have students retell story. Talk about the beginning, middle, and end of story, identifying each.
- The word “humph” is used a lot in the story. What do you think this means?
- Which character was your favorite? Why?
- Remember the problem in the story, how was it solved?
- How was the bat able to pull the pumpkin out?
- What was the big idea the author wanted us to know from reading this book?

Suggested Optional Activity:

- Draw a picture of another character who might have helped the witch.
- Before the session, print 2 copies of pictures of each of the Halloween characters from the book. Glue them on index cards and use them to play a memory game. You can also use them to sequence the story.

2. WRITING ACTIVITY

- Write about something else the witch could have done with the pumpkin besides make a pie. Illustrate your writing. Or, create another way the witch could have gotten the pumpkin out of the ground.

3. EXTENSION ACTIVITY

- Draw a picture of a big jack-o-lantern that could be carved from the big pumpkin.

COMMON CORE LINKS

CCSS.ELA literacy, RL1.1, 1.2, 1.7