



# A HAPPY HUNTER'S HALLOWEENTRICK OR TREAT

AUTHOR: DEBBIE LAPPANEN

ILLUSTRATOR: TAD CARPENTER

See a video of the book read aloud here: [A Happy Hunter's Halloween Trick or Treat](#)

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

## OVERVIEW

### ABOUT THE BOOK

"Fifteen spooky poems, each with its own spread, celebrate Halloween as youngsters in costume share the night with a variety of ghosts, goblins, and unknown fiends. Bright neon colors contrast smartly with dark, brooding backgrounds as skeletons enjoy a cookout in the graveyard and Frankenstein goes trick-or-treating." [Amazon](#)

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

I grew up west of Boston writing and make up poems as a child. I also wrote articles, essays and poems that were published in newspapers and in an anthology, [Teen Sunshine Reflections: Words for the Heart and Soul](#). My poetry was recognized by PEN New England with a Children's Discovery award. This is my first picture book. [Debbie Leppanen](#)

### ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

"Tad Carpenter is a designer, illustrator, writer, and educator. Tad co-runs the design and branding studio Carpenter Collective with his wife and partner Jessica Carpenter, where they have worked with clients ranging from Target, Coca-Cola, Macy's, Adobe, Nick Jr. and Hallmark Cards to name a few. Tad has written and illustrated over a dozen books intended for people of all ages." [Tad Carpenter](#)

## THE READ ALOUD

### BEFORE READING

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

- Whisper to your neighbor what you might find in this kind of story.
- What did Tad Carpenter do to make the illustration on the cover interesting?
- Why would Debbie Leppanen write a book about Halloween?
- What do you know about poetry?
- While listening to this poetry, try to guess some of the rhyming words.

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### TOPICS & THEMES:

- Halloween
- Poetry
- Rhyming and rhythm

### 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?"*

## DURING THE STORY

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*Use these questions while reading the story to help students interpret the action and content.*

(Comprehension - connections to world/self- print referencing - open ended questions - phonological awareness).

- (p.2) I wonder what kind of words gave this poem a scary feeling?
- (p.12) I wonder which lines have rhyming words?
- (p.14) How is this poem different from the last poem? (limerick)
- (p.18) What kind of words did the author use words to describe emotions?
- (p.24) How did the author come up with the idea for this poem?
- (p.30) I noticed that some poems were scary. How did the other poems make you feel?

## AFTER READING

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*Use these questions while after reading the story to help students understand what they just read.*

- (p.6) Repeat the poem and have the children help with the rhythm.
- Why do you think the author wrote some poems without rhyming words.
- I wonder why rhythm might be important in a poem?

## BRINGING THE BOOK TO LIFE!

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- What you would do if you became your favorite Halloween character for a day?

## COOPERATIVE LEARNING

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- (p.6) Repeat the poem and have the children help with the rhythm.

## SMALL-GROUP IDEAS

### 1. DISCUSSION ACTIVITY

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- Ask each child to find their favorite page and explain why.
- Reread page 1 with all the words with the same beginning letter, ask what they notice about this (alliteration). Ask the children to use alliteration with their own name. e.g. Super, silly, Sarah!
- Get them to expand the sentence, e.g. Super, silly Sarah steals sausages!
- Notice all of the double meaning in the Mummy poem on page 15.

### **Suggested Optional Activity:**

- Halloween Hangman! Play a take on the classic hangman using a witch instead! For each letter they guess wrong draw, a witches broom, hat, head, cloak, cat and finally a wand!

### 2. WRITING ACTIVITY

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- In pairs, create nonsense Halloween alliteration poems! Always start with a Halloween character:
- E.g. Witches wigs will wonder where wicked winds whoosh!

### 3. EXTENSION ACTIVITY

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- Draw a picture of your Halloween costume. Write about what you would do if you became that character for a day.

## COMMON CORE LINKS

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL. 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2,5, 2.7.