



PETE THE CAT: FIVE LITTLE PUMPKINS

AUTHOR: JAMES DEAN

ILLUSTRATOR: JAMES DEAN

See a video of the book read aloud here: [Pete the Cat: Five Little Pumpkins](#)

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

OVERVIEW

ABOUT THE BOOK

Pete the Cat takes on the classic favorite children's song "Five Little Pumpkins" in *New York Times* bestselling author James Dean's *Pete the Cat: Five Little Pumpkins*. Join Pete as he rocks out to this cool adaptation of the classic Halloween song! A perfect way to share the Halloween spirit with young children.

[Amazon.com](#)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Born 1957 in Fort Payne, Alabama, James Dean spent the majority of his early years watching his father, a self-taught artist, reproduce the art of the masters as a hobby.

In 1999, James adopted a kitten from a local shelter. A scrawny black kitten won out and found a new home. James named him Pete. While Pete was a kitten, he spent a great deal of time sitting on James' lap. James had never spent so much time with a kitten and soon felt as if Pete was his child. Then one day the skinny, mischievous kitten stopped running and sat still. James sketched a picture of him and decided to paint it. He puzzled over the color – black? But what if everyone else thought black cats were “bad luck”? So James opted for blue. Pete became the muse. James started painting Pete doing “cat” things: sitting in the laundry basket, hanging on the screen door, sleeping. Then James noticed Pete with his paw in his coffee cup, so Pete became a coffee loving cat. Pete would sit on top of James' old VW bug while he worked on the engine, so Pete began driving VWs. The possibilities and ideas were endless. Then one day Pete didn't come home. James watched the door for days, then weeks, waiting for Pete to be there. Pete had inspired him more than he had even imagined. Pete's adventures filled the days, weeks and years.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

THE READ ALOUD

BEFORE READING

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

- Look at this cover. Do you recognize this character. Have you read books with Pete the Cat character before?

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TOPICS & THEMES:

- Halloween
- Rhyming
- Counting

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?”

- What else do you see on this page? How many pumpkins? Let's count them! Show me five fingers!
- Let's count how many words are in the title.
- Do you think this is a real story or a made-up story? Why do you think so?

DURING THE STORY

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

- P.2 What is a gate? How are the pumpkins getting up there?
- P.3 What is the first pumpkin dressed as?
- Can you all show me how a pirate talks! Arrrr! Making a pirate action.
- P.5-6 how do you know it's late?
- P.7 The second one said — show me how many fingers the second pumpkin is!
- P.10 Wow! What is different about this witch's broom?
- P.14 How many pumpkins is the fourth? Show me on your fingers.
- P.19 What kind of fun do you think these pumpkins are ready for? Why do you say that?
- P. 22 'Whoo', went the wind. Let's make a 'Whoo' sound with our mouths.
- P.27 How did these pumpkins roll? Show me a rolling motion with your arms.

AFTER READING

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

- In the story, what were some of the pumpkins dressed as?
- Why were the pumpkins afraid?
- What do you think made the light go out?
- How do you think the pumpkins felt when the lights went out?
- What did you decide? Is this story a real story or a make-believe story? Why do you think that?

BRINGING THE BOOK TO LIFE!

- Which is your favorite pumpkin? Why?
- What is something that you are scared of?

COOPERATIVE LEARNING

- **Recite** the poem as a finger play. (Examples) on you tube. [Search for "five little pumpkins finger play"](#).

1. EXTENSION ACTIVITY

- Practice ordinal counting by lining up in order.
 - a. For example. "Jose line up in first place, Sophia line up in second place, etc. then switch around. "Jose move to third place."
 - b. Or line five students up and have them step forward. "Who is third?"
 - c. "Who is fifth?" Etc.