



Norman's First Halloween

Level C / 53 words / fiction

High frequency words:

am, be, said, to, too, want

Before reading

- Look at the cover and read the title.
- Possible discussion questions: "What are Norman and Danny dressed as for Halloween?"

Look through all the pictures

- Using the language in the story, discuss each photograph in the book.
- Help the children find the words *said* and *want*.
- Find the words that may be new to them: *pumpkin*, *wizard*, and *witch*.

Reading the text

- Have the children read the text independently. Encourage them to read it again if they finish before the others in the group.
- While they're reading, listen to each student individually and prompt them to use meaning, structure, and letter cues at difficulty. Praise the successful use of reading cues.
- Make sure the children can match (with their finger) or track (with their eyes) each word of the text.

After reading

- Discuss the meaning, structure, and letter cues that you noticed students using correctly at difficulty.
- **Literal comprehension:** The answers are in the text. Ask, "What costume does Norman try first? What costume does Norman try last?" Have students read the pages that support their answers.

- **Inferential comprehension:** The answers are in your head. Ask, "What other costumes would you like Danny and Norman to try? What do you think Norman should be for Halloween?"

Word work

- Have the students locate the high-frequency words in the text and practice writing them.
- Have the students locate the words in quotation marks on each page. Discuss what that means.
- Have the students find the words for each costume: *pumpkin*, *shark*, *wizard*, and *witch*.

Rereading for fluency

- Have the children read the story again, either independently or with a partner.
- Use this opportunity to listen to each child and again prompt for strategy use at difficulty.

Writing activity

- Have students write and complete the following sentence: "*'I want to be a _____,' said Norman.*" Then have them draw a picture to match the sentence.
- Encourage the use of proper punctuation and independent attempts to spell words correctly.

FUN FACT

Halloween wouldn't be the same without pumpkins. In 2014, the top producing pumpkin states - California, Illinois, Michigan, New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania - produced 1.31 billion pounds of pumpkins!

Teaching Points: Introducing new words; Cross-checking difficult words with pictures and story meaning; Rereading; Sequencing; Noticing punctuation (quotation marks).