



## Author's Purpose- Halloween

Read the passages. Write the author's purpose for writing each passage on the line.

To persuade the reader to...

To inform the reader about...

To describe...

To entertain the reader with a story about...

To explain to the reader how to...

Carving a jack o'lantern is a popular Halloween tradition. You simply need to follow these simple steps to turn a normal fall pumpkin into a spooky Halloween jack o'lantern! To begin, gather your materials. You will need a scoop, a carving saw, and newspaper. Spread the newspaper out across your work station. First, cut the top hole around the stem to create the lid. When cutting a lid, it is helpful to angle the blade of the saw inward so it creates a small lip for the lid to rest on. Now, remove the seeds and strings. Scrape the insides of the pumpkin until the pumpkin walls are about one inch thick. Next, cut the facial features you want your jack o'lantern to have. This is where you can be creative and use any shapes you want! Finally, place a tealight candle on the bottom of your jack o'lantern, and have your parent carefully light the candle. Your jack o'lantern is ready for Halloween!

1. What is the purpose of the above passage?
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Halloween is the best holiday of the year for many reasons. First of all, it's the only time of year that people of all ages can dress up in costumes. Second, Halloween is the only time that you can leave your house to go trick-or-treating, and return in two hours with buckets of scrumptious, mouth-watering candy that you didn't spend a penny on! Finally, Halloween decorations are the BEST- far better than other holiday decorations. The skeletons, zombies, vampires, and werewolves are awesome! Clearly, Halloween is the best holiday of the year. Don't you agree?

2. What is the purpose of the above passage?
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It was Maria's first time carving a pumpkin with her dad. Her dad has just carved a ring around the stem with a large knife, and now it was her turn. She wrapped her fingers around the course and dry stem and pulled upward. The carved ring slowly separated from the rest of the tilted orange pumpkin. When it fully broke away, off came not only the stem but from it hung a clump of stringy, yellowish-orange goop! She placed it on the newspaper-covered table. She breathed in deeply to capture a whiff of fresh raw pumpkin flesh. She reached her hand into the pumpkin and pulled out another clump of stringy flesh and slimy seeds. She loved the feel of the moist sliminess as she ran her fingers through the stringy threads. She decided then and there that this experience just might be better even than trick-or-treating!

3. What is the purpose of the above passage?

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Trick-or-treating is the most widely recognized Halloween tradition. It has been celebrated in the United States for more than 100 years. More than 93% of kids go trick-or-treating each year. It is an activity where children dress up in a costume and go from house to house asking for candy by repeating the phrase "trick-or-treat". According to the National Confectioner's Association, kids report that their favorite houses offer "anything made with chocolate", followed by lollipops, gummy candy, and gum. Kids report that their *least* favorite items are fruit, chips, and pretzels.

4. What is the purpose of the above passage?

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Samantha was walking home with her friends, Erica and Bailey. It was Halloween, and the girls were walking home from school. They had been talking about their plans to meet in front of Bailey's house at 5:45 so they could all go trick-or-treating together.

Samantha glanced toward the hill, and a chill crawled up her spine. At the top of the hill, the ancient house looked out over the town below. It had been abandoned for many years. When it was first built, it surely was a grand, beautiful house. Now, however, it was covered with chipped, dingy paint, broken windows, and cobwebs. Tall weeds surrounded the gigantic three-story mansion. All of the kids in town were sure it was haunted.

Erica caught Samantha's eye. "I double dare you to walk into that old house!" teased Erica.

"I'm not going in there!" cried Samantha.

"Are you *scared*?" taunted Erica.

5. What is the purpose of the above passage?