

That's Interesting!



A worksheet for adults to practise reading, writing, spelling and numbers.

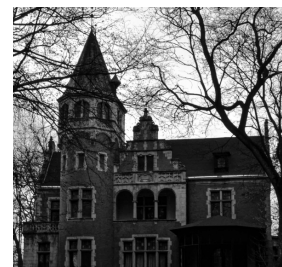
A story for Halloween



On Halloween night, it is said that ghosts of the dead visit the land of the living. Strange events are often said to happen on this night. Here we tell a story, as remembered by Tom and Amy, which took place more than 10 years ago, but which still makes them feel scared just to think about it.

On the coast of County Clare, on a hill overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, is the ruins of an old house, known to locals as Hill Top House.

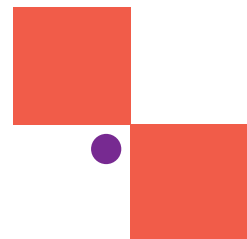
Once a 20-room mansion decorated with the best of furniture and fine paintings, the house had been badly damaged in a fire many years before. It was never discovered how the fire started. Many locals believed that people had died in the fire, but the bodies were never found. What remains of the house now is just the outside walls and broken windows.



There is just a shell of the fine house that once stood proudly on the hill. It had been built in 1755 by Lord and Lady Scott. The Scott family are long since dead, and now the house sits empty.

Tom and Amy were visiting the area from Dublin for the Halloween break. At the pub, a few nights before Halloween, the locals told them that on Halloween night every year, lights could be seen in the old house, high up on the hill. It was as if there were people living there. No one ever went up to check. Everyone was too scared.

That was until Tom and Amy decided to investigate. They were not afraid and did not believe in ghosts or any such nonsense. There must be a simple reason for the lights appearing.



They decided that they would put up a tent close to the house and camp there on Halloween night. Locals were shocked to hear of their plans and tried to talk them out of it, but they went ahead with their plan.

Halloween night was dry and calm and not too cold. It was a perfect night for camping under the stars. They set up their tent, lit a small camp fire where they heated some water for tea and beans for supper. They laughed at the idea of people being scared to visit such a beautiful place. Just before midnight, they went to sleep in their tent.



Sometime later, Tom was woken up by the sound of the wind blowing loudly. Then came the sound of someone crying and shrieking. He woke Amy and she heard it too. Then they heard horses and people's voices, many voices. Was this the locals trying to scare them? They turned on their flashlights and peeped out from their tent. Nothing had prepared them for what they saw.

The big house was filled with a light so bright it almost blinded them. Ghostly figures, all dressed in white, could be seen moving inside and outside the house. Suddenly a carriage pulled by six horses appeared, driven by a driver wearing a black cape but who appeared to be headless. He drove around the house and some of the ghosts jumped on, others did not want to but seemed to be dragged into the carriage, crying and wailing.



A strong wind was blowing and the sound of this with the sounds of people crying and screaming was deafening. The horses and the driver then turned and faced Tom and Amy. "Quick, Amy, run!" shouted Tom. "I think they are trying to take us to the other world". They ran, leaving the tent and all their belongings behind, stumbling through thick woodland and mud until they reached the road. A passing farmer found them hours later, pale and shaking, unable to speak of what they had seen.

They never returned to Hill Top House. In fact, they never camped again. They now believe in ghosts and never laugh when they hear stories of weird and unusual events happening, especially around Halloween. Every Halloween, they stay at home and lock the doors until Halloween night has come and gone for another year. What do you think happened that night?

Barm Brack



One of the oldest Halloween traditions here in Ireland is the eating of Barm Brack. It gets its name from the Irish words, Bairin Breac, meaning a small, speckled loaf, which describes it well. It is a bread that is speckled with fruit that has been soaked in cold tea before being baked. In the past it was believed that eating Barm Brack could also tell your future.

Today when we buy a Barm Brack, there is a ring hidden in the middle. The lucky person that finds the ring in their slice is said to be lucky in love and will marry soon.

However, in the past when the brack was homemade, the baker would add many symbols to the loaf when mixing the ingredients. It was said that the symbols would then bring good or bad luck to the person who found them when eating a slice. Below are the symbols that were commonly added and what each stood for.

- A ring meant finding love and meeting the person of your dreams.
- A pea meant you would not be getting married any time soon.
- A small stick or matchstick meant you would fall out with or argue with someone close to you.
- A piece of cloth was not a good one to get as it meant that you would never be rich or have good luck.
- A coin meant good luck and wealth in the future.

Luckily, it was never really taken too seriously, and people did not worry too much about what symbol they found.

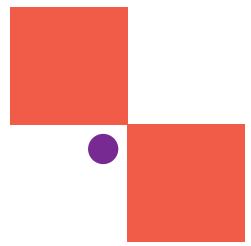
Irish Barm Brack Recipe

Makes enough for 8 slices.

225g (grams) plain flour.
2 teaspoons of baking powder.
375g packet of fruit mix.
250ml (millilitres) cold tea.
50ml whiskey. Please enjoy responsibly.
125g light brown sugar.
1 large egg.
½ teaspoon mixed spice.
Bake in a tin in the oven for 1 hour.



Halloween word search



Try to find these spooky words that are hidden in the wordsearch below.

ghost	witch	fairy	mask	trick
treat	nuts	apples	bonfire	blood

o	i	g	v	t	r	i	c	k	o	d	y	a	h	s
t	t	h	w	z	z	v	x	c	o	a	j	b	k	b
a	s	i	r	b	e	m	i	f	a	i	r	y	j	h
j	l	z	w	y	y	c	t	k	k	s	j	z	j	n
t	b	a	h	x	f	d	s	s	a	b	t	t	s	g
h	k	o	p	h	c	h	a	c	u	s	v	t	o	y
j	q	d	n	p	s	m	q	s	o	o	a	v	o	p
w	d	h	o	f	l	a	a	h	e	e	o	a	e	l
l	e	w	d	p	i	e	g	j	r	q	y	v	r	d
b	i	b	t	f	z	r	s	t	b	z	v	c	o	t
r	l	v	t	v	h	q	e	e	w	r	h	o	q	q
o	w	z	b	d	u	n	o	e	n	b	l	c	c	x
p	y	h	g	f	f	b	u	g	c	b	k	d	o	e
x	e	h	z	s	w	w	i	t	c	h	j	y	n	m
w	l	m	s	h	r	n	i	i	s	p	s	x	a	b

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Your Artis Name from Artisan's Edge

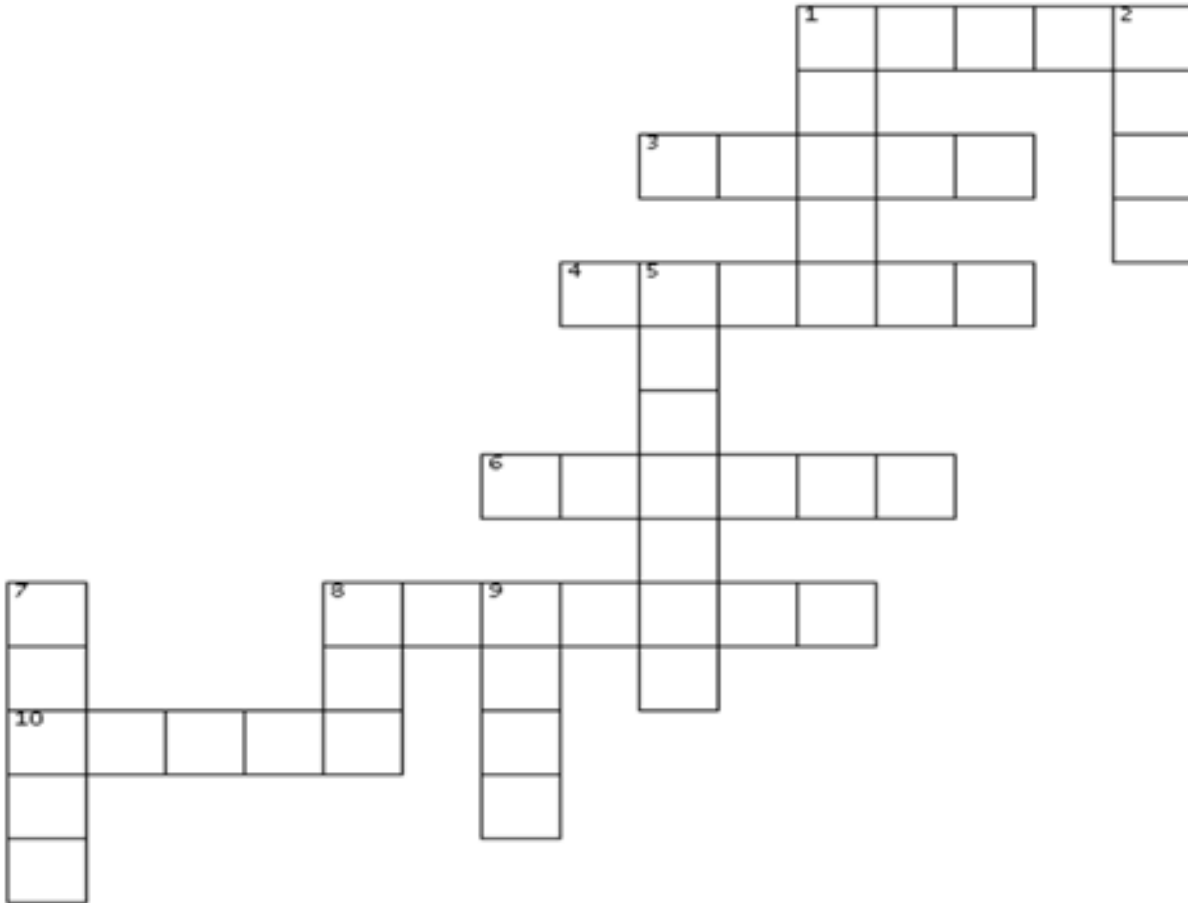
Yusuf Timur Çelik from Pexels via Canva

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Halloween crossword



The answers to the clues are all words to do with Halloween.



Across

1. A witch is said to fly on this. (5)



3. You do not want to meet one of these at night. (5)



4. Some people are afraid of these. (6)



6. We play games using this fruit at Halloween. (6)



8. Some people light these at Halloween. (7)



10. Trick or _____. (5)



Down

1. We put red paint on our faces which is meant to look like this. (5)



2. We wear one of these on our faces when we dress up. (4)



5. We carve a face on this at Halloween. (7)



7. She wears a pointy hat. (5)



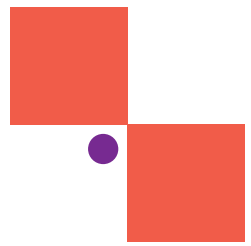
8. A small black creature that only comes out at night. (3)



9. These are eaten at Halloween. (4)



Halloween activities



1. See if how many words you can make using the letters in the word.

Halloween

Words with 4 letters

H _ a _ l _ l _ H _ _ _ H _ _ _

W _ _ _ W _ _ _ W _ _ _

L _ _ _ L _ _ _ L _ _ _

Words with 3 letters.

A _ l _ l _ H _ _ L _ _ n _ _

o _ _ o _ _ O _ _

w _ _ w _ _ h _ _

N _ _ L _ _ O _ _

2. I want to buy pumpkins.

In Shop A, Pumpkins are €6 each.

In Shop B, Pumpkins are €8 each but if I buy one, I get another one free.

In shop C, I can buy 2 Pumpkins for €10.

I want to buy 4 pumpkins.

Work out how much I will pay for 4 pumpkins in each shop.

Shop A = _____

Shop B = _____

Shop C = _____

3. Solve the clues below.

The first letter in each answer will spell a new word. The first one is done for you.

• Keeps your hands warm.

_ _ _ _ _

• The story was about a haunted _____.

_ _ _ _ _

• The colour of a Pumpkin.

_ _ _ _ _

• Some masks are very _____.

_ _ _ _ _

• Trick or _____.

_ _ _ _ _



Answers page 6

02 Shop A €24 Shop B €16 Shop C €20
03 GHOST8

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Notes



Further help is available

If you need help with these worksheets, or with reading, writing, maths or digital skills, you can contact the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA).



Call us on Freephone 1 800 20 20 65

You can study online on our Learn with NALA website www.learnwithnala.ie or with a tutor over the phone, or we can give details of your local training options.



National Adult Literacy Agency

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