

Imagine That! Stories

Visualizing
and
Verbalizing®
For Language Comprehension and Thinking



HALLOWEEN

Supplemental Lesson Packet

A Nanci Bell Lesson

HELPFUL ADVICE

These are **Imagine That!** stories that can be used with any program of instruction to develop imagery for language comprehension, and they can be used with the Visualizing and Verbalizing® (V/V®) program, or other reading programs. Although these stories have been written at second-grade to fifth-grade reading level, you can use this story with other grade levels as you feel is appropriate. The stories feature a main idea or topic to be imaged, and then provide detailed imagery for the topic. While sentences or paragraphs may contain much concrete detail that can be imaged, others contain abstract concepts.

It is recommended that you start with any new vocabulary to help students both with decoding and with imaging new words and concepts. While reading each story, be sure to ask imagery questions to elicit detailed imagery from the student.

Once you have completed each story, move on to the Higher Order Thinking questions. These are main idea, inference, conclusion, evaluation, and prediction questions. The order of the HOT questions is such that they stimulate students' thinking first about the gestalt and then about the details of the story. Some questions may include contrast or introduce additional information, from which the students can extend their thinking about the story.

Additional activities are provided in the form of puzzles and a coloring page.

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Ghost Picture originally appeared in *Imagine That! Stories, Grade 2*. *The Wicked Witch of the Coop* originally appeared in *Imagine That! Stories, Grade 4*. *Giant Pumpkin* originally appeared in *Imagine That! Stories, Grade 4, Wonders of the Natural World*. *Diá de los Muertos* is an original story, appearing here for the first time, written by Daniel Scott and edited by Valarie Jones.

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ITS: HALLOWEEN 10/16

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

Preread words for each story:

1

ghost
haunts
glide
pale

lantern
reporter

3

vine
soil
waist
wrap

giant
hoist

2

rooster
witchcraft
confused
mob

laid
judge
pronounced
guilty

4

Mexico
Día de los
Muertos
calaveras

Catrin
ofrendas
tiers
mariachi

Study and visualize the vocabulary:

haunts: visits in a ghostly form (*v.*)

glide: to float, coast, or sail; move without apparent power (*v.*)

lantern: a glass lamp that holds a small flame (*n.*)

reporter: a person who writes stories for the news (*n.*)

Swiss: of or from Switzerland (*adj.*)

coop: a small house for chickens (*n.*)

mob: a disorderly, violent group of people (*n.*)

judge: a person in charge of a court of law who decides guilt or innocence and punishment (*n.*)

pronounced: spoke words; declared (*v.*)

soil: dirt; the top layers of earth in which plants grow (*n.*)

sprouts: starts to grow (*v.*)

harvest: the time of year to gather crops (*n.*)

crane: a large machine used to lift heavy loads (*n.*)

decorate: to beautify, make festive (*v.*)

murals: paintings or mosaics done on walls (*n.*)

antique: old; considered valuable because of age (*v.*)

altars: raised flat surfaces where religious ceremonies are performed (*n.*)

tiers: rows of things, each one higher than the one before it (*n.*)

deceased: a person who has died (*n.*)

mariachi: a traditional type of Mexican folk music, typically performed by a small group in native costume (*adj.*)

Ghost Picture

People claim a ghost named the Brown Lady haunts a house in England. Many have seen this ghost glide toward them in a long brown dress. Her skin has a pale glow and she often holds a lantern. A reporter once came to the house to take pictures. Just after sunset, he saw the ghost on the stairs. He quickly snapped a picture. The photo showed the ghost staring back at the man.

From what you pictured...

1. What is the main idea of this story?
2. How do you think the reporter felt when he saw the ghost?
3. What do you think most people did when they saw the ghost?
4. Why do you think the ghost often carried a lantern?
5. What do you think the reporter did with the picture of the ghost?

The Wicked Witch of the Coop

In a Swiss town, hundreds of years ago, a rooster was accused of witchcraft. A farmer had found the rooster alone in a chicken coop with an egg. The news got out, and soon a mad, confused mob had dragged the rooster before the town judge. Some men shouted that the rooster had laid an egg, so he must be a witch. The rooster cocked his head, but said nothing. The judge pronounced him guilty, and the rooster and his "evil" egg were tied to a stake and burned.

From what you pictured...

1. What is the main idea of this story?
2. Do you think the rooster was really a witch? Why or why not?
3. How do you think the egg got into the chicken coop?
4. Why do you think the crowd was *confused*?
5. Why do you think the crowd dragged the rooster to the judge?
6. What do you think would have happened if the judge pronounced the rooster innocent?

Giant Pumpkin

A farmer plants a small pumpkin vine in a bare patch of dark soil. Soon the vine sprouts big green leaves and lots of small pumpkins. The farmer cuts off small leaves and many pumpkins until there are just lots of big leaves and one big pumpkin. He waters the vine each day for months, watching the pumpkin grow and grow. At harvest time, the farmer and a friend drive a tractor and a truck out to the pumpkin patch. The farmer walks up to the giant pumpkin, which now comes up to his waist, and cuts it off the thick vine. The two men wrap the giant pumpkin with straps and hook them onto the tractor's crane. Gently, they hoist the pumpkin off the ground, set it in the truck bed, and drive off to a Giant Pumpkin Contest.

From what you pictured...

1. What is the main idea of this story?
2. Why do you think the farmer cuts off all the other pumpkins?
3. Why do you think the farmer has a friend help him harvest the pumpkin?
4. Why do you think the farmer and his friend wrap the pumpkin with straps?
5. Why do you think the farmer and his friend need both the tractor and the truck?
6. What do you think will happen at the contest?



Diá de los Muertos (Day of the Dead)

While kids in the U.S. get ready for Halloween, people in Mexico prepare for the day after—*Diá de los Muertos*, the Day of the Dead. Some people decorate *calaveras*. These are skulls made of sugar, dyed with bright colors. They are decorated with shapes and patterns. Some folks buy costumes to dress like skeletons in fancy clothes. Pictures of skulls and skeletons are all around. There are many murals and statues of *Catrinás*, skeletons in fancy antique dresses and large flowery hats.

Also common are small altars called *ofrendas*. These structures honor and welcome dead friends or relatives. They often have three tiers, and are decorated in bright colors. People place objects that were important to the deceased on them. One might have a picture of the loved one on the top tier, and many flowers. The bottom tier holds burning candles. Some have a washbasin, towel and soap, so that a dead spirit can clean himself when he arrives.

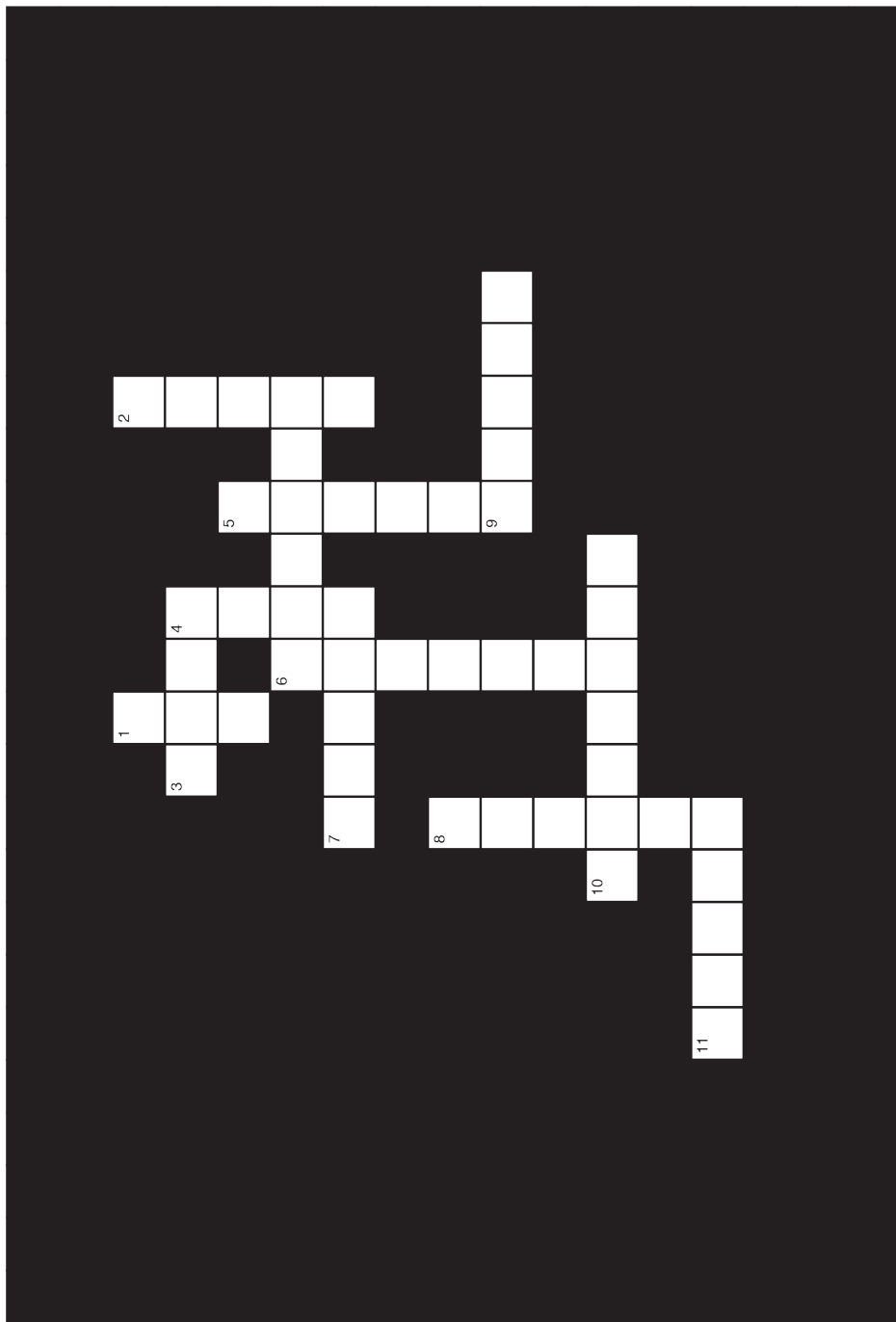
When the day comes, families and friends celebrate the lives of loved ones who have died. People meet at their local cemetery to spend time with the dead. They clean the graves of their loved ones and leave bright yellow marigolds. Some people bring their loved one's favorite foods as gifts. *Mariachi* bands play guitar and sing. Children gobble up treats that look like skeletons or coffins. It is a day for people—both dead and alive—to come together and have fun.

From what you pictured...

1. What is the main idea of this story?
2. Why do you think there are pictures of skulls and skeletons all around?
3. How do you think people who make *ofrendas* feel about their dead friend or relative?
4. Do you think spirits really clean themselves at *ofrendas*? Why or why not?
5. Do you think *Diá de los Muertos* is a sad day or a happy one? Explain.
6. Why do you think people clean the graves?
7. Would you like to have a party in a cemetery? Why or why not?



CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Across

3. A small house for chickens
6. Raised flat surfaces where religious ceremonies are performed
7. A large machine used to lift heavy loads
9. Of or from Switzerland
10. The time to gather crops
11. Rows of things, each one higher than the one before it

Down

1. A disorderly, violent group of people
2. The spirit of a dead person
4. Very light in color; unhealthy-looking
5. Visits in a ghostly form
6. Old; considered valuable because of age
8. Paintings or mosaics done on walls