

E N R I C H M E N T G U I D E

October 9-30, 2015

Spookley
the
SQUARE
Pumpkin

**FIRST
STAGE**
Transforming Lives Through Theater

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**FIRST
STAGE**
Transforming Lives Through Theater

A Note to Teachers and Parents

SPOOKLEY THE SQUARE PUMPKIN

Dear Educators and Parents,

Welcome to First Stage's 29th season, and our production of SPOOKLEY THE SQUARE PUMPKIN. Spookley is about embracing what makes us special and those qualities that make others unique. A show perfect for young audiences and families alike. Through the use of imaginative puppetry our story comes to life right in front of your eyes. We then start to explore how embracing our unique qualities can truly make us special.

Enclosed in this Enrichment Guide is a range of materials and activities intended to help you discover connections within the play through the curricula. It is our hope that you will use the experience of attending the theater and seeing SPOOKLEY THE SQUARE PUMPKIN with your students as a teaching tool. As educators, you know best the needs and abilities of your students. Use this guide to best serve your children – pick and choose, or adapt any of these suggestions for discussions or activities.

Enjoy the show!



Julia Magnasco
Education Director
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First Stage Policies

- The use of recording equipment and cameras are not permitted during the performance.
- Food, drink, candy and gum are not permitted during the performance.
- Electronic devices are not permitted in the theater space.
- Should a student become ill, suffer an injury or have another problem, please escort him or her out of the theater space.
- In the unlikely event of a general emergency, the theater lights will go on and the stage manager will come on stage to inform the audience of the problem. Remain in your seats, visually locate the nearest exit and wait for the stage manager to guide your group from the theater.

Seating for people with special needs: If you have special seating needs for any student(s) and did not indicate your need when you ordered your tickets, please call our Assistant Patron Services Manager at (414) 267-2962. Our knowledge of your needs will enable us to serve you better upon your arrival to the theater.

Setting the Stage Synopsis

Our story begins with Jack Scarecrow in the Holiday Hill Farm Pumpkin Patch, looking at Big Tom, Little Tom, and Bobo, all pumpkins. He also notices the Honeydoos, a duo of singing melons. Jack is very excited for Halloween and begins dancing around the patch. (*It's Halloween*)

Jack and the pumpkins hear a small voice, but don't know where it's coming from. Jack looks around the patch and discovers Spookley, a square pumpkin, under a large leaf. Jack is excited to find Spookley and tells him he could be the Pick of the Patch this year. The other pumpkins, however, don't like the fact that Spookley looks different from them. (*Spookley the Square Pumpkin*) Jack tells the other pumpkins to be nice to Spookley and goes off to finish some other chores on the farm. Once he leaves, Little Tom insults Spookley and tells him that he is going to ruin Halloween for the rest of them because he is not a real pumpkin: real pumpkins are round. Spookley is left alone, and becomes very sad. (*If I Was Round*)

Spookley worries that he will ruin Halloween for everyone. Suddenly, three spiders appear and introduce themselves as Edgar, Allan and Poe. They tell Spookley that he can't worry about what the other pumpkins say: plenty of spiders have been faced with challenges, but they believed in themselves and succeeded in the end. (*The Boo Song*)

Spookley still isn't convinced; he remembers Little Tom telling him he's different. Edgar reminds Spookley that everyone and everything is different. Being different isn't a bad thing. Edgar tells Spookley he can be the Pick of the Patch if he sets his mind to it. (*I'm Gonna Try*)

Meanwhile, the other pumpkins are getting ready for Halloween and all think they will be chosen as Pick of the Patch. Bobo is overconfident. (*I'm Bobo*) Spookley returns to the patch to everyone's surprise, but Little Tom makes fun of him and his new spider friends. Jack returns and lines everyone up for the Pick of the Patch. He says something nice about everyone and Bobo and The Honeydoos start singing. Suddenly, a storm starts up!

Everyone is blown around by the wind and rain toward the dangerous river, except for Spookley. He decides to help the other pumpkins and blocks a large hole in the fence with his body. The pumpkins and Jack are blown toward him and all pile up in front of the broken fence until Spookley cannot be seen anymore.

Spookley doesn't wake up for a few minutes, and everyone is worried, even the pumpkins that made fun of him earlier. Luckily, he opens his eyes and smiles, letting everyone know he's okay. Jack tells Spookley that he is quite the hero. All the other pumpkins apologize to Spookley for bullying him because of his differences; even Little Tom. They welcome him to the patch. (*The Transylvania Twist*)

Farmer Hill arrives to choose the Pick of the Patch and picks...Spookley! He loves the fact that Spookley is square. Everyone celebrates Halloween together in the patch. (*I'm Gonna Try (Reprise)*)



About the Author and the Composer: Joe Troiano and Jeffrey Zahn

Taken directly from <http://www.amazon.com/Joe-Troiano/e/B001HPO4B8>

Joe Troiano is the award winning author of more than a dozen children's books including: *The Legend of Spookley the Square Pumpkin*; *Spookley the Square Pumpkin, A Family to be Thankful For*; *The Legend of Mistletoe and The Christmas Kittens*; *The Legend of JellyBean and the Unbreakable Egg*; *The Legend of Beacon the Bright Little Firefly*; *Spookley's Costume Party*; *Spookley's Colors and Numbers*; *Halloween Fun with Spookley the Square Pumpkin*; *It's Halloween with Spookley the Square Pumpkin*; *It's Your Cloud*; and *The Legend of Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer*. Joe is also an accomplished lyricist, having written songs for film, records, and television. In addition, Joe co-wrote the script and songs for the animated musical: *Spookley the Square Pumpkin*.

Jeff Zahn is a specialist in the world of kid's music and TV. He has supervised the music for over 50 TV series and has composed over 400 songs for TV and Film. He has produced projects for: The Backstreet Boys, Wyclef Jean, Ray Charles, Ziggy Marley, Art Garfunkel, Taj Mahal, Debra Harry, Celine Dion, Josh Redmon, and Yo Yo Ma.

An Interview with Joe Troiano

Taken directly from <http://www.longisland.com/articles/12-19-11/interview-with-joe-troiano-author-of-the-legend-of-mistletoe-the-christmas-kittens.html>

LongIsland.com: *Where on Long Island are you originally from?*

Joe: Actually, I was born and raised in the Bronx, but started visiting the East End over 40 years ago for vacation and fell in love with the area. In 1990 my wife and I bought a house in Bridgehampton surrounded by farmland, and across the road from a beautiful horse farm, and we moved out here permanently.

LongIsland.com: *Do you find that living on Long Island has inspired your writings?*

Joe: Living on the East End has not only inspired my writing, it has directly affected it. The inspiration for my first book, "Spookley the Square Pumpkin," came one Halloween night when my son, Nicholas, asked me to tell him a bedtime story. It couldn't be scary -- no ghosts, no goblins, no monsters. I asked him what he wanted it to be about. He looked at the field of pumpkins growing next to the house and said, "Pumpkins! Pumpkins are cute and not scary." So that night I had one of those muse moments writers dream about their entire life. Right there on the spot, I made up a Halloween story about an odd-shaped pumpkin who saves the day. I told it to Nick and when I finished, he was asleep and I went running to my office to write it all down before I forgot it.

LongIsland.com: *What inspired you to write children's books?*

Joe: Definitely becoming a father. I think children have a gravitational pull. You bring them into your world and then they pull you into theirs. They become the focus of everything you do. So if you are a creative person you begin to channel your creativity into things they enjoy. Before Nick came along, I was a lyricist among other things. The idea to write for children came to me after watching Nick sing along to children's television shows one morning. Soon I was writing lyrics for shows like Arthur, Caillou, and Disney's Jojo's Circus. The jump from lyricist to author was brought about by that lucky twist of fate Halloween night 1999.

LongIsland.com: *Your books all include valuable lessons that are presented in creative, relate-able ways for children - where do those ideas come from?*

Joe: The ideas for my books (the Spookley books as well as the other Holiday Hill Farm character books -- Mistletoe and the Christmas Kittens, Lyla the Lovesick Ladybug, Jelly Bean and the Unbreakable Egg, and Beacon the Bright Little Firefly) generally start with a concept I want to share with, or explain to, Nick— concepts like diversity, community, bullying prevention, self-confidence, and resisting peer pressure.

LongIsland.com: *Which of your stories is most important to you, and why?*

Joe: All the Holiday Hill Farm stories are important to me for different reasons, but I would have to say "The Legend of Spookley the Square Pumpkin" is my favorite since it is the book that started this wonderful adventure for me. It has really resonated with parents, caregivers, and teachers around the world. I constantly receive emails and letters that share uplifting, personal stories about the positive effects Spookley has had on young peoples' lives. Those emails and letters are the most wonderful part of the life Spookley has given to me.

Recommended Reading

Also by Joe Troiano

The Legend of JellyBean and the Unbreakable Egg
The Legend of Mistletoe and the Christmas Kittens
The Legend of Lyla the Lovesick Ladybug
The Legend of Beacon the Bright Little Firefly
It's Your Cloud

Other Great Reads

Stick and Stone by Tom Lichtenheld
Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes
Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon by Patty Lovell
Spaghetti in a Hot Dog Bun by Maria Dismondy
Zink the Zebra by Kelly Weil
The Juice Box Bully by Bob Sornson and Maria Dismondy
Thank You, Mr. Falker by Patricia Polacco
Bully B.E.A.N.S by Julia Cook
Oliver Button is a Sissy by Tomie dePaola
The Bully Blockers Club by Teresa Bateman and Jackie Urbanovic
Don't Laugh at Me by Steve Seskin, Allen Shamblin and Glin Dibley
It's Ok to Be Different by Todd Parr
The Little Bit Scary People by Emily Jenkins and Alexandra Boiger

For Parents and Teachers

The Anti-Bullying and Teasing Book for Preschool Classrooms by Barbara Sprung and Merle Froschl
Quit It! By Merle Froschl, Barbara Sprung and Nancy Mullin-Rindler
The Bully, the Bullied, and the Bystander by Barbara Coloroso
The Parent's Guide to Preventing and Responding to Bullying by Dr. Jason Thomas
When Your Child is Being Bullied: Real Solutions for Parents, Educators, and Other Professionals by M.K. Newman and J.E. DiMarco
The Bullying Prevention Book: A Guide for Principals, Teachers, and Counselors by John H. Hoover and Ronald L. Oliver

For more information on anti-bullying books, visit <http://www.thebbf.org/anti-bullying-recommended-book-list>

Anti-Bullying Websites and Programs

<http://www.pacerkidsagainstbullying.org/kab/>
<http://standforthesilent.org/>
<http://milwaukee.thebullyexpert.com/milwaukee-wi/anti-bullying-resources/>
<http://whatdoyouchoose.org/>

Pre-Show questions

1. Spookley's story takes place in a pumpkin patch during Halloween. Halloween is a holiday. What do you love best about the Halloween holiday?
2. All the pumpkins in the patch celebrate what makes them special. What are some qualities that make you special?
3. This story takes place on a farm. Have you ever been to a farm? What other things besides pumpkins do you see at a farm?

Jack the Lantern

Social Studies Classroom Information and Art Activity

Carving pumpkins is a popular Halloween activity. A carved pumpkin lit by a candle inside is called a jack-o-lantern. This tradition came from Ireland, where people would carve scary faces into turnips or potatoes and place them in windows to keep away evil spirits. When some of these people moved permanently to the United States, they brought this tradition with them. Pumpkins, which are native to North America, worked perfectly for this custom.



via etsystatic.com

In the space below, draw your own jack-o-lantern to scare away anything you might be afraid of!

With a parent's help, carve a real life jack-o-lantern based on your drawing and put it outside for the Halloween season.

I Never Met a Pumpkin I Didn't Like

Science Classroom Information

Adapted from <http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/sciencefacts/food/pumpkins.html>

- Pumpkins are usually orange, but can also be yellow, white, green, or red.
- Pumpkins are a fruit! This is because they contain seeds and develop from a flower. However, in cooking, they are often incorrectly referred to as a vegetable.
- The average pumpkin weighs about 13 pounds.
- Giant pumpkins are grown for competitions; in 2014, a new world record was set with a pumpkin that weighed in at 2,058 pounds! Woah!
- The largest pumpkin pie ever baked was 2,020 pounds.
- Pumpkins are 90% water.
- Pumpkins are grown on every continent except Antarctica. They are even grown in Alaska!
- Pumpkins can be made into soup, stews, pies, and the seeds can be toasted and eaten. After carving a pumpkin at home, roast the seeds for a delicious snack during the Halloween season.
- There are over 100 varieties of pumpkins; all shapes, sizes, and colors.



Going Batty

Math Classroom Activity

Adapted from First Stage's Teaching Through Theater lesson

1. Give each student a page of twelve bats.
2. Instruct the students to color 3 bats black, 3 bats red, 3 bats yellow, and 3 bats orange.
3. When finished, cut the bats out along the dotted lines.
4. Encourage students to separate the bats by color on their desks.
5. Use the worksheet below or solve the problems as a class.

Math Worksheet

If you add the number of black bats to the number of orange bats, how many black and orange bats do you have?

_____ black bats + _____ orange bats = _____ black and orange bats

If you add the number of yellow bats, red bats, and black bats, how many yellow, red, and black bats do you have?

_____ yellow bats + _____ red bats + _____ black bats
= _____ yellow, red, and black bats

If you add all of your bats together, how many bats total do you have?

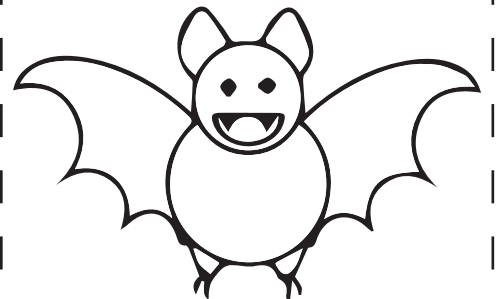
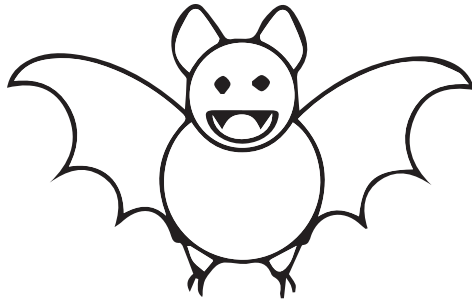
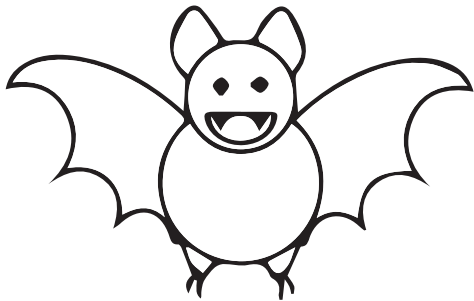
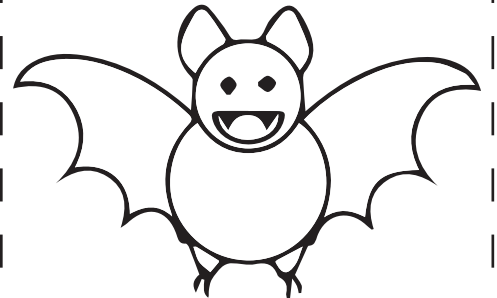
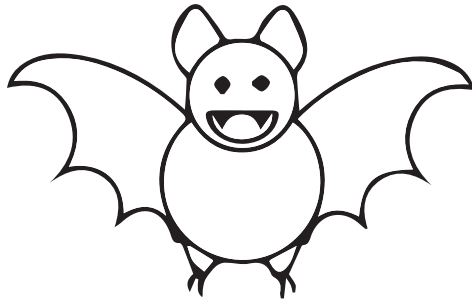
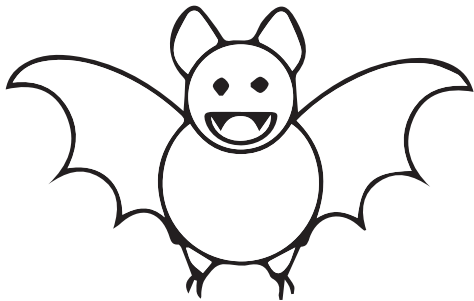
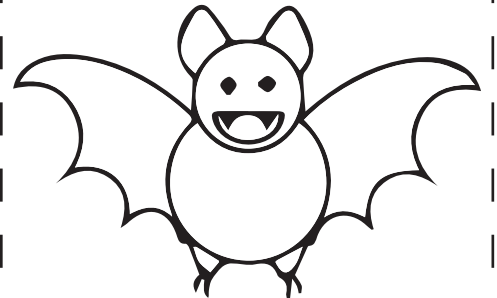
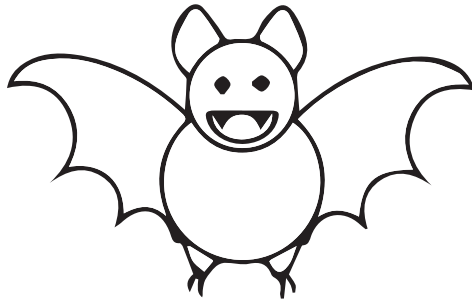
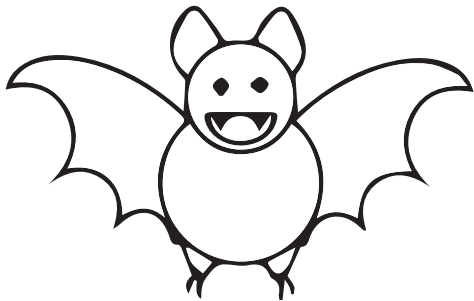
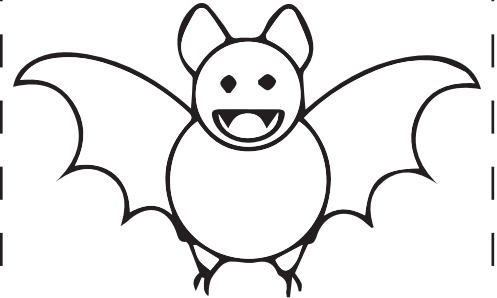
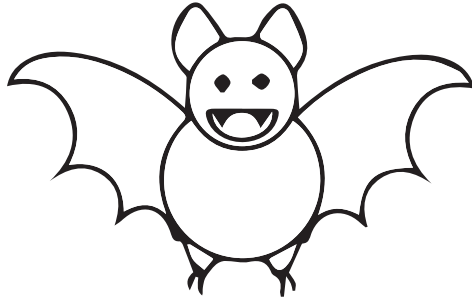
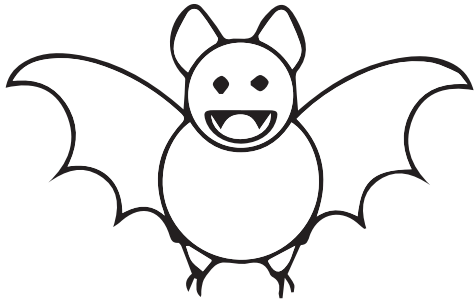
_____ black bats
+
_____ yellow bats
+
_____ red bats
+
_____ orange bats
=
_____ Total Bats



Going Batty

Math Classroom Activity

Adapted from First Stage's Teaching Through Theater lesson



Creepy Crawly Friends

Art Classroom Activity

Taken directly from <http://www.kiwicrate.com/projects/Creepy-Crawly-Pipe-Cleaner-Spiders/226>

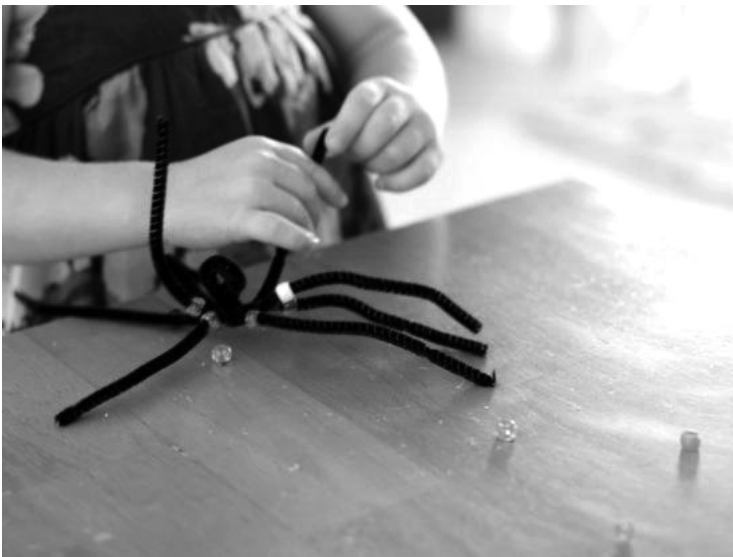
Spookley found good friends in Edgar, Allan, and Poe, the spiders who supported him and convinced him to be himself and never give up. Create your own spider friends using the directions below:

MATERIALS

Pipe cleaners (any color; to stay spooky black, orange, and yellow are suggested)
Beads

DIRECTIONS

1. Hold 4 pipe cleaners in one hand and bend them in half. Twist them together in the middle to create a loop for the spider's "body." Twist a couple of times to make sure the pipe cleaners are secure. (Depending on age, a parent or teacher may need to help with this step)
2. Separate the legs of the spider and count them as you go!
3. Slide the beads on each leg in various positions. To keep the beads from sliding off, bend the legs to create "joints." Once all eight legs are done, flip the spider over and say hello to your new friend!



Spookley's Feelings

Social/Emotional Wellbeing Activity

Spookley has lots of feelings throughout the play. He is sad, happy, excited, nervous, brave, and proud.

Make this picture of Spookley look SAD.

Why does Spookley feel sad?

What makes you feel sad?



Make this picture of Spookley look NERVOUS.

What makes Spookley feel nervous?

What makes you feel nervous?



Make this picture of Spookley look EXCITED.

What makes Spookley feel excited?

What makes you feel excited?



Our Words Matter

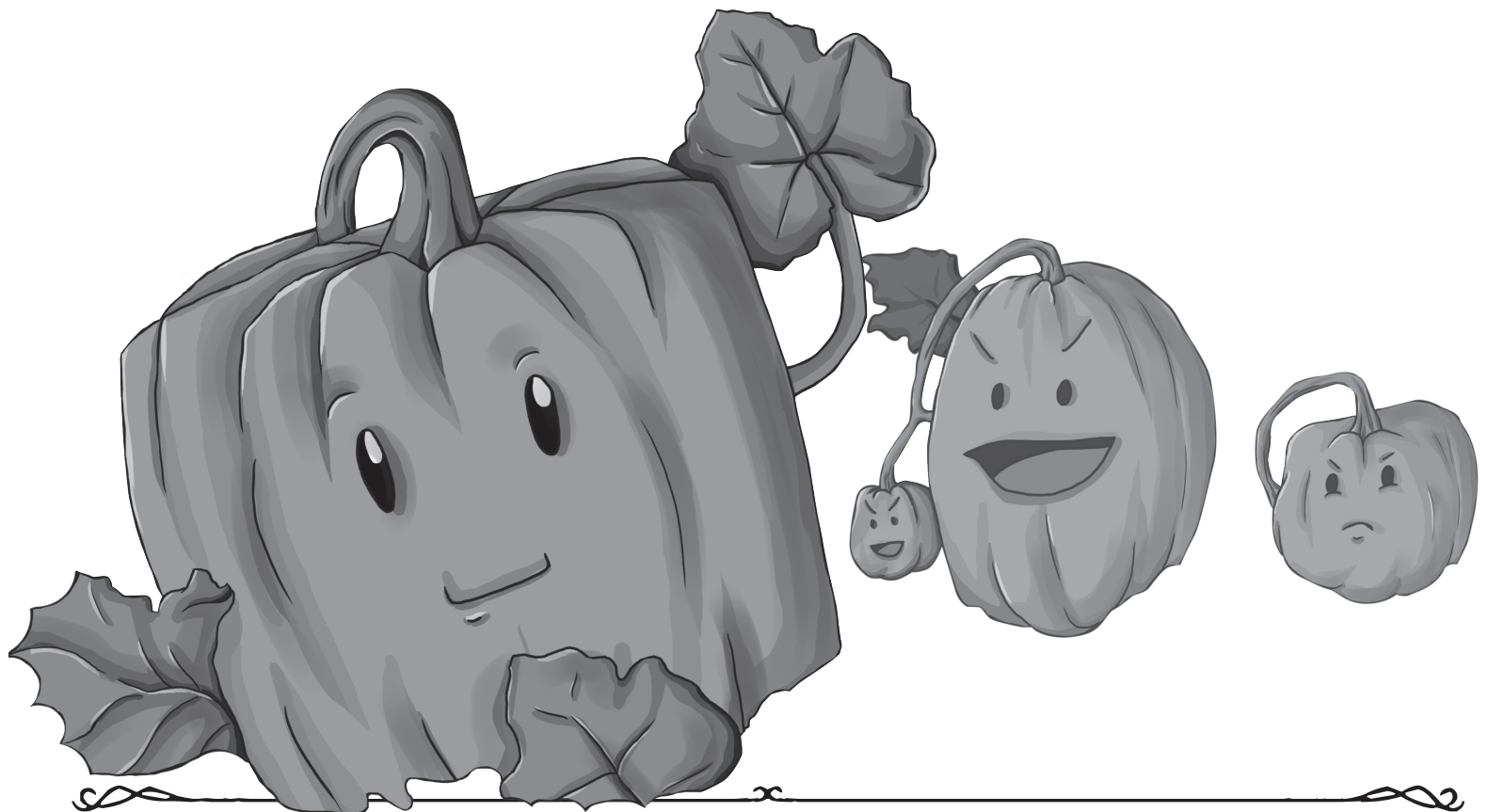
Social/Emotional Wellbeing Activity

Sometimes what we say can be more hurtful than using physical strength. Our words can affect how people think and feel about themselves.

The other pumpkins in the patch are mean to Spookley in the beginning of the play. **Brainstorm a list of things they say with students and talk about how those words made Spookley feel and how you would feel if someone said something like that to you.**

Edgar, Allan, and Poe are good friends to Spookley! They use their words to encourage and support Spookley. **Brainstorm a list of nice things to say to others and talk about how you would feel if someone said those nice things to you.**

Start a conversation about responsibility. How can we use our words responsibly? How can we be examples to others not acting in a responsible way? Encourage students to say three nice things a day to people in their lives: friends, parents, teachers, and even people that they are not friends with. By using our words in a positive, responsible manner, we can make the world a happier place.



A Kindness Tree

Social – Emotional Learning Classroom Activity

Taken from: <http://www.pbs.org/parents/arthur/activities/development.html?cat=development>

MATERIALS

- flowers cut out from colored paper
- a tree (trunk, branches, leaves) made of construction paper, taped to a wall

Make a "Kindness Tree" with your children, and show them how to make it bloom.

1. Share the bare tree with students and then explain to them that this is a kindness tree – and just like all trees, our kindness tree grows and blooms the more we take care and nurture it.
2. Have your students name ways that they can be nice to people. Ask questions to prompt ideas: What can you say to make someone feel better when she's sad? How can you help each other every day? What special things can you do to show your friends you like them?
3. Ask students to share ways that they have been kind or helpful to a friend or family member, or ways that a friend or family member has been kind to them.
 - a. These moments of kindness are what makes our kindness tree bloom. Have students write down their examples on a paper flower and tape it to the tree.
4. Allow for the Kindness Tree to stay up in the classroom and for examples of kindness to be added throughout the week, month or school year.

TAKE IT FURTHER

Have your children take photos of people who have been kind. Encourage them to make drawings to illustrate their experiences. Add these photos and drawings to your Kindness Tree.



Feeling Left Out

Social – Emotional Learning Classroom Activity

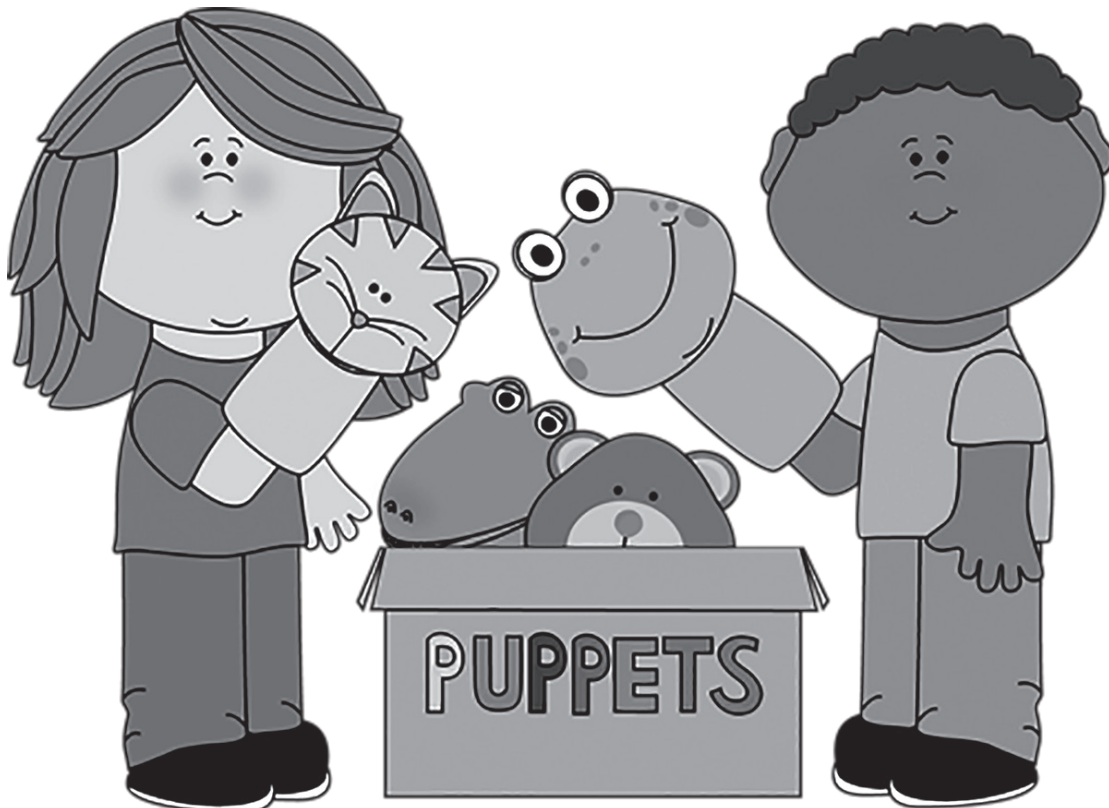
Taken from: <http://www.pbs.org/parents/arthur/activities/development.html?cat=development> *From Teaching Conflict Resolution through Children's Literature by William J. Kreidler (Scholastic, 1994)

MATERIALS

puppet or stuffed animal

Being excluded is a common, painful experience for young people and adults. Use role-play with a puppet or stuffed animal to explore this issue with your class.

- 1. Set the scene: Introduce a puppet who is acting angry and upset. Explain the puppet's behavior:** All the kids in her class were invited to a party except for her, and her feelings are hurt. Ask your children to talk to the puppet, find out what happened, and help the puppet figure out a way to feel better.
 - 2. Role-play:** Help your children act out the following scene with you (and the puppet) or with each other:
 - a. Two children are playing together. A third child asks if he can play. The other children say no. Have your children use the ABCD Conflict Solving* steps below to discuss the situation and figure out a solution that is fair to everyone. Then role-play the chosen solution.
- **Ask:** What's the problem?
 - **Brainstorm** solutions.
 - **Choose** the best.
 - **Do** it!



MAKING UP: Resolving Conflict

Social – Emotional Learning Classroom Activity

Taken from: <http://pbskids.org/arthur/parentsteachers/activities/credits.html>

MATERIALS

Markers
poster board

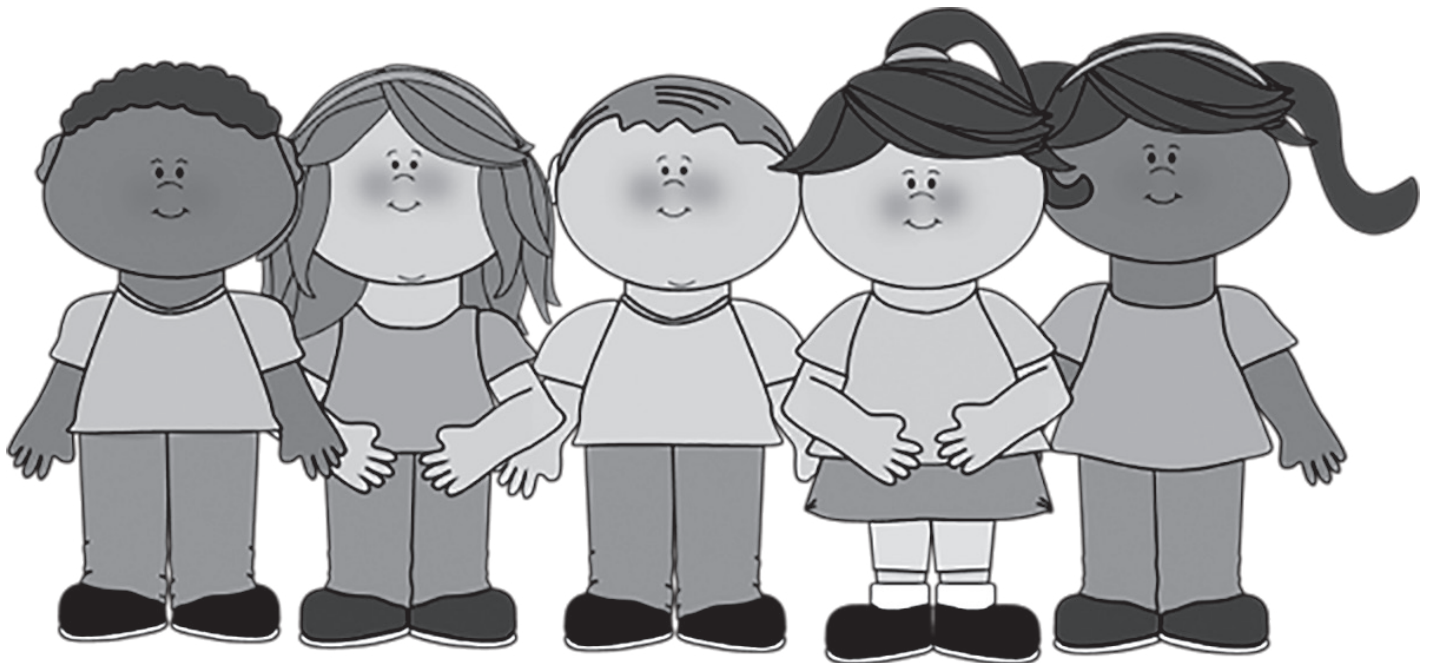
ACTIVITY

1. Brainstorm with students ways that friends can "make up" after hurting each other's feelings (e.g., apologizing, inviting someone to join a game, making a card or picture). On poster board, make a list of positive ways to resolve conflicts and show you're sorry. Include sentence starters for expressing feelings, like:

I felt _____ when you _____.

I apologize for _____.

2. Share with students a story that involves a dispute between two friends. (You can use a story from a book, or one that you make up.) Stop the story before there is a resolution.
3. Let students create their own ending to the story. They can write it out, draw pictures, or just tell you out loud. Encourage them to use their list of positive ways to express feelings and resolve conflict.
4. Have students practice acting out this new ending to the story.
5. Share the original ending to the story. Discuss how the characters felt, and why their feelings caused them to act as they did.



Teasing is Tough

Social – Emotional Learning Classroom Activity

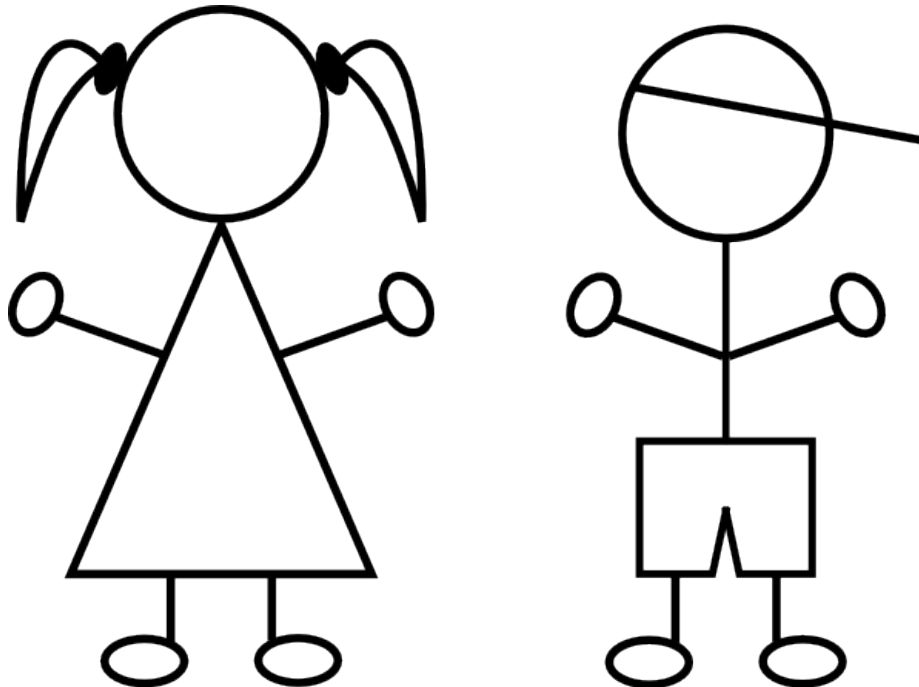
Taken from: <http://pbskids.org/arthur/parentsteachers/activities/credits.html>

MATERIALS

Crayons
Markers
Paper
paper circles

ACTIVITY

1. Give each student two paper circles and a crayon. Demonstrate how to draw a happy face on one circle, and an angry face on the other.
2. Each time you describe a situation, ask students to hold up the appropriate face to show how they would feel. Here are some examples:
 - **How would you feel if your best friend invited you to a party?**
 - **How would you feel if no one would let you use the swing?**
 - **How would you feel if you and your friends built a beautiful sandcastle together?**
 - **How would you feel if some kids started teasing you by saying you were a baby?**
3. Ask students: ***What can you do or say when someone teases you?*** Write down students' ideas on paper. After gathering suggestions, you may want to simplify ideas into a three-step approach. For example:
 - **Say: *Please stop it. I don't like it.***
 - **Say: *I'm going to tell a teacher/parent.***
 - Tell the teacher/parent.



WHO SAID IT?

1. All right everyone. Now we have a lot to do if we want to make this the best Halloween ever.
2. That's all it takes. Just one bad pumpkin to ruin the whole patch and he is it.
3. What if Little Tom is right? What if I don't belong here?
4. And now you gotta believe in yourself, Spookley!
5. I've been pumpkinin' up all year.
6. Your friends? Wait a second. You have friends? Oh that's a good one.
7. I'm going to block that hole before everyone blows out into the river.
8. I want to thank you for saving me Spookley. I shouldn't have judged you just by the way that you look.
9. A square pumpkin? Why you're the most amazing thing I've ever seen!

POST-SHOW QUESTIONS

1. Spookley uses his differences to save the other pumpkins in the patch. How are you unique? How can you use these special qualities to help others?
2. Big Tom and Bobo went along with Little Tom's teasing. How can you stand up to a bully, even if you aren't the one being made fun of?
3. Edgar, Allan, and Poe are good friends to Spookley. What makes a good friend? How do you show that you are a good friend?

WHO SAID IT? (ANSWERS)

1. All right everyone. Now we have a lot to do if we want to make this the best Halloween ever. . . JACK SCARECROW
2. That's all it takes. Just one bad pumpkin to ruin the whole patch and he is it. LITTLE TOM
3. What if Little Tom is right? What if I don't belong here? SPOOKLEY
4. And now you gotta believe in yourself, Spookley!. EDGAR
5. I've been pumpkinin' up all year. BIG TOM
6. Your friends? Wait a second. You have friends? Oh that's a good one. LITTLE TOM
7. I'm going to block that hole before everyone blows out into the river. SPOOKLEY
8. I want to thank you for saving me Spookley. I shouldn't have judged you just by the way that you look. BOBO
9. A square pumpkin? Why you're the most amazing thing I've ever seen! FARMER HILL