

Halloween Story Problems

Seasonal story problems are fun, and motivate kids to think critically. Here's how you and your child can work together to craft your own story problems from scratch. Remember, every good story problem shows an incomplete number sentence and ends with a question.

What You Need:

- Orange or black construction paper
- Handwriting paper
- Colored pencils
- Markers
- Scissors
- Glue
- Index card
- Illustrations: pumpkin, ghost, witch, mummy



What You Do:

1. Cut two lines of handwriting paper.
2. Glue the handwriting paper to the bottom of the construction paper.
3. Print out multiple copies of the attached Halloween characters, around three of each character.
4. Color them and cut them out.
5. Draw a background on your orange paper. Ideas to consider are: graveyard, haunted house, crumbling wall, or pumpkin patch. Remember to draw a full moon!
6. Move your Halloween characters around and start to imagine your story problem. Stumped for ideas? Here are some examples:
 - There were two pumpkins sitting on the wall. Three more joined them. How many pumpkins were altogether? Answer: $2+3 = ?$
 - A ghost went trick-or-treating with a witch and two mummies. One of the mummies had to go home early. How many trick-or-treaters were left? Answer: $1+1+2-1=?$
 - A mummy walked through a graveyard and four witches rose from a grave. How many were there altogether? Answer: $1+4=?$
7. Write the story problem on the lines. Use neat handwriting. Be sure to give all the information the reader needs to solve the problem. End with a question.
8. Write the answer out in a number sentence. Make a trap door by cutting a corner of the index card to hide the answer. Draw a question mark on the trap door.
9. Find someone to solve your problem.
10. Make another one!