

HALLOWEEN

31 October

DAY OF THE DEAD!

The days are growing colder. The light is going. Plants are dying. Halloween was originally an old Celtic festival - the day of the dead.

Halloween is the night when ghosts, witches and evil spirits walk the earth.

AMERICAN GHOSTS

Halloween is a big festival for American children. This is what they have to say:

SCARY

"It's great! All the kids dress up as ghosts, witches, vampires - anything scary. Then we knock on people's doors and say 'Trick or treat!' People give us candies - that's the treat. If they don't, we play a trick on them. I have a water pistol full of soapy water. Sometimes I squirt it at windows. There's a real mess when the soap dries!"

(Wendy, 10)

CHRISTMAS

Halloween is like Christmas. Last year I got so much candy, my bag was full. I could hardly lift it! I took it home and tipped out the candy onto my bedroom floor. Then I went out trick or treating again.

(Howard, 6)



DANGER

You have to be careful! My mom checks my candies when I bring them home. Somebody might have put drugs in them.

(Karl, 8)

SCREAM

One year I dressed up as a vampire. There was a halloween party at school. I had blood coming from my mouth and everything. Anyway I was just leaving home when the doorbell rang. It was a four-year-old Frankenstein who was trick or treating with his mom. I tried to give him some candy but when he saw my face he screamed and screamed.

(Greg, 17)



SEXY LEGS

We had a Halloween party at school. Two boys dressed up as female hookers. One thing made me mad - they both had better legs than me!

(Jessie, 16)

HAUNTED HOUSE

Some families make their houses into haunted houses. Green lights, scary music, spiders' webs everywhere. When you walk through the rooms people jump out at you dressed up as werewolves or skeletons. In one house I had to close my eyes and put my hands in a bucket. People said the bucket was full of eyeballs. It was only peeled grapes but it felt gross!

(Nadine, 12)

JACK O'LANTERN

Our school has a jack o'lantern competition. We all had to get a pumpkin, take out the insides and cut a face in it. They look great in the dark, with a candle burning inside. Real spooky!

(Walls, 14)

TRICK OR TREAT

Here's a poem American children say when they go trick or treating:

Trick or treat

Smell my feet

Give me something good to eat.

If you don't

We don't care

We'll show you our underwear.



A Ghost Story

On the night of Halloween many American kids tell ghost stories to each other. Here is an example:

In our church there is a old statue. It is two metres tall and stands by the door. People don't like to go near it. Our priest says it is a statue of an evil man who lived long ago. He was rich and powerful and killed many people. When he died he left money to the village church but only if the priests put his statue inside. The priests needed

money so they agreed. Nobody liked the statue but there was something worse: some people said that on the night of Halloween the statue walked around the village.

Well, a young couple moved to the village. They heard the story of the statue and on the night of Halloween, the young man went to the church to look at it. He opened the door but

couldn't find it anywhere.

When he went home to tell his wife, he saw the front door had been smashed. His wife lay on the kitchen floor - dead. Her left hand was tightly closed. The husband pulled her hand open and found ... a stone finger! If you see the statue today, it is still missing one of its fingers.

