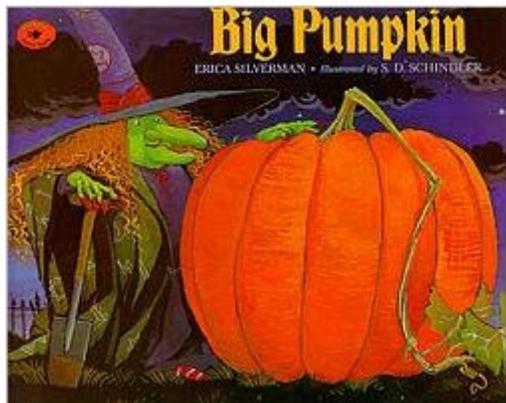


Big Pumpkin by John McDonough, Erica Silverman



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Once there was a witch who longed for pumpkin pie. Unfortunately, the pumpkin she had grown from a seed became so big she simply couldn't get it off the vine. Although "she pulled and she tugged and she pulled...that pumpkin just sat."

Along came a ghost. "I am bigger than you and stronger, too," said he. "Let me try."

Well, the witch wanted that whole pumpkin for herself. But she needed help -- Halloween was just hours away...

With the rhythm and repetition that children love, Erica Silverman tells a rollicking story about a witch who, through her encounter with a ghost and other spooky creatures, discovers both the value of cooperating and the joy of sharing. S.D. Schindler brings this captivating crew to life in spirited paintings that are as warm as they are funny.



Reviews of the **Big Pumpkin** by John McDonough, Erica Silverman

Tat

What a great story time read! With all the snazzy new Halloween books out there, sometimes it's easy to forget about those tried and true storytelling classics. Big Pumpkin tells a familiar story that's been done in different forms throughout children's literature. Seldom has it been done in such a fun format. This book is perfect for preschool and early elementary school story times. A spirited read will have your audience tugging and pulling along with you as the witch, mummy, vampire and bat try to get that pumpkin out of the ground! It's a bit long for the younger preschoolers, but the text flows so well and the rhythms are so spot on, that it will even work for them if the reader is willing to put in a little practice.

The illustrations are great for group sharing, without being too scary. All of these scary creatures get to show their softer side as they end up at witch's house eating pumpkin pie. I am so glad this book is still easily available in hardcover. I think this is the third copy I've purchased and look forward to telling this one every year. If you haven't used Big Pumpkin in your story time, you are missing a great opportunity for Halloween fun!

Uleran

This was one of my son's favorite books when he was in preschool. He wasn't the type who went out of his way to request specific books, but he did with this one. And considering it was a library copy, we had to check it out several times. Now that he's in his late teens, he still has fond memories of the book. His sisters were school age when we used to read it with him. I spoke to one of my daughters about it recently and she still had it memorized. So even though her reading level was way beyond that of the book, it shows that the story resonated as a memorable one. It might be too elementary for a first or second grader, so I'd suggest using the "look inside" feature.

The story also emphasizes cooperation in an age appropriate way. Children can relate to it and understand the importance without thinking that somebody is out to teach them a lesson.

Anazan

This book was okay. Not terrible but not great either. We were looking for fun Halloween books to read to our one year old and decided upon this one.

SpoilerIt's about a witch who grows a very big pumpkin and then can't pick it. A few different Halloween characters stop by to help her. It finishes with everyone eating pumpkin pie. It's a cute plot idea but the story was just so-so.

Manazar

This is the second time we have purchased this book. Our first copy was almost 15 years old and needed replacing. Absolutely love this story and illustrations. My 3 year old requested it every night for the month of October.

Malodora

Big Pumpkin is so Big in our house, it's read all the time...Oh and our son loves it too!

Once my son (4 years old) discovered and fell in love with Big Pumpkin it didn't matter if it was Halloween or not. The story is nothing short of hilarious, the illustrations could not be better suited and truly compliment this book where so many others fall short. My husband and I get such a kick out of reading this book as well, we practically know it by heart and have been known to recite it in jest around the house. One of my favorite things about this book is that it introduces the so-called "scary" characters of Halloween, the Ghost, the Vampire, the Mummy, the Bat, and the Witch in the most loveable manner with such simple and innocent humor that it completely removes any possible thought of "scary" for our little ones. Big Pumpkin can make you befriend a Witch, want to help out a Vampire, and just love your "Mummy"! Don't wait until Halloween, buy it now, it's too cute to pass up.

Kulwes

I don't know why, but my 2 year old is FASCINATED with this book. Her teacher read it to their preschool class and she wouldn't stop talking about it. That was in October of last year... it's January now - and she's still begging to read it! Our whole family even dressed up like all the characters in this book for Halloween, just to see her smile (worked, big time). The actual story encourages working together to get things done, so the moral is good, as well as the fun rhythmic style of writing. Hope you like it, too!

Nulix

As a teacher and a parent of 3 young children- I have to say I love this book. It's fun and lines are repeated so children easily remember the words. My son has brought home some Halloween stories from his school library that have pictures too scary (in my opinion) or words that are not appropriate for a young age group. This book is perfect for a child in school or at home. It also can bring about thoughtful discussions- why do the characters laugh at the bat? Is that the right thing to do? Do you need to be big to be able to help out? Why is the witch upset at the end? Why does she plant another seed? I can't recommend this book enough. Love it!

My kids have loved this story since 2003! It's got a great message, without being preachy. This story is not too spooky, just perfect for getting in the Halloween spirit. And all that talk of Pumpkin Pie always makes us ready for Fall traditions. If you happen to get your hands on the soundtrack, the song is very catchy and really fun for little ones.

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