



Halloween Reading Worksheets: Grades 3-4

2 original passages for grades 3-4, with comprehension questions and answer keys that show the evidence behind every answer.

PASSAGE	LEVEL	SKILL FOCUS	PAGES
The Scarecrow Who Kept Moving	Grades 3-4	A friendly mystery	3-5, key 9-10
The Corn Maze Map	Grades 3-4	Solving a problem	6-8, key 11-12

Before You Print

How to pick a passage, run it and mark it.

Choose a Passage

PASSAGE	LEVEL	TYPE	WORDS
The Pumpkin on the Step	Grades 1-2	Story	142
The Missing Pumpkin Cookies	Grades 1-2	Story	135
The Scarecrow Who Kept Moving	Grades 3-4	Mystery	305
The Corn Maze Map	Grades 3-4	Story	267
Bring a Sheet	Grades 5-6	Story	392
How a Pumpkin Grows	Grades 5-6	Informational	424

The levels are a starting point, set by passage length, sentence length, vocabulary and how much reading between the lines the questions ask for. They are not a test score, so move a reader up or down a band whenever a passage feels too easy or too hard.

Run It Three Ways

- **Independent:** students read the passage twice, then answer. The second read is where the inference clues show up.
- **Paired reading:** partners take turns reading paragraphs aloud, then answer on their own sheets and compare evidence.
- **Supported reading:** read the passage aloud while students follow along, go over the Words to Know box first and let students answer out loud before writing.

Mark It Fairly

- Inference questions can have more than one good answer. Give full marks when the answer fits the passage and points to a clue from it. A correct idea with no clue earns half.
- For grades 1-2, spelling should not cost marks. The goal is understanding.
- The Draw It and Your Turn boxes are extension tasks for early finishers. They are not marked.

Print, Edit and Share

- Every page works in black and white. Print at 100% (actual size).
- Want your students' names in the stories, or an easier question? Each grade band is also a Canva template, so you can change any passage, question or name before you print.
- Free to print and copy for your own class, homeschool or family. Please share the link to the download page instead of reposting or selling the files.

The Scarecrow Who Kept Moving

- 1 Every October, the Ortiz family set up a scarecrow named Mr. Buttons in the front yard. He wore a plaid shirt, a floppy straw hat and a long red scarf that Grandpa had knitted. Mr. Buttons always stood next to the mailbox, where everyone walking by could wave at him.
- 2 One Monday morning, Ana looked out the window and blinked. Mr. Buttons was lying face down by the porch steps.
- 3 “Did you move him?” Ana asked her little brother, Diego. Diego shook his head and kept eating his cereal.
- 4 Ana stood the scarecrow back up. On Tuesday, she found him tangled in the hedge. On Wednesday, he was flat on the lawn, and his hat had rolled into the flower bed. Ana decided to investigate. She took out a small notebook and wrote down where Mr. Buttons was each morning and what the weather had been like the night before.
- 5 After a few days, Ana noticed a pattern. On every windy night, Mr. Buttons had fallen over. When she checked his wooden pole, she found a long crack near the bottom. Each gust of wind made the scarecrow wobble until he tipped.
- 6 But Thursday did not fit the pattern. Thursday night had been calm and still, yet on Friday morning, Mr. Buttons was sitting on the porch swing. He was wearing a pair of sunglasses with green frames.
- 7 Ana walked into the kitchen and set her notebook on the table. Diego looked up. He was wearing his baseball cap, but his green sunglasses were missing from their usual spot on top of it.
- 8 Diego grinned. “Okay, that one was me,” he said. “Mr. Buttons looked tired of standing.”
- 9 That weekend, Grandpa helped them put in a new, thicker pole. Mr. Buttons did not fall over again, but Ana kept her notebook ready, just in case.

WORDS TO KNOW

scarecrow: a figure dressed in old clothes, set up outdoors

pattern: something that happens again and again in the same way

plaid: a pattern of crossing stripes

gust: a sudden rush of wind

The Scarecrow Who Kept Moving

Answer the questions. Look back at the story to check your answers. Page 1 of 2.

Name _____ Date _____

1 Where did Mr. Buttons usually stand? RECALL

2 What two things did Ana write in her notebook each day? RECALL

3 “Ana decided to investigate.” What does **investigate** mean? VOCABULARY

- ☐ A to look carefully for facts to solve a problem
- ☐ B to clean up a mess
- ☐ C to give up on a problem
- ☐ D to build something new

4 Why did Mr. Buttons fall over on windy nights? CAUSE AND EFFECT

5 Why did Thursday not fit the pattern? RECALL

The Scarecrow Who Kept Moving

Answer the questions. Look back at the story to check your answers. Page 2 of 2.

- 6 Before Diego says anything, which clue in paragraphs 6 and 7 shows that he moved Mr. Buttons on Thursday?

INFERENCE

- 7 Write 1, 2, 3 and 4 to show the order of events.

SEQUENCE

- ☐ Mr. Buttons is found sitting on the porch swing.
- ☐ Grandpa helps put in a new pole.
- ☐ Mr. Buttons is found tangled in the hedge.
- ☐ The scarecrow's hat rolls into the flower bed.

- 8 Choose one word that describes Ana. Give a detail from the story that shows it.

CHARACTER

Your turn: Ana keeps her notebook ready, just in case. What might she investigate next? Write 2 or 3 sentences.

The Corn Maze Map

- 1 The corn maze at Hill Farm covered three acres, and the stalks were taller than Ms. Patel, the tallest teacher at Riverside School. Before the fourth graders went in, the farmer handed each group a paper map and a whistle. “If you get stuck, blow the whistle twice,” he said. “Someone will come and find you.”
- 2 Kofi, June and Ellis made up the Blue Group. June held the map. Kofi held the whistle. Ellis held the bag of apple slices, which he said was the most important job.
- 3 For the first ten minutes, everything went well. The group turned left at the scarecrow, crossed a little wooden bridge and took the path with the yellow flags. Then they reached a spot where the path split three ways, and none of the turns matched the map.
- 4 “We’re lost,” Ellis said, and he ate an apple slice to calm down.
- 5 June turned the map around in her hands. “Wait,” she said. “I’ve been holding it upside down since the bridge.” On the map, a small arrow showed that north was at the top. The sun was setting behind the barn, which meant the barn was to the west. June turned the map so that the barn on the paper pointed toward the real barn.
- 6 Now the turns matched. The group took the middle path, then a sharp right, and came out beside the pumpkin patch at the exit. They were the second group to finish.
- 7 Kofi looked at the whistle. “We never used it,” he said, sounding a little disappointed.
- 8 “Next time,” June said, “you can hold the map.”

WORDS TO KNOW

acre: a measure of land, a bit smaller than a soccer field **stalks:** the tall main stems of a plant

disappointed: sad because something did not happen the way you hoped

The Corn Maze Map

Answer the questions. Look back at the story to check your answers. Page 1 of 2.

Name _____ Date _____

- 1 What did the farmer give each group before they went into the maze? RECALL

- 2 What was the whistle for? RECALL

- 3 “Then they reached a spot where the path split three ways.” VOCABULARY
What does **split** mean here?

- ☐ A broke into tiny pieces
- ☐ B divided into separate paths
- ☐ C became very muddy
- ☐ D came to a dead end

- 4 Why did the turns stop matching the map? CAUSE AND EFFECT

- 5 How did June use the barn to turn the map the right way? INFERENCE

The Corn Maze Map

Answer the questions. Look back at the story to check your answers. Page 2 of 2.

- 6 Kofi sounded a little disappointed. Why do you think he felt that way?

INFERENCE

- 7 What does June's answer in the last line show about her?

CHARACTER

- 8 Write 1, 2, 3 and 4 to show the order of events.

SEQUENCE

- ☐ June turns the map around.
- ☐ The group takes the path with the yellow flags.
- ☐ The group comes out by the pumpkin patch.
- ☐ The group turns left at the scarecrow.

Your turn: Next year Kofi holds the map. Write what happens when the Blue Group goes back into the maze.

The Scarecrow Who Kept Moving

Answers in red. Evidence quotes come straight from the passage. Page 1 of 2.

- 1** Where did Mr. Buttons usually stand? RECALL
Answer: **Next to the mailbox in the front yard.**
Evidence: paragraph 1: “Mr. Buttons always stood next to the mailbox”
Also accept: “By the mailbox.”
-
- 2** What two things did Ana write in her notebook each day? RECALL
Answer: **Where Mr. Buttons was each morning and what the weather had been like the night before.**
Evidence: paragraph 4: “wrote down where Mr. Buttons was each morning and what the weather had been like the night before”
Also accept: Both parts are needed for full marks: the scarecrow’s spot and the weather.
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- 3** “Ana decided to investigate.” What does **investigate** mean? VOCABULARY
Answer: **A. to look carefully for facts to solve a problem**
Evidence: paragraph 4: “Ana decided to investigate. She took out a small notebook”
Also accept: The next sentence is the clue: Ana starts writing down facts in a notebook.
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- 4** Why did Mr. Buttons fall over on windy nights? CAUSE AND EFFECT
Answer: **His wooden pole had a long crack near the bottom, so the wind made him wobble until he tipped over.**
Evidence: paragraph 5: “she found a long crack near the bottom”; paragraph 5: “Each gust of wind made the scarecrow wobble until he tipped.”
Also accept: Full marks need both the cracked pole and the wind. “Because it was windy” alone earns half.
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- 5** Why did Thursday not fit the pattern? RECALL
Answer: **Thursday night was calm, but Mr. Buttons still moved. He ended up on the porch swing.**
Evidence: paragraph 6: “Thursday night had been calm and still, yet on Friday morning, Mr. Buttons was sitting on the porch swing.”
Also accept: Any answer that links “no wind” with “he still moved.”
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The Scarecrow Who Kept Moving

Answers in red. Evidence quotes come straight from the passage. Page 2 of 2.

- 6** Before Diego says anything, which clue in paragraphs 6 and 7 shows that he moved Mr. Buttons on Thursday? INFERENCE

Answer: Mr. Buttons was wearing green sunglasses, and Diego's green sunglasses were missing from the top of his cap.

Evidence: paragraph 6: "He was wearing a pair of sunglasses with green frames."; paragraph 7: "his green sunglasses were missing from their usual spot on top of it"

Also accept: The answer must connect the sunglasses on the scarecrow to Diego's missing sunglasses. "Diego said it was him" is true but comes from paragraph 8, so it earns half.

- 7** Write 1, 2, 3 and 4 to show the order of events. SEQUENCE

Answer: 1. Mr. Buttons is found tangled in the hedge.
2. The scarecrow's hat rolls into the flower bed.
3. Mr. Buttons is found sitting on the porch swing.
4. Grandpa helps put in a new pole.

Boxes top to bottom: 3, 4, 1, 2

Evidence: paragraph 4: "On Tuesday, she found him tangled in the hedge."; paragraph 4: "his hat had rolled into the flower bed"; paragraph 6: "Mr. Buttons was sitting on the porch swing"; paragraph 9: "Grandpa helped them put in a new, thicker pole"

Also accept: The day words (Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, that weekend) are the clues.

- 8** Choose one word that describes Ana. Give a detail from the story that shows it. CHARACTER

Answer: Careful (or curious). She wrote down where the scarecrow was and what the weather was each day, and she checked his pole.

Evidence: paragraph 4: "She took out a small notebook"; paragraph 5: "When she checked his wooden pole"

Also accept: Curious, observant, patient, determined or smart, as long as the detail supports the word. A word with no detail earns half.

- +** Your turn NOT MARKED

Answers will vary. Look for a mystery Ana could check with notes and clues, the way she did with the weather.

The Corn Maze Map

Answers in red. Evidence quotes come straight from the passage. Page 1 of 2.

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- 1** What did the farmer give each group before they went into the maze? RECALL
- Answer:** A paper map and a whistle.
- Evidence:** paragraph 1: *"handed each group a paper map and a whistle"*
- Also accept:** Both items are needed for full marks.
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- 2** What was the whistle for? RECALL
- Answer:** If a group got stuck, they could blow it twice and someone would come to find them.
- Evidence:** paragraph 1: *"If you get stuck, blow the whistle twice"*
- Also accept:** "To call for help."
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- 3** "Then they reached a spot where the path split three ways." What does **split** mean here? VOCABULARY
- Answer:** B. divided into separate paths
- Evidence:** paragraph 3: *"the path split three ways"*
- Also accept:** The clue is "three ways": one path became three.
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- 4** Why did the turns stop matching the map? CAUSE AND EFFECT
- Answer:** June had been holding the map upside down since the bridge.
- Evidence:** paragraph 5: *"I've been holding it upside down since the bridge."*
- Also accept:** "The map was the wrong way around."
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- 5** How did June use the barn to turn the map the right way? INFERENCE
- Answer:** The sun was setting behind the barn, so she knew the barn was to the west. She turned the map until the barn on the paper pointed toward the real barn.
- Evidence:** paragraph 5: *"The sun was setting behind the barn, which meant the barn was to the west.";* paragraph 5: *"June turned the map so that the barn on the paper pointed toward the real barn."*
- Also accept:** Full marks for lining up the paper barn with the real barn. Mentioning the sun or west is a bonus, not a requirement.
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- 6** Kofi sounded a little disappointed. Why do you think he felt that way? INFERENCE
- Answer:** His job was the whistle, and he never got to use it.
- Evidence:** paragraph 2: *"Kofi held the whistle.";* paragraph 7: *"We never used it," he said, sounding a little disappointed."*
- Also accept:** "He wanted to blow the whistle" or "his job did not matter in the end."
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The Corn Maze Map

Answers in red. Evidence quotes come straight from the passage. Page 2 of 2.

- 7** What does June's answer in the last line show about her? CHARACTER
- Answer:** **She is kind. She notices Kofi feels left out and offers him the map, the job that mattered most.**
- Evidence:** paragraph 8: *"Next time," June said, "you can hold the map."*
- Also accept:** Kind, fair, a good friend or good at sharing, with a reason. "She doesn't want the map anymore" earns half.
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- 8** Write 1, 2, 3 and 4 to show the order of events. SEQUENCE
- Answer:** **1. The group turns left at the scarecrow.**
2. The group takes the path with the yellow flags.
3. June turns the map around.
4. The group comes out by the pumpkin patch.
- Boxes top to bottom: 3, 2, 4, 1
- Evidence:** paragraph 3: *"The group turned left at the scarecrow";* paragraph 3: *"took the path with the yellow flags";* paragraph 5: *"June turned the map around in her hands.";* paragraph 6: *"came out beside the pumpkin patch at the exit"*
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- +** Your turn NOT MARKED
- Answers will vary. Strong answers keep the characters the same: Ellis and his apple slices, June helping, Kofi using what June taught him about the barn.