

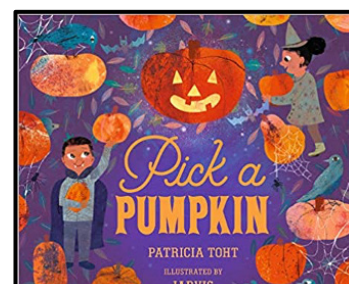
Ag in the Classroom Book of the Month

PICK A PUMPKIN

by *Patricia Toht*

Pick a pumpkin from the patch. Tall and lean or short and fat. Vivid orange, ghostly white, or speckled green, might be just right.

Pairing a wonderfully rhythmic read-aloud text with expressive retro illustrations, author Patricia Toht and illustrator Jarvis capture all the excitement and familial feeling of a favorite holiday tradition. Readers will be happy to follow along with each step, from picking out the perfect specimen at the pumpkin patch (be sure to stop for cider and toffee apples) to carting it home, scooping out the insides, carving a scary face, and finally lighting a candle inside — savoring the familiar ritual of transforming an ordinary pumpkin into a one-of-a-kind glowing jack-o'-lantern.



Fun Facts:

- * Pumpkin is a fruit, not a vegetable.
- * Pumpkin plants feature both male and female flowers, with bees typically being involved in pollination (the transfer of pollen).
- * Over 1 billion of pumpkin are produced in the US every year.
- * Pumpkins are popular decorations during Halloween. A carved pumpkin illuminated by candles is known as a 'jack-o-lantern'. The tradition is believed to have come from Ireland, where they used to carve faces into turnips, beet and other root vegetables as part of the Gaelic festival of Samhain.

Videos

- * Farm Monitor- Pumpkin Harvest Time
- * Pumpkin-How Does it Grow?
- * How to Grow Pumpkins-Libby Farm
- * What's the Secret to Growing Giant Pumpkins?

Activities

- * STEM Tallest Tower Pumpkin and Toothpicks
- * Science Activity- Pumpkin Predictions
- * How To Carve A Pumpkin Picture Sequence PreK and K
- * Jack-O-Lantern Writing Paper
- * Rotting Pumpkin Science Activity
- * Rotting Pumpkin Journal
- * Pumpkin Pie in a Bag
- * Roasted Pumpkin Seeds