



A Pumpkin Grows

OBJECTIVE: Read to learn how a pumpkin seed grows into a pumpkin.

STANDARDS: Science: Characteristics of organisms; Life cycle of organisms

“Pumpkins can be red, blue, or white.”

BEFORE READING

Use Word Webs

Make a pumpkin word web.

Draw a pumpkin on the board, and draw spokes coming out from the pumpkin. Ask, “What do you know about pumpkins? What words would you use to tell about them?” Write children’s responses on the spokes; for example, *orange, round, have seeds, make pumpkin pie*, and so on. Then tell children that in this issue, they will learn how pumpkins grow.

DURING READING

Understand Text Structures

Use the text features, such as arrows and numbers, to help children navigate the page.

Read aloud the box on page 2 about the pumpkin seed and ask, “What part comes next?” (*the part about the pumpkin flower*) Ask children, “How did you know where to go next?” (*The flower is the next picture over; there is an arrow between the picture of the seed and the picture of the flower; there are numbers on top of the pictures.*) Explain that all of those features help us see what happens first, next, and last.

AFTER READING

Fluency/Perform Dialogue

Invite children to read the text as Clifford’s caretaker, Emily Elizabeth.

Model reading aloud the text on page 1 for children, using the punctuation to emphasize vocal expression. Then invite children to practice reading it in several ways. First, you can read one sentence at a time and have children echo-read after you. Then children can perform the dialogue as Emily Elizabeth! They can give the character a special voice and any physical gestures they like.

READ-ALoud BACKGROUND

Pumpkin Power!

- Did you know that pumpkins can grow to be bigger than a person? The biggest pumpkins weigh more than a thousand pounds. They are much too heavy for people to pick up. A machine has to lift them!
- How many seeds do you think one pumpkin can hold? Would you guess 700? That’s how many seeds a giant pumpkin can have. Even small pumpkins can have 100 or more seeds.
- Not all pumpkins are orange. Pumpkins can be red, blue, or white. They can even have stripes!
- Have you ever tried to sink a pumpkin? You can’t. That’s because pumpkins float! There’s a lot of air inside pumpkins. That makes them light, so they can float on water.
- You already learned that a flower grows on the vine before a pumpkin does. But you probably don’t know that cooks can fry those flowers and eat them! Does that sound tasty? (Remember, this doesn’t mean you can eat any flower—we’re just talking about the ones on pumpkin vines!)

Parts of a Pumpkin

- Pumpkins grow on a **vine**. A vine is a long plant that grows along the ground.
- The **stem** of a pumpkin is the part that connects to the vine. People sometimes use the stem as a lid for their jack-o’-lantern.
- Underneath the pumpkin’s orange **skin** is the **meat**. People can use pumpkin meat to make foods like pumpkin pie and pumpkin bread.
- Deeper inside the pumpkin are the **seeds**, and the mushy part called the **pulp**. People can toast the seeds and eat them. Of course, you can also plant the seeds to grow more pumpkins!
- Another name for a pumpkin flower is a pumpkin **blossom**.