

Magic in the Pumpkin Patch

Once there was a little pumpkin growing in the pumpkin patch. He was a cute little pumpkin—all round and orange. It was getting to be time for Halloween and the children were picking out their favorite pumpkins so they could make decorations. The children picked fat pumpkins, skinny pumpkins, bumpy pumpkins—but not this little pumpkin. "What is wrong with me? Why don't they pick me?" he cried. He was so sad that he hid under some leaves until all of the other pumpkins in the patch were gone. Some children came by, looking for a pumpkin. "Oh no! All of the pumpkins have been picked. I guess we are too late to pick a pumpkin for Halloween!" they complained.

Suddenly one of the children walked up to the pile of leaves where the little pumpkin was hiding. "Wait, what is this hiding under the leaves?" The children cleared away the leaves and found the little pumpkin. "Oh look—this pumpkin is the best—it is already decorated!" (The little pumpkin has changed into a jack-o-lantern.)

Materials needed:

3 sheets of orange construction or art paper.
Scraps of green paper
1 12 inch dowel rod (1/4" diameter) or 2 wooden skewers
1 8x10 piece of corrugated cardboard
Green florist or masking tape
2 large paperclips
A small floral pick with autumn leaves and flowers
15"x24" piece of colorful light weight fabric

Constructing the trick:

Trace and cut out small pumpkins—2 orange—1 cardboard. Trace and cut out 2 small stems from green paper. Glue a pumpkin on each side of the cardboard. Glue a stems on the top of each side. Draw a jack-o'-lantern face on one side of the pumpkin.

Wrap dowel with green tape. If you are using skewers, put them together and wrap with tape. Insert dowel into the bottom of the pumpkin through the corrugated cardboard. Place a paper clip between cardboard and front of pumpkin on either side of the dowel. Make sure that the small side of the paper clip is on the same side as the jack-o-lantern face. Place floral pick at the bottom of the pumpkin and secure by wrapping floral tape around the pick stem and dowel. Make sure that the foliage hides the paperclips.

Trace and cut 1 large pumpkin from orange and one large stem from green paper. Glue stem to top making sure it faces the same way as the small pumpkin stem.

Make a cloth bag by folding the fabric to wrong side and sewing the 2 sides perpendicular to the fold so it is 12"x15". Turn to right side.

How to make the magic:

Place the large pumpkin in front of the small pumpkin, sliding it into the paperclips. The floral material will hide the paperclips. Hold the pumpkin by the dowel with the large pumpkin facing the audience. Place the cloth bag over the pumpkin when the little pumpkin hides. At the end of the story when the pumpkin is found-- reveal the jack-o-lantern by removing the bag. Remove the bag by grabbing the large stem through the bag and quickly taking the bag away. Immediately lay the bag down, preferably out of sight so the audience will not notice that it has something in it. Ta-Daa--magic!

Large Pumpkin cut 1

Small Pumpkin cut 2

Small stem

Large stem

