



Kids' Activity Guide

At the old haunted house
In a room with no sun
Lived a warty green witch
And her wee witchy one.

Count and rhyme your way through the haunted house. *At the Old Haunted House* uses spirited rhymes and action-packed illustrations to introduce you to the denizens of the house. The house is filled with all kinds of creatures, from cleaning goblins to jiving werewolves. Count along as the creatures prepare for the Halloween Fright. *At the Old Haunted House* is written to the pattern of the poem "Over in the Meadow," making it fun to read aloud. *At the Old Haunted House* will have your child ready for Halloween in a snap.

At the Old Haunted House is a great book to teach your child about rhyming and to reinforce counting skills. The following activities will allow your child to jump into the spirit of Halloween and prepare for their own Halloween Fright!

Halloween Background Discussion:

Use the following website links for reference to discuss Trick-or-Treating and Halloween around the world.

- Discuss safe Trick-or-Treating. Link to the CDC's website on Halloween safety:

[Safe Halloween](#)

- Compare how Halloween and similar holidays are celebrated around the world:

[Halloween Around the World](#)

[Dia De Los Muertos](#)

[Obon Festival](#)

[Teng Chieh](#)

- Discuss the history of Halloween. Link to two history of Halloween websites:

[Halloween History](#)

[Halloween](#)

Pre-reading Questions:

1. What is a holiday?
2. What is Halloween?
3. What is a costume?
4. What is Trick-or-Treating?
5. What is a jack-o-lantern?
6. Can scary things be fun sometimes?
7. What scares you?
8. What is a rhyme?

The questions above will set the stage for reading *At the Old Haunted House* and introduce your child to some of the concepts in the book.

Make a Mask Activity:

At the Old Haunted House introduces your child to a variety of friendly creatures. Help your child jump into character by making a Halloween mask!

Materials:

Paper plate
Pencil
Scissors
Yarn
Elastic thread
Glue
Art supplies: crayons, markers, glitter, etc.

Directions:

1. Hold a paper plate up to your child's face and mark the outline of their nose and eyes with a pencil.
2. Cut the nose and eye holes in the plate.
3. Help your child draw one of the creatures' faces from the book, and then decorate the mask with the art supplies.
4. Cut yarn and glue it to the mask to form hair.
5. Let the glue and art supplies dry and settle.
6. Cut two small holes on each side of the mask.
7. Thread and tie the elastic thread through the two small holes and adjust to fit your child.

Make a Haunted House Activity:

At the Old Haunted House is about a spooky house filled with all kinds of creatures. Your child will enjoy making and decorating a haunted house with an old milk carton.

Materials:

Cardboard milk carton (qt. or half gal.)
Assorted candy
Tape
Several pieces of white paper
Construction paper (assorted colors)
Glue
Scissors
Crayons, markers, and/or colored pencils
*Optional – Halloween stickers

Directions:

1. Open the top of the carton, and rinse and dry the inside.
2. Tape the top back together.
3. Glue the white paper around the carton so it is completely covered. Cut and glue pieces as necessary.
4. To make windows and doors, wrap the carton with a dark-colored paper and trace flaps for windows and doors.
5. Cut out the flaps, then glue the dark piece to the carton.
6. For the roof, fold a brown piece of paper in half and glue it to the top. Trim it so it fits how you like it.
7. Now decorate the house. Glue candy to the outside. Inside the flaps, draw creatures or put Halloween stickers.

Pumpkin Seed Snack Mix:

At the Halloween Fright, the children are treated to a creature-created feast. You and your child will enjoy making a tasty snack with pumpkin seeds.

Ingredients:

1½ cups raw whole pumpkin seeds
1–2 pinches of salt
2 teaspoons of melted butter
½ cup of candy-coated chocolate pieces
½ cup raisins
½ cup unsalted peanuts or almonds
½ cup coconut flakes

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 300 degrees F.
2. Mix seeds, salt, and butter in a bowl until the seeds are coated.
3. Spread the seeds in a single layer on a baking sheet, and bake for about 45 minutes or until golden brown, stirring occasionally.
4. Set out to cool.
5. Once the seeds are cool, combine all the ingredients and store in an airtight container. Enjoy!

Rhyming Activity:

At the Old Haunted House is written using rhymed couplets. This activity will allow your child to learn about and practice using rhyming words. Practice working on rhyming with your child by completing the chart below.

A couplet is two lines of verse that follow in order and are the same length. Most couplets include a rhyme, such as "At the old haunted house, / Half covered with vines / Lived a mummy mommy / And her wee mummies nine." Work with your child to fill in the chart below with words that rhyme with the last word in column one. Then have your child make a sentence that completes the couplet with one of the rhyming words from column two. Wrap up the activity by re-reading the book and letting your child take turns, completing the lines in the book with his or her own rhyming word.

Line 1 from <i>At the Old Haunted House</i> :	Words that rhyme with...
In a room with no sun	sun: Ex: fun, bun, run, done, nun, begun
Complete the couplet:	Ex: the party has begun .
Where a cold draft blew	blew:
Complete the couplet:	
In the dead, hollow tree	tree:
Complete the couplet:	
With the squeaky old floor	floor:
Complete the couplet:	
Where scary things jive	jive:
Complete the couplet:	
In a vault made of bricks	bricks:
Complete the couplet:	
Near the graveyard gate	gate:
Complete the couplet:	
Half covered with vines	vines:
Complete the couplet:	
In the dusty old den	den:
Complete the couplet:	

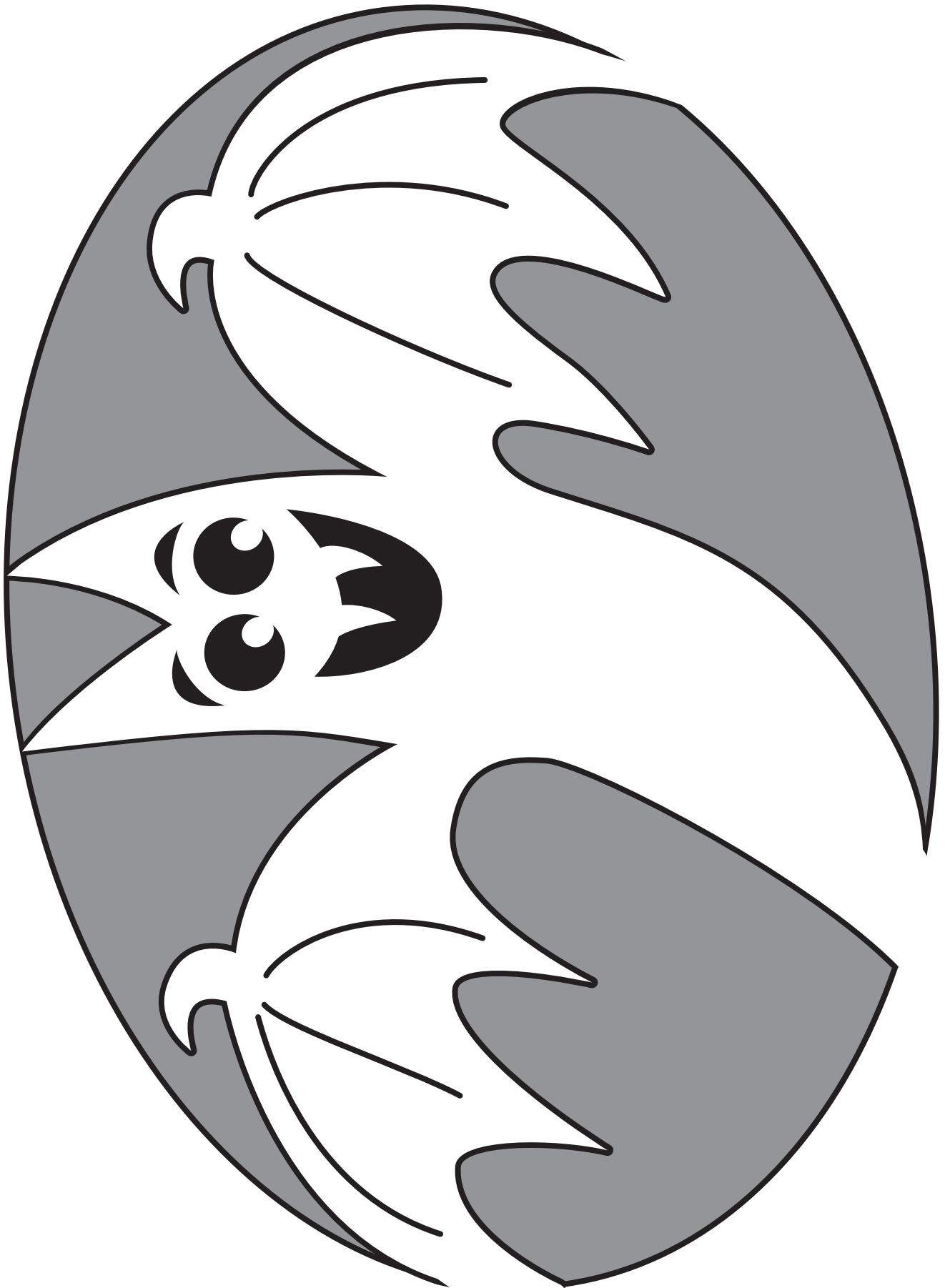
At the Old Haunted House Connect the Dots and Coloring Activity:

Connect the numbered dots to see what the witch is wearing to the party, and then color her in.



At the Old Haunted House Pumpkin Stencil:

Print out this stencil at the size right for the pumpkin. The grey will be cut out and the white will be the pumpkin. The face can either be cut out, or drawn on with markers.



At the Old Haunted House Maze:

Help the trick-or-treaters through the maze of creatures to get to the Halloween Fright party.



