

Halloween by Robert Burns

Upon that night, when fairies light
On Cassilis Downans dance,
Or owre the lays, in splendid blaze,
On sprightly coursers prance;
Or for Colean the route is ta'en,
Beneath the moon's pale beams;
There, up the cove, to stray and rove,
Among the rocks and streams
To sport that night.



Scottish Poet, Robert Burns wrote a poem about Halloween in 1785.

Simply called Halloween it tells about some of the customs that people carried out on All Hallows Eve or Samhain as it was sometimes known in Scotland.

It tells of how young girls would try to find out if they would wed, of people drinking and eating buttered scones and Fairies dancing.

The poem is one of the longest that Burns ever wrote, so we have only put the first verse here.

The full poem, which was written in Scots, can be found at robertburns.org.

On the next page, can you write a poem telling all about your halloween?

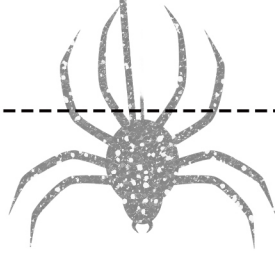
Did you dress up

What food did you eat?

Did you carve a Neep or a pumpkin?



My Halloween Poem



A large rectangular area defined by a dashed line, intended for writing a poem.

A Samhain Mask

The origins of Halloween come from the Celtic festival of Samhain.

Samhain was the celebration of the end of the Harvest season and the beginning of the darker months.

There are lots of traditions associated with Samhain and one of them is still done today.

Guising!

Young children would dress up in disguises so that the spirits that roamed the land at Samhain would not recognise them and the children could walk among the spirits safely.

The Children would go from door to door in local villages asking for a treat.

Homeowners pretended to not know if the "Spirit" at their door was pretend or real, so they would give the spirit a treat, to make sure their house was not cursed

The Children would put on masks, just like we do today. On the next page there is a blank mask for you to decorate. Can you come up with something that will disguise you, so that people do not know if you are a spirit or real?.

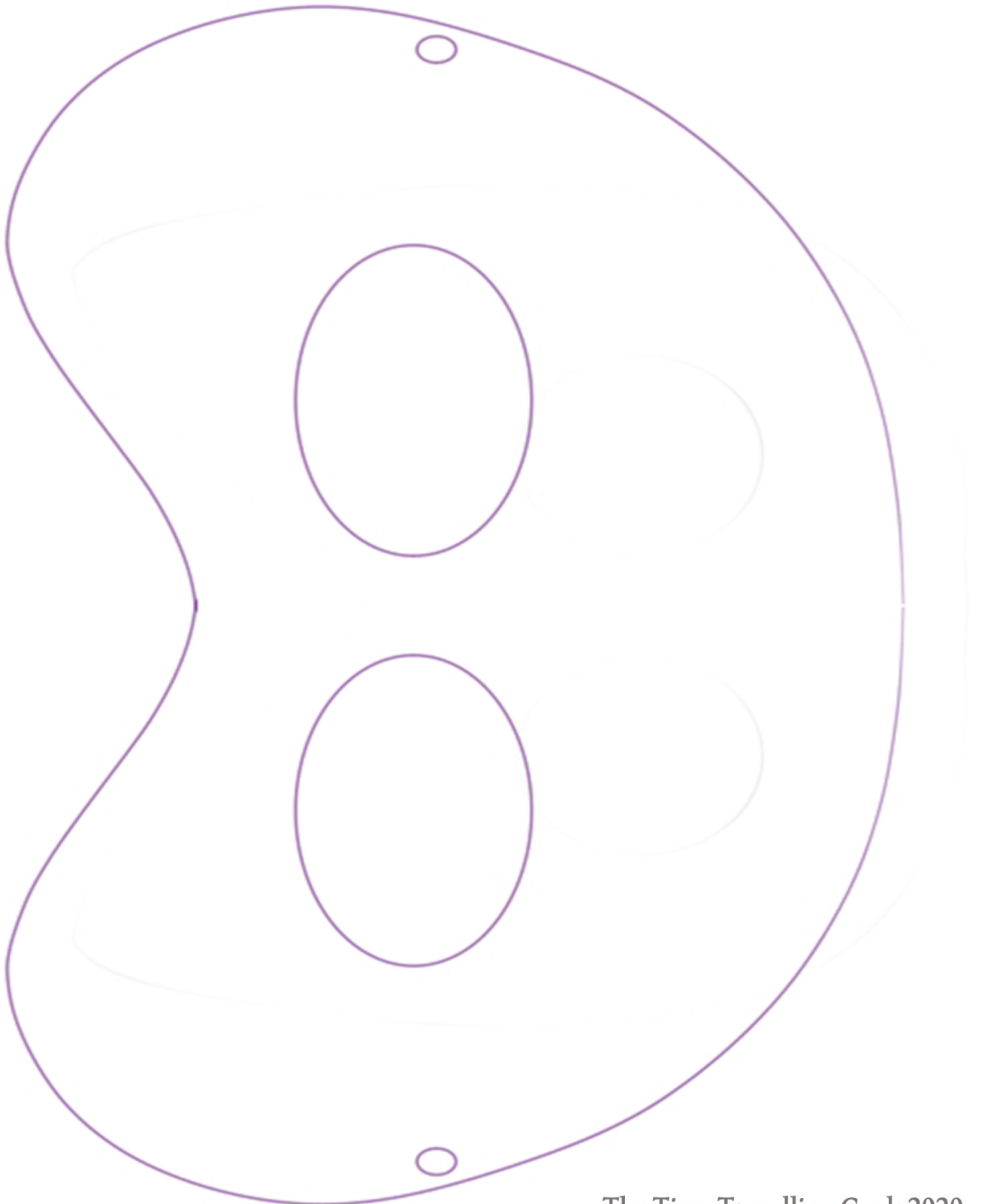


Samhain masks and disguises were not always scary.
Sometimes they were just colourful or made with natural things such as leaves and twigs.

You can colour your mask in then cut it out
or cut it out first and attach various items such as twigs, leaves and feathers.

Let your imagination run riot!

To make your mask stronger, why not glue it
to a thin piece of cardboard.

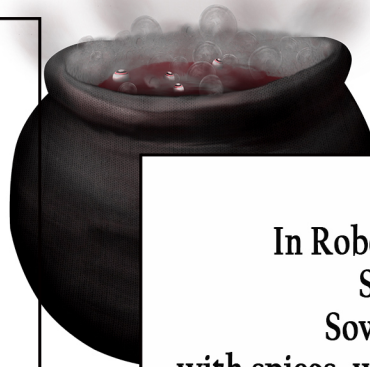


Halloween Food

On Halloween we all love to eat sweets, toffee apples and sausage rolls.

But did you know that it was once forbidden to eat any food that had pork or pastry in it?

The law came in as part of the 1735 Witchcraft act and for over 200 years, there were definitely no sausage rolls at Halloween or any other time of the year!



In Robert Burns poem Halloween, Sowens is mentioned. Sowens is fermented oats, with spices, whisky or honey sometimes added.

You could make Sowens thick to eat with a spoon (sort of like a porridge jelly!) Or you could make it watery and drink it.

Buttered Scones are also mentioned in Robert Burns Poem, Halloween. Below you can find a recipe from the 1800s for dropped scones.

4 cups of SR flour
2 tablespoons of golden syrup
1/2 teaspoon of salt
1 cup of milk
3 heaped tablespoons of sugar
2 eggs

Please ask an Adult to help make these Buttered Scones



Put the Flour, salt, sugar and warmed syrup in a bowl
Add the milk and the eggs.
Beat the mix until it looks like thick cream
Heat up a griddle or heavy frying pan
Drop tablespoons of the mix onto the griddle
turn over when little bubbles appear on top
cook for a few minutes on the other side
Serve them hot with lots of butter.

SOWENS
MEALIE CRASHIE
SKIRLIE
HAIRST STOVIES
CROWDY
KNOTTY TAMS
FINNAN HADDIE
PARKINS
BROCHAN
CABBIE CLAW
HOWTOWDIE

Can you find all of these strage Scottish dishes?

BEESTIE CHEESE
HAPPIT HEN
PARTAN BREE
HATTED KIT
CLODDIE BROONS
HOTCHPOTCH
CAUDLE SAUCE
CULLEN SKINK
BUBBLY JOCK
DRAPPIT EGGS



C J L Z H L I Z H
 U N J T I M A H S N W K D
 Y D W O R C S R I F K X A K Q E R
 U J F E P C Q L Z R I C W L C I X Q S
 A M W W V L B P H E S N A H C O R B J H C
 C E E S T I T Q O L T Z U U E U M M N P T
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 H E T C E H T T V O J O I S K R C U Z A P N I F W
 D C R G R F F T A L J O Y E G S Z X M W N P S I Y F C
 Z Y B G A S S E X Y Y L Q S G N Z V P T H A Q F S H Q
 K J N B S M K D M U L R K Q E O M D N T A H R W L Z D
 P A W H A I K V C B H G L T O O C Q Y D U X Y R E
 O T J I T R I P A B C Z V I R G U K I D D L P C B
 N R X E Y L T N U U T U E P B Y T V P I X D U G W
 A Y D T I U X D B O Z A P E E J H M E K L Z E
 P K A T E H N L S P Y I A I B C R L T L X E Q
 O H O J Z U E N H F Q R D Z A G Y E K I A
 L O N L J I S E C R U D O D S P N Z D C C
 L K F I S A W T H J H O H A S H X N E
 K T D A U O O S L C L D K I N K S
 C P C S H D V N C I V K R
 E L Q N Q U N N P
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