

This lessons are designed to be used in RPM (Rapid Prompting Method) lessons. RPM is a teaching method developed by Soma Mukhopadhyay. For more information on RPM go to <https://www.halo-soma.org>.

Legend for the lesson

Each lesson contains teaching points followed by a related sensory activity and/or question.

As you read the teaching point the **BOLD** words are the key words for the teaching point and should be written down on your paper as you teach.

Following the teaching point you will find:

S=Sensory activity (could include drawing, spelling, reading, looking at pictures, etc)

Q=Questions to go with teaching point (choices will be given in brackets after the question for students who need them, **but not every student needs to use them**)

Lessons should feel conversational so comment on each answer chosen and each response given. *Sometimes there will be additional instructions for you in italics that you don't need to read aloud to your student.*

We recommend reading over the lesson before teaching it and **modifying questions as needed** depending on what goals you are working on with your child.

For more information on teaching lessons using RPM we recommend the following books written by Soma Mukhopadhyay:

- Understanding Autism through Rapid Prompting Method (Red)
- Curriculum Guide for Autism Using RPM (Orange)
- Developing Communication for Autism Using RPM (Green)



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Halloween!



Coming up this week is a **tradition** that most people look forward to every year! On **October 31st** we celebrate **Halloween!**

Q - Today we are going to learn a bit about the tradition of _____
(READING/HALLOWEEN)

Q- And which month do we celebrate Halloween? Did we say it was in JULY or OCTOBER?

Have you ever stopped to think about **where** this **spooky** tradition started? Let's learn a bit more about it today!

S- Let's practice spelling the word SPOOKY

Q- What would be another word for spooky? (Do you think another word might be CUDDLE or FRIGHTFUL?)

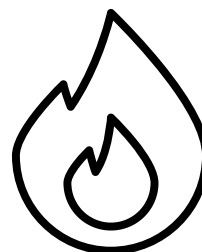
Q- What is something spooky that you think about when you think about Halloween? (Do you think about GHOSTS or SKELETONS?)

Over **2000 years ago** in Ireland there lived an ancient people called the **Celts**. Every year around the end of October they would hold a fire festival called **Samhain** - which means **summer's end**.

Q- Would you say it sounds like the history of Halloween starts in the country of SPAIN or IRELAND?

S - The Celts would have a fire festival to celebrate the end of summer - let's try drawing a fire together!

Q- What is a word you would use to describe a fire?
(Let's think about how it might feel if we touch a fire
- is it going to feel HOT or ICY?)



Legend has it that Samhain was at the time of year that **spirits** were most likely to pass into our world and **visit** the **living!**



Q- What do you think? When we are talking about spirits - what do you think we are referring to? Do you think spirits might be TRUCKS or GHOSTS?

S - Let's do some more drawing - let's try drawing a ghost together now!

Each year, the Celts would invite the spirits of loved ones to come home and they would **prepare food** for both the living and the dead. During the celebrations - people would wear **masks** and light **bonfires** to ward off any evil spirits.

Q- What do you think? Wearing masks, having bonfires and celebrating with family and friends - sound like it might be a FUN or BORING time?

Q- Let's think about what we might have as a dessert at a family dinner - what would be your choice for dessert? (Do you think you might prefer to have CAKE or PIE? What about ICE CREAM or DONUTS?)

Over the years, word of the celebration began to **spread** across Europe - it was **adapted** and began to be celebrated on October 31st and they called it **All Hallow's Eve**.

Q - If word of the celebration began to spread across Europe - would you say it sounds like Samhain was POPULAR or BORING?

When many Europeans began to **migrate** to North America they brought with them the tradition of All Hallow's Eve - but guess what - over time it began to **change again** to reflect the traditions of North American life.

S- Let's practice spelling the word MIGRATE - which means to move or relocate.

Q- And where were the Europeans migrating too? Did we say they moved to NORTH or SOUTH America?

Q- Does it sound like the tradition of Halloween changed again with the move to North America? YES/NO/MAYBE

Now we know it as trick or treating but during the 1800's it was known as **Thanksgiving Masking** - children would go out and knock on doors and beg for **fruit, candy or pennies**.

Q - Wow, this is so interesting - so we learned that trick or treating was originally called Thanksgiving _____ (MASKING/DINNER).

Q- During Thanksgiving masking the kids would knock on doors - which do you think you'd rather get as a gift? The FRUIT/CANDY or PENNIES?

Many thought that this tradition was too **naughty** for Thanksgiving so by 1940 the tradition of children **knocking** on people's doors had been moved to Halloween.

Q- So why was trick or treating moved from Thanksgiving to Halloween? Did the adults think the tradition was too much FUN or too NAUGHTY?

Q- What does that mean - if we say something is naughty? Can you think of another word for naughty? (Do you think LOUD or IMPROPER might be a good word?)

Creative Writing: Let's look at the picture of the black cat all ready for Halloween and write some rhyming words for the different things that we might see in the picture! (Can increase the challenge by using these words in a sentence, you can also work on having the student point to the objects in the picture.)

S - This picture has a cute little cat - let's spell CAT

Q - What's a word that rhymes with cat? (BUTTER / SAT)

S - The cute little cat is looking fluffy with black fur - let's spell BLACK

Q - What's a word that rhymes with BLACK? (SIMPLE/TRACK)

S - The black cat looks like it is dressed up as a witch - let's spell WITCH

Q - What's a word that rhymes with witch? (STITCH / LAMP)



<https://www.publicdomainpictures.net/en/view-image.php?image=524717&picture=black-kitten-witch-outfit>