

# OCTOBER PAIRED PASSAGES

## SCARECROWS

1. How are the two passages similar?

### Scarecrows

Scarecrows are mannequins, or fake people, that are used to look like farmers standing in a field. The purpose of scarecrows are to keep birds out of the fields and crops. Birds tend to eat crops and other seeds, which is not good if a farmer is trying to grow many crops. When a bird sees a scarecrow, they may be less likely to land on the crops and start eating.

Scarecrows are usually stuffed with cloth and put on a stake in the ground. They are dressed in farmers' clothing to make it look similar to a real human. Usually, they are given a straw hat, too. These fake figures have become very popular symbols of fall and are used as decorations in houses, yards, stores, and other places that are not farms.

Dating back 3,000 years ago, scarecrows have been used at times actually used them for the

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reread and answer the question. Supply two details from the text. Then complete with a conclusion.  
Explain how Sam's feelings changed throughout the story.

### Who Built It Best?

Sam and his brother, Rick were having a scarecrow building contest. Sam was incredibly eager to start this contest because he was confident that he could beat his brother. He knew that he was better than Rick at most of their contests. And he also knew that he was an excellent scarecrow maker.

As they started their contest, Sam and Rick both ran into the side. Sam made his scarecrow tall and dressed like a woman. He bigger the scarecrow, the better. He gave her a scarf, a skirt, a nice jacket. Rick made a shorter scarecrow, which Sam completely silly. He gave it a silly hat, sunglasses, and a tie. At moment, Rick gave his scarecrow a mustache. Sam giggled the scarecrow. He had to admit, it was a funny sight to see. They declared that

# WHAT TEACHERS SAY...



"I have been using these passages for various reasons. Right now, we are focusing on answering questions with complete sentences. However, they can be used in so many ways! I'll be back for more!"

"My students were highly engaged in these passages during their reading rotations."

"I found this to be thorough and covered all of the necessary standards. My students were very engaged using this activity."

# TOPICS INCLUDED

## Story Titles

|            |                        |
|------------|------------------------|
| Nonfiction | Halloween              |
| Fiction    | Hello There, Black Cat |
| Nonfiction | Fire Safety            |
| Fiction    | Aunt Tina's New Job    |
| Nonfiction | Pumpkins               |
| Fiction    | The Monsters' Contest  |
| Nonfiction | Scarecrows             |
| Fiction    | Who Built It Best?     |
| Nonfiction | Bats                   |
| Fiction    | Bart Can't Sleep       |



# PAPER OPTIONS

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As they started their contest, Sam and Rick both ran into the field. Sam made his scarecrow tall and dressed like a woman. He bigger the scarecrow, the better. He gave her a scarf, a skirt, a nice jacket. Rick made a shorter scarecrow, which Sam completely silly. He gave it a silly hat, sunglasses, and a tie. At moment, Rick gave his scarecrow a mustache. Sam giggled the scarecrow. He had to admit, it was a funny sight to see. Sam and Sam's parents came outside to judge the

they declared that it

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Dating back 3,000 years ago, scarecrows have been used in some countries actually used them for the same reason as we do today, to prevent birds from flying down and eating their seeds and crops. So while scarecrows may be sold in stores and used for fall decorations during the fall, they are also very beneficial objects to help farmers.

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**There are three options for these paired passages.**

- Traditional printed worksheets
- Interactive notebook style
- Digital conversion in Google Slides (shown on next page)

# DIGITAL OPTIONS

The paired passage sets are now also available in Google Slides format.



# HALLOWEEN SET

**Nonfiction Questions**

1. When is Halloween?  
2. What are some Halloween symbols and traditions?

**Halloween**

Halloween is a holiday that occurs on October 31st. The fall holiday is known for spooky characters and a lot of pumpkins. On Halloween, there is a tradition where children wear costumes and dress up as different characters, and then walk around their neighborhood asking for candy. This is called Trick-or-Treating. It is a very fun Halloween past time for children.

Trick-or-Treating is not the only tradition that occurs around Halloween. Another popular activity that people like to do around this holiday is to carve jack-o'-lanterns. These begin as pumpkins that people buy at the store or pick at a pumpkin patch. Using tools, people carve faces and other designs into the pumpkins. After the jack-o'-lanterns are finished, candles are placed in the middle. They are also put out for display on front porches and decks.

Halloween is known for its spooky symbols and traditions. Some popular Halloween symbols are witches, bats, spiders, and monsters. Ghosts are also a spooky symbol. Around this holiday, there are pretend haunted houses set up that people can walk through and visit. These spooky animals and Halloween characters may be hiding in the houses.

**Comparing Texts: Halloween**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Read the two texts below. Answer the questions and a comparison.

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**Fiction Questions**

1. How are the two passages similar?  
2. How are the two passages different?  
3. Write one thing you've learned about the story.

**HALLOWEEN**

1. Who are the two people in the story?  
2. Why were Jack and Sally so excited to see the black cat?  
3. Use context clues to identify what the word "infamous" means.

**Story Elements**

Who are the main characters?  
What happens in the story?  
Where does the story take place?  
Is there a problem and solution? If so, explain.  
Retell the story in your own words.

**Hello There, Black Cat**

Jack and Sally were two pals living in Hallow Town. This town loved Halloween. They celebrated the holiday for the entire fall season. They decorated their town with spooky Halloween decor. Ghouls, monsters, and goblins visited the town, too. Jack and Sally loved to take walks just to see which creatures came to visit. Today, however, they saw something new. Tip-toeing down the dark alley was a black cat.

Jack and Sally stopped and stared. They had heard about the black cat myth told by their family members, but they had never actually seen one. They looked at each other, nodded their heads, and started sneaking down the alley to get a closer look at this infamous Halloween creature. The black cat was always known to slither around alleys around October, but few people had ever seen one. As Jack and Sally snuck down the alley, they saw the cat stop and look behind him several times. They didn't want to catch his bad luck, so they hid every time he turned around.

Jack accidentally stepped on a crunchy pile of fall leaves. The cat heard this and scurried away as quickly as he could. Jack and Sally were disappointed that they didn't get a closer look, but they were excited to run back to Hallow Town to tell all their friends about what they had seen in the dark alley.

# Fire Safety Set

### Facts About Fire Safety

It is always important to have a plan in case of a fire emergency. There are many things you can do to be prepared in case of a fire. Everyone should have smoke alarms installed in their home. These will make a loud beeping sound if they detect smoke in the home and will let you know you need to get out immediately.

It is also important to have a plan to escape with your family. Have a meeting place outside and always know the best route to get out. This plan should be practiced a few times each year. When you are leaving the building, stay as low to the ground as possible. This will help keep you from breathing in smoke. Breathing in smoke can affect your breathing and ability to think clearly. It is also a good idea to have a fire extinguisher around. This can be used to put out a small fire in the house before it spreads and becomes large.

If the fire cannot be controlled, always remember to call 911 as soon as it is safe to call. The firefighters who show up will be highly trained and know how to deal with the situation better than anyone else. Do not go back into the building for any reason. If your clothes happen to catch on fire at all, immediately go to the ground and roll. This can help put out the fire quickly before it burns you.

### Comparing Texts: Fire Safety

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Read or hear two short nonfiction texts about fire safety. Then answer the questions below.

- How are the two passages similar?
- How are the two passages different?
- Write one thing you learned about fire safety.



### Nonfiction Questions

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Answer the following questions about fire safety.

- What do smoke alarms do?
- Why is it important to stay low to the ground when leaving the building?
- Why should firefighters be called?
- Identify things you can do to help with fire safety.



### Story Elements

## FIRE SAFETY



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Read the story "Fire Safety" and answer the questions below.

- Who are the main characters?
- What happens in the story?
- Where does the story take place?

### Aunt Tina's New Job



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

My Aunt Tina just started her new job as a firefighter. In fact, today was actually her first day! She has told me for years that she wanted to be a firefighter. Now, she gets to do exactly what she has always wanted to do. My family was nervous about her doing this and told her that most firefighters were men. My aunt told me that girls like us can do whatever we set our minds to. I liked what she said that.

We called Tina earlier tonight after she got done with her first shift on the job. We asked her lots of questions about how her day went. She told us that they have to be ready to go to at any minute when they are at the firehouse. This is because you never know when a fire will start. Most days, they sit and wait for a long time and sometimes nothing even happens. However, her first day was very exciting.

She said that they got a call of homelessness when a lady's cat climbed a tree and couldn't get down. They got the cat down and gave it back to its owner. A few hours later, she was called to her first fire. The fire was at someone's house and was really big. Tina said that they got there just in time. They put the fire out before there was much damage to the house. Everyone in the family that lived in the house was safe. We were all happy to hear her first day went well.

### Fiction Questions



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Read the story "Aunt Tina's New Job" and answer the questions below.

- Why was the family nervous about Tina becoming a firefighter?
- Why do firefighters need to always be ready to go?
- What did Tina do on her first call as a firefighter?
- What did you learn about firefighting from this fictional story?

# PUMPKIN SET

### Facts About Pumpkins

Pumpkins are a popular symbol of the fall season. This is because the pumpkin's harvest season occurs in the fall, leaving many pumpkins picked and ready to use. People use pumpkins to carve into jack-o'-lanterns, decorate their porches with, or even cut open and use parts of it to bake with.

Pumpkins follow a life cycle. First, the pumpkin seeds are planted in the ground. After one sprouts, it begins to emerge as a tiny plant. Then, long vines begin to grow. These vines are curly and thick. Big flowers will also bloom on these vines. The final stage is when the pumpkin begins to grow. The fruit begins as a small green pumpkin, but as it grows, it turns into an orange color. Once the pumpkin is fully grown and orange, it is cut off of the vine and sold on a farm or in a store to be used during the fall season.

Pumpkins have many parts. The popular orange part that is seen when looking at a pumpkin is called the skin. This is hard and has ribs along it. The ribs are the indentations that run from the top to the bottom. This gives the pumpkin a bumpy texture. The stem can also be seen from the outside of the pumpkin. The rest of the pumpkin can only be seen by cutting it open. Once it is cut open, there are many slimy things inside. There are white seeds and orange pulp that is all connected with fibrous strands. Many people think these pumpkin insides feel gross.

### Comparing Texts: Pumpkins

Read the two passages below. Answer the questions.

**Pumpkins**

Passage 1: Pumpkins are a popular symbol of the fall season. This is because the pumpkin's harvest season occurs in the fall, leaving many pumpkins picked and ready to use. People use pumpkins to carve into jack-o'-lanterns, decorate their porches with, or even cut open and use parts of it to bake with.

Passage 2: Pumpkins follow a life cycle. First, the pumpkin seeds are planted in the ground. After one sprouts, it begins to emerge as a tiny plant. Then, long vines begin to grow. These vines are curly and thick. Big flowers will also bloom on these vines. The final stage is when the pumpkin begins to grow. The fruit begins as a small green pumpkin, but as it grows, it turns into an orange color. Once the pumpkin is fully grown and orange, it is cut off of the vine and sold on a farm or in a store to be used during the fall season.

1. How are the two passages similar?

2. How are the two passages different?

3. Write one thing you've learned about pumpkins from both passages.

### Story Elements

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Read the story below and answer the questions. Then, you will draw from the box below to complete with a character.

**PUMPKINS**

The monsters that lived on Pumpkin Street were quite fun monsters. They were not the type of monsters who liked to haunt people and try to scare them. They were the type of monsters who liked to play games, make arts and crafts, and bake yummy Halloween treats.

This year, the monsters decided to have a pumpkin carving contest. The reward for having the best jack-o'-lantern would be three delicious pumpkin treats: pumpkin pie, pumpkin rolls, and pumpkin cupcakes. This made them all of eager to win the contest. They all ran to the backyard to get started. The monsters worked for over four hours on all of their pumpkins. When they were finished, they cleaned up their mess in the backyard and brought their pumpkins to the front yard.

Herbert, the green monster, carved his pumpkin into a silly faced jack-o'-lantern. It had a craggy, jagged mouth, and crossed eyes. Cole, the purple monster, carved a traditional jack-o'-lantern with a crooked smile and three triangles for eyes and a nose. Finally, Frances, the pink monster, showed her jack-o'-lantern. It was the spookiest out of the three pumpkins because its eyes were different sizes and its mouth was crooked. The judge of the contest decided that Cole's jack-o'-lantern was the winner because it was the most traditional. They all still got to display their jack-o'-lanterns, but Cole got all of the pumpkin treats. He shared them with his two friends, of course.

1. Who are the main characters?

2. What happens in the story?

3. Where does the story take place?

### Nonfiction Questions

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Answer the following questions based on the nonfiction passage above.

**Pumpkins**

Why are pumpkins a popular fall symbol?

Explain the life cycle of a pumpkin in your own words.

Identify four parts of the pumpkin.

Identify one fact you learned about pumpkins after you read this text.

### The Monsters' Contest

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Compare and contrast the monsters from this story to traditional make-believe monsters.

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1. Explain the monsters' contest.

2. What was the reasoning for the judge to pick Cole's?

3. Identify what the winner would get.

4. What did you learn about pumpkins from the fictional story?

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Compare and contrast the monsters from this story to traditional make-believe monsters.

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# SCARECROW SET

## Nonfiction Questions

1. What is the purpose of a scarecrow?  
2. Explain how a farmer makes a scarecrow.

## Scarecrows

Scarecrows are mannequins, or fake people, that are used to look like farmers standing in a field. The purpose of scarecrows are to keep birds out of the fields and crops. Birds tend to eat crops and other seeds, which is not good if a farmer is trying to grow many crops. When a bird sees a scarecrow, they may be less likely to land on the crops and start eating.

Scarecrows are usually stuffed with cloth and put on a stake in the ground. They are dressed in farmers' clothing to make it look similar to a real human. Usually, they are given a straw hat, too. These fake figures have become very popular symbols of fall and are used as decorations in houses, yards, stores, and other places that are not farms.

During back 3,000 years ago, scarecrows have been used for quite some time. People in ancient times actually used them for the same reason as we do today, to prevent birds from flying down and eating their seeds and crops. So while scarecrows may be sold in stores and used for fall decorations during the fall season, they are also very beneficial objects to help farmers.

## SCARECROWS

1. How are the two passages similar?

## Comparing Texts: Scarecrows

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Story Elements

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

B. Who are the main characters?

C. What happens in the story?

D. Where does the story take place?

## Fiction Questions

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Read and answer the questions. Then, underline the sentence that best fits the comparison with a scarecrow.

1. Why was Sam confident at the beginning of their contest?  
2. Explain how they decorated their scarecrows.  
3. What made Sam realize that his brother deserved to win?  
4. What did you learn about scarecrows from this fictional story?

## Who Built It Best?

Sam and his brother, Rick were having a scarecrow building contest. Sam was incredibly eager to start this contest because he was confident that he could beat his brother. He knew that he was better than Rick at most of their contests. And he also knew that he was an excellent scarecrow maker!

As they started their contest, Sam and Rick both ran into the house, grabbed some of their mom and dad's clothing, and then sprinted back outside. Sam made his scarecrow tall and dressed like a woman. He knew the bigger the scarecrow, the better. He gave her a scarf, a skirt, and a really nice jacket. Rick made a shorter scarecrow, which Sam thought was completely silly. He gave it a silly hat, sunglasses, and a tie. At the very last moment, Rick gave his scarecrow a mustache. Sam grappled when he saw the scarecrow. He had to admit, it was a funny sight to see.

Rick and Sam's parents came outside to judge their scarecrows. They declared that Rick's scarecrow was the winner. Sam could not believe this. He never lost to his brother. He always won when it came to scarecrows, but however, the more he looked at the two scarecrows next to each other, the more he realized that Rick did deserve to win. He walked over to his brother, gave him a high five, and told him that he had done a good job.

# BAT SET

**Nonfiction Questions**

1. What makes a bat nocturnal?  
2. What type of sound do some people think bats are? Why?

**Bats**

Bats are a popular symbol of Halloween. They are known for being spooky because they're black and they fly around at night. There is so much more to these interesting creatures than being just spooky symbols of Halloween. Bats are not birds or bats of all the time. However, bats are mammals. Bats are black or brown creatures that fly around in the sky at night. Since they fly instead of crawl, walk, or bounce, people assume they are birds. They are the only mammals that can fly. The reason that these animals are mammals is because they are covered in hair, give live birth, and breathe with their lungs. Most bat diets consist of insects and fruit. There is a species bat called a vampire bat, that lives off of blood instead of food.

Bats are very unique animals. There are several things that make bats very interesting. The first unique characteristic is that bats are nocturnal. This means they sleep during the daytime and wake up at night, which is why people associate flying bats with the dark of nighttime. Another unique characteristic is that bats use echolocation. This is the ability to make a noise and use the vibration of that noise as it bounces off of objects. This helps them know where they are flying in the dark sky, find food, and even find other bats.

**Comparing Texts: Bats**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Read the two passages below. Then compare and contrast them.

**BATS**

1. How are the two passages similar?  
2. How are the two passages different?  
3. Write one thing you learned about bats.

**Fiction Questions**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Bart loved being a bat. He loved everything about it. Well, except one thing. Bart could not sleep. He was a very tired bat because most days, he just hung on his tree branch wide awake.

The thing about Bart is that he is a very playful bat. When his family words to swing off the branch, which causes him to lose sleep. Bart has finally gotten tired enough that he needs to solve his problem. When he asked his mom about it, she suggested that he sleep really close to his brother and sister. She thought that if his brother and sister were squishing him in between them, then he wouldn't move as much. That day, it didn't work. He just wiggled all day and made them very mad at him.

Bart's dad had an idea. He suggested that Bart sleep on top of the tree branch. He said that he shouldn't try to hang while he sleeps since he is so playful. Bart's dad had a good point, so Bart set up a small nest on the tree branch made out of leaves and twigs. When he went to bed that day, he fell asleep immediately and he didn't wake up until nighttime. He slept all the way through the day. He was so happy with his dad's brilliant idea to sleep in a nest instead of hanging upside down.

**Identify Bart's problem. Then, explain the solution he found to solve his problem.**

**Story Elements**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Who are the main characters?  
What happens in the story?  
Where does the story take place?  
Is there a problem and solution? If so, explain.  
Retell the story in your own words.