

Harriet's HALLOWEEN Candy

Script by Ann Schulman

Adapted from the book *Harriet's Halloween Candy* by

Nancy Carlson

Music and Lyrics by Chad Henry

Directed by Kathleen Collins

Ages 5 and up/Grades Kindergarten and up

September 22 – November 12, 2006

World Premiere Musical

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BOOKLIST

Prepared by
Lisa Barkhurst, King
County Library System

For Children

Space Case

Edward Marshall

Oliver and Amanda's Halloween

Jean Van Leeuwen

T. Rex Trick-or-Treats

Lois G. Grambling

How to Lose All Your Friends

Nancy Carlson

The Humbug Witch

Lorna Balian

Spotlight

The Hallo-wiener

Dav Pilkey

Oscar the dachshund is teased because of his unusual size and shape. The taunts of "wiener dog" escalate on Halloween, but when Oscar saves the day, the other dogs learn to appreciate his unique talents.

For Adults

The Mr. Rogers Parenting Book

Fred Rogers

Nancy Carlson's Website

www.nancycarlson.com

Spotlight

Halloween: 101 Frightfully Fun Ideas

Carol Field Dahlstrom

Halloween decorations, creepy costumes, party food and games—everything you need to know to have a fantastic Halloween!



SYNOPSIS

Harriet loves Halloween. She loves dressing up; she loves hanging out with her friends; and she loves getting all that delicious, gooey, chewy, chocolaty sweet candy. What she does not love is having to share her Halloween candy with her baby brother, Walter. After all, she is the one who was tricky enough to go to each house twice, making sure she will have enough treats to eat for weeks. She is so determined to eat each and every piece herself that she won't even share with her friend, Ed, when he loses his whole bag of candy on the way home. Once back in her room, the very important sorting process begins. In theory, this will help Harriet decide which of her treasures she will bestow on her brother. Licorice whips? Nougat bars? Marshmallow puffs? Tangy tarts? Chocolate drops? No!! They're all too good to share. And they're all hers. Walter, however, has different ideas on the matter. He begins his siege. To keep her stash safe, Harriet tries hiding it—under her bed, in her pillowcase, in her socks—anywhere Walter can't get his paws on it. Her parents think she's taking the sibling rivalry too far and demand she give up some of the goods. But she is so worried about losing her loot that she has nightmares about dinosaurs sneaking in and gobbling it all up. If sleeping is too worrisome, what will she do when she has to go to school? Why, take it with her, of course. The big, bulging backpack that she lugs around all day just fuels the curiosity of the class. She won't even go to the board to work on her math problem without trying to haul the bag behind her. Her teacher won't tolerate such disruptive behavior and asks Harriet to leave the bag at her desk. Harriet can't concentrate for all the sweets left undefended. And when her friends find out she's been hoarding all the goodies for herself, scared they would take some, they turn their backs on her selfish ways. Harriet's obsession has landed her in a sticky mess. Thank goodness Harriet's mother understands what its like to make a mistake. She invites Harriet's friends over for dinner so Harriet can apologize; proving to them that Harriet knows nothing is sweeter than a true friend.

Harriet ERG articles by Leslie Jackson

EALRS:

Math 1.1, 1.2, 3.1

Science 1.1, 1.2

THE IMPORTANCE OF FRIENDSHIP

It isn't hard to imagine how much fun, laughter, and adventure we would miss in our lives if we didn't have siblings, or failing that, friends of our own. Often siblings act as our first introduction to friendship, teaching us about camaraderie. In her essay The Art of Friendship, middle school teacher Carolyn Sandlin-Sniffen writes, "All kids need a few good friends, not only for fun and companionship, but also to learn cooperation, empathy, honesty and other traits needed for healthy relationships."

Having this social interaction helps individuals develop their interpersonal skills and provides them with a sense of belonging and security. According to Sandlin-Sniffen, "Regardless of age, socially adept people possess the following traits: ability to communicate feelings, opinions, and needs; understanding others' feelings; responsibility to own up to mistakes; and an outlook on life that is positive, challenging, and fun."

Sometimes, due to circumstance or environment, children are not given the opportunity to make real friendships and thereby hone those interpersonal skills so important to us as adults. For example, a little girl with a new sibling may find sharing her toys, or candy, difficult, as she may not have had practice doing such. However, as Harriet learns in our story, sometimes a true friend must think of others first, sharing their stash of Halloween treats even when they want to keep them all.

Once Harriet learns this tricky concept, putting her friends before herself, her attitude becomes more positive and she can truly enjoy her favorite time of year. Harriet learns what it means to have companionship without self-interest, a very valuable lesson for her.

The joy of friendship is something we all encounter in our lives, and it is essential for children as well as adults. It is one of life's universal treasures; it is priceless. With true friendship, we gain confidence, happiness, and laughter.



Siblings can give us our first taste of peer-level companionship.



Friends and siblings can help us learn tough lessons, like sharing.

DISCUSSION QUESTION:

As Harriet's friends discover her plot to hoard her goodies, they gain insight into one of their trusted friends. As a class, discuss how Harriet's friendships are affected by her lack of sharing. How would you describe Harriet's personality at the beginning of the show? And at the end? Do you think Harriet really learned a lesson? What was it? Can a person truly change their attitude so drastically?

A HISTORY OF HALLOWEEN

The origins of Halloween can be traced back 2,000 years to Ireland, Scotland, and Brittany, when the Celts marked the end of the summer harvest and the beginning of the dark half of the year with a holiday called *Sambain* (pronounced “sow-in”) on November 1. It was believed that on the night before *Sambain*, the dead returned to earth to cause trouble and damage the food supply. People sacrificed animals and crops in bonfires to the Celtic Gods, and then lit their hearth fires from the sacred bonfire to protect them during the coming winter months.

In the 7th century, Pope Boniface IV designated the first day of November All Saints Day to honor saints and martyrs. The celebration was also called All-hallows or All-hallowmas, which originated from the Middle English word *Alholnmesse* meaning All Saints Day. The night before, the night of *Sambain*, began to be called All-hallows Eve.

In 1000, the Catholic Church designated November 2nd All Souls Day, to honor the dead. It was celebrated much like *Sambain*, with big bonfires, parades, and dressing up in costumes as saints, angels, and devils. Combined with All Saints Day and All Saints Eve, the three holidays were called Hallowmass.

Around the 14th century, All Saints Day was truly a combination of Christian superstitions and folk beliefs, and in many parts of Britain and Ireland it became known as “Mischief Night,” which meant that people were free to go around the village playing pranks without the risk of being punished.

On November 5, 1605, Guy Fawkes attempted to blow up the British Parliament building, and henceforth, every year burning of effigies of Fawkes coupled with children dressing in rags to beg for money to buy fireworks marked the celebration of “Guy Fawkes Day.” Over time, this holiday was subsumed by Halloween.

As Europeans immigrated to America in the 17th century, they brought their varied Halloween customs with them, which, combined with those of the Native Americans, evolved into a distinctly American holiday – particularly in the Southern colonies - featuring ghost story telling and mischief-making. In colonial New England, however, the holiday was almost nonexistent due to the rigid Protestant beliefs that rejected the holiday for its Catholic and Pagan roots.

The 1840s saw the Irish Potato Famine force millions of Irish to immigrate to America. And they brought their Halloween traditions with them, popularizing the holiday across the country. Thus, Americans began to dress up in costumes and go door to door in their neighborhoods asking for food or money, a practice that eventually became today's Trick-or-Treat tradition.

By the late 1800s, there was a movement in America to change Halloween from a holiday about ghosts, witchcraft, and mischief into a friendlier, more community-minded holiday, focusing on neighborly get-togethers and costume parties.

This lasted until the 1920s and 1930s, when vandalism began to plague Halloween celebrations in many communities once again. In the tradition of “Mischief Night,” young Americans often observed Halloween by engaging in minor acts of vandalism, such as breaking windows. Unfortunately, these mischievous rituals turned for the worse, causing real destruction to animals and property. To curb this escalating violence, community organizations and citizens began an effort they dubbed “Sane Halloween,” encouraging new traditions for children, including going from shop to shop asking for treats.

By the late 1930s, the Trick-or-Treat tradition had been established, and the greeting first appeared in print in 1939.

Today, each year Americans spend approximately \$7 billion on Halloween, \$21 million of that on candy alone, making it the country's second most popular, and second largest, commercial holiday, after Christmas.

THE ORIGINS OF HALLOWEEN TRADITIONS

GHOSTS: Ghosts have been a lasting symbol of Halloween from its origins. *Sambain* was known as the festival where the departed friends and family could cross over into the other world. Therefore, ghosts, or spirits of the dead, were generally viewed as friendly and invited to join in celebration. People were afraid of ghosts only if they had wronged someone dead and feared retribution of some kind.



CARVING JACK-O-LANTERNS: Celtic legend has it that a man named Jack, notorious for being a drunk and a practical joker, tricked the devil into climbing a tree, and then trapped him by carving an image of a cross in the tree's trunk. When Jack died, he was denied entrance into heaven because of his evil ways, and the devil retaliated by denying him entrance into hell as well. Instead, Jack was given an ember to light his way through the cold, dark winter, which he placed in a hollowed-out turnip to keep the light going longer. When the Irish immigrated to America, the tradition changed from turnips to pumpkins, which were more plentiful here.

TRICK-OR-TREATING: The custom of trick-or-treating is thought to have originated with a 9th century custom called Souling, where, on All Souls Day, Christians would walk from village to village begging for "soul cakes," made of square pieces of bread with currants. The more cakes the beggars received, the more prayers they would promise to say for the dead relatives of the donors. It was believed that prayers, even from strangers, could expedite a soul's passage into heaven.

WITCHES: When early settlers arrived in America, their beliefs in witches were spread and combined with Native American beliefs in evil spirits and African slaves' beliefs in black magic, thereby joining the superstitions and lore surrounding Halloween.

BLACK CATS: Black cats have long been associated with witches. Early American settlers believed that witches – and even spirits of the dead – could take the form of black cats. The most common superstition about black cats is that if they cross your path, you will have bad luck.

DRESSING IN COSTUME: When celebrating *Sambain*, the Celts wore masks and costumes, which they believed would keep them from being recognized by the ghosts of the dead, who returned to earth to cause trouble during the harsh winter months.

ACTIVITY:

Have your students "put on a costume" by using their bodies to act like a certain character they might dress up as for Halloween. How would that character move, walk, speak, eat? What noises would he/she/it make – or how would he/she/it talk and/or interact with others? What props in the classroom might the character use or carry?



HALLOWEEN TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD

MEXICO, LATIN AMERICA, AND SPAIN: In many Spanish-speaking nations, particularly Mexico, Latin America, and Spain, Halloween is known as “El Dia de los Muertos,” the day of the dead. The celebration begins on the eve of October 31 and lasts three days, culminating on November 2. Contrary to many Halloween traditions, “El Dia de los Muertos” is a festive holiday with a great emphasis on sharing traditional foods and enjoying good company, a time to remember and celebrate the lives of friends and family who have died. Families build altars in their homes and visit gravesites, decorating them with candy, flowers, photographs, and often the favorite foods or drinks of the deceased. Parades are held in many villages, and many churches hold candle-lit ceremonies – all to celebrate life from beginning to end.

IRELAND: In rural areas of Ireland, Halloween is generally celebrated much as it is in America. Children dress in costumes and spend the evening trick-or-treating in their neighborhoods. In addition, in rural areas, some people still light bonfires as they did centuries ago. They might also hold parties where games are played, including “snap-apple,” during which apples are hung on strings in doorways and people attempt to bite them.

ENGLAND: With the formation of the Protestant Church in England, which does not believe in saints, most English people stopped celebrating Halloween. However, in recent years, many English children have adopted the American custom of dressing up in costumes and going trick-or-treating, although many of the adults (particularly the older generations) are not familiar with the custom and often don’t have any candy to give out! The more common English custom is to celebrate Guy Fawkes Day on November 5.

AUSTRIA: In Austria, it is believed that on Halloween night, dead souls return to earth, so to welcome them, some people leave bread, water, and a lamp out on a table in their homes.

BELGIUM: Belgium’s Halloween custom is to light candles in remembrance of dead relatives.

CHINA: China has a similar holiday to Halloween called *Teng Chieh*. It is believed that the spirits of the dead travel the earth that night, so bonfires and lanterns are lit to guide their way, and food and water are placed in front of the photographs of deceased loved ones.

HONG KONG: *Yue Lan* is the Festival of the Hungry Ghosts, when it is believed that spirits roam the world for twenty-four hours. Some people burn pictures of fruit or money to bring comfort to the ghosts.

CZECH REPUBLIC: The Czech Halloween night tradition is to place chairs by the fireside – one for each living family member and one for each family member’s spirit.

FRANCE: In France, Halloween was virtually unheard of until the late 1990s, when, due to some American corporate marketing, the holiday was introduced. Today, it is mainly celebrated with costume parties.

GERMANY: Germans put their knives away on Halloween night to avoid harm to, or from, the spirits of the dead.



An altar for El Dia de los Muertos

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Discuss with your class their own Halloween traditions. Do they dress up in costume? Do they go trick-or-treating or to parties? Have they ever been to a haunted house? Do they like Halloween? Why or why not?