

# Spookley the Square Pumpkin™



## "Stop Bullying Before it Starts"

### Bullying Prevention and Character Values Education

### Discussion Guidelines and Learning Activities

This document includes discussion guidelines and learning activities that you can use to reinforce the themes of bullying prevention, tolerance and diversity relating to *Spookley the Square Pumpkin*.

## Part I: Discussion Guidelines

### Bullying Prevention and Tolerance Discussion Questions

Questions	Key Themes / Objectives
How do you think Spookley felt when he was teased by the other pumpkins? How do you think it would feel if you were teased by someone?	Use empathy to help students recognize that they would feel badly if they were teased and bullied.
How do you think Spookley felt by the end of the story?	Lead students to recognize that it is okay to be different
What are some things that you can do if you are being teased or bullied? What are some things that you can do if you see someone else being teased or bullied?	<p>Have students recognize that they can be problem solvers and take action to counteract bullying</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tell an adult</li> <li>• Speak up for yourself and friends</li> <li>• Be a friend – remove victim from the situation</li> <li>• Intervene – tell the child who is bullying that it's not ok and it's not allowed at your school</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: It's best to focus on behavior rather than labels. For instance, don't encourage students to label someone a "bully" but rather teach them how to recognize bullying behavior. You may wish to visit <a href="http://pacerkidsagainstbullying.org">pacerkidsagainstbullying.org</a> for more strategies</i></p>

<p>What are some things that you can do to show kindness and tolerance towards others?</p> <p>How does it feel when others are nice to you?</p>	<p>Lead students to recognize that it feels good to make others feel good.</p>
<p><b>SPOOKLEY MOVIE QUESTIONS:</b></p> <p>Which characters were peacemakers and bystanders in the movie?</p> <p>Download <a href="#">Peacemakers and Bystanders</a> worksheet.</p> <p>How did Spookley feel when Big Tom and Little Tom say, “he’s not like us...he’s a freak of nature.”</p>	<p>Have students recognize different roles of individuals in a bullying situation.</p> <p>Point out that Big Tom and Little Tom never stop to think about how their behavior affects Spookley.</p> <p>Lead students to recognize that it feels good when others understand how we think and feel, and that each of us can make someone else feel good by understanding their thoughts and feelings.</p>

### Diversity Discussion Questions

Question	Key Themes / Objectives
What is different about Spookley?	Have students recognize that Spookley is square and the other pumpkins are round
What happens in the pumpkin patch at the end of the book?	Have students talk about the pumpkins of all shapes and colors
What do you think the author means when he says “there were thousands of colors and hundreds of shapes? Oh, what a garden variety makes!”?	Have students recognize that it is special to have a group that consists of individuals with many differences
What else is special about Spookley besides his shape? (e.g., “Spookley is brave, Spookley is kind,” etc.)	Have students recognize that diversity is about more than appearances
What makes you special? What is one thing that you like about yourself that makes you unique?	Give students an opportunity to recognize their individuality and their contribution to diversity within their communities
Has there ever been a time when you used something that makes you different to help you solve a problem or achieve something?	
If you were a pumpkin in Spookley’s pumpkin patch, what shape would you be?	

## **Part II: Learning Activities**

### ***Create “Spookley’s Pumpkin Patch”***

- Have students create their own pumpkins of any shape, size and color using crayons, paint, popsicle sticks and/or construction paper
- Have students share their pumpkins with one another and discuss how each one is different and why that is okay and create Spookley’s Pumpkin Patch
- Have students write at least one thing they can do to show kindness to others (e.g., give someone a compliment, help with a chore, etc.)
- Have students place their pumpkins in “Spookley’s Pumpkin Patch” (e.g., a poster that has “Spookley’s Pumpkin Patch” written on the top and bullying prevention messaging on the bottom; a plot of land where children can “plant” their pumpkins)
- Display “Spookley’s Pumpkin Patch” in the hallway (e.g., on a bulletin board, on a display table outside of the classroom) and share your work with the other classes at your school

### ***Create a Classroom Book***

- Create a cover page that introduces the class and what the book is about (e.g., “Ms. Jones’ Third Graders are special because...”)
- Have each student create his/her own page for the book:
  - Have each student write and complete the sentence “I’m special because...”
  - Have each student write down and illustrate something that makes him/her special. (Be prepared to offer suggestions to students who are reluctant to come up with something.)
- When the students are finished, collect the pages. Punch holes in each of the pages and tie yarn around the book.
- Display the book for other teachers and parents to see.

### ***Start Each Day with “Where’s Spookley?”***

- Acquire a classroom Spookley (e.g., you can also create your own Spookley out of popsicle sticks and construction paper; you can also purchase a plush Spookley at [www.spookley.com](http://www.spookley.com))
- Tell your students that Spookley is going to join them in the classroom every day throughout October to remind everyone to be a good friend and show kindness towards others.
- Each morning before the students arrive, place Spookley in a different spot in the classroom. As students enter the classroom each morning, they can look to find him hiding in the classroom.