

# Big Pumpkin

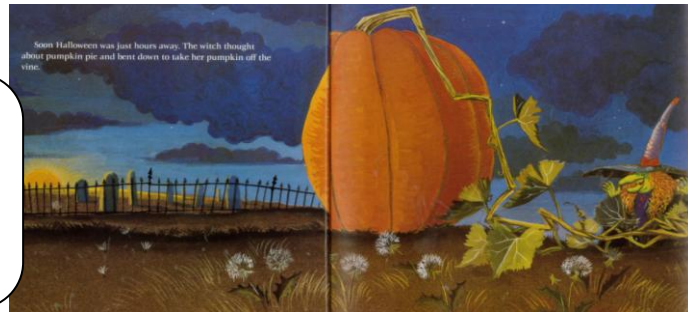
Written by Erica Silverman – illustrated by S. D. Shnidler



Once there was a **witch** who wanted to make a pumpkin pie. So, she planted a pumpkin seed. She weeded and watered, and after a while a sprout spoke through. And then a pumpkin grew. And it grew. And it grew. And then it grew some more.



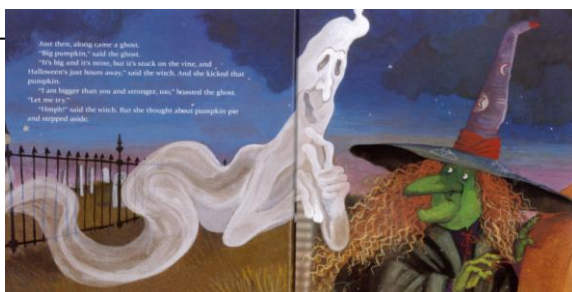
Soon Halloween was just hours away. The **witch** thought about the pumpkin pie and bent down to take her **pumpkin** off the vine.



Well she pulled and she tugged and she pulled. First she pulled hard and then she pulled harder. But that pumpkin just sat.  
« Drat ! » said the **witch**.



Just then, along came a **ghost**.  
« Big pumpkin » said the **ghost**.  
« It's big and it's mine, but it's stuck on the vine, and Halloween's just hours away », said the **witch**. And she kicked that pumpkin.  
« I'm bigger than you and stronger too », boasted the **ghost**. « Let me try ».  
« Hmph ! » said the **witch**. But she thought about pumpkin pie and stepped aside.



The **ghost** bent down to take the pumpkin off the vine. Well, he pulled, and he tugged and he pulled. First he pulled hard, then he pulled harder. But that pumpkin just sat. "Drat!" said the **ghost**.



Just then, along came a **vampire**.

« Big pumpkin, » said the **vampire**.

« It's big and it's mine, but it's stuck on the vine, and Halloween's just hours away », said the **witch**. And she kicked that pumpkin.

« I'm bigger than both of you and stronger too », boasted the **vampire**. « Let me try ».

« Hmph ! » said the **witch**. « Hmph ! » said the **ghost**. But they thought about pumpkin pie and stepped aside.



The **vampire** bent down to take the pumpkin off the vine.

Well, he pulled, and he tugged and he pulled. First he pulled hard, then he pulled harder. But that pumpkin just sat. "Drat!" said the **vampire**.

Just then, along came a **mummy**.

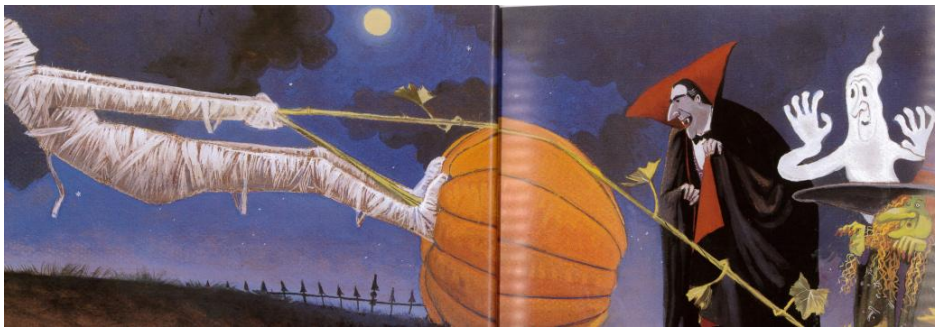
« Big pumpkin, » said the **mummy**.

« It's big and it's mine, but it's stuck on the vine, and Halloween's just hours away », said the **witch**. And she kicked that pumpkin.

« I'm bigger than all of you and stronger too », boasted the **mummy**. « Let me try ».

« Hmph ! » said the **witch**. « Hmph ! » said the **ghost**. « Hmph ! » said the **vampire**. But they thought about pumpkin pie and stepped aside.





The **mummy** bent down to take the pumpkin off the vine.

Well, she pulled, and she tugged and she pulled. First she pulled hard, then she pulled harder. But that pumpkin just sat. “Drat!” said the **mummy**.

Just then, along came a **bat**.

« Big pumpkin, » said the bat.

The **witch** didn't say a word. Just looked at the ghost and rolled her eyes. The **ghost** looked at the **vampire**. The **vampire** looked at the **mummy**. They all looked at the little **bat**. And they started to laugh.

« I may not be big, I may not be strong, » said the **bat**. But I have an idea. »

And the **bat** told them what to do.

« Hmph ! » said the **witch**.

« Hmph ! » said the **ghost**.

« Hmph ! » said the **vampire**.

« Hmph ! » said the **mummy**.



But they thought about the pumpkin and bent down to take the pumpkin off the vine.



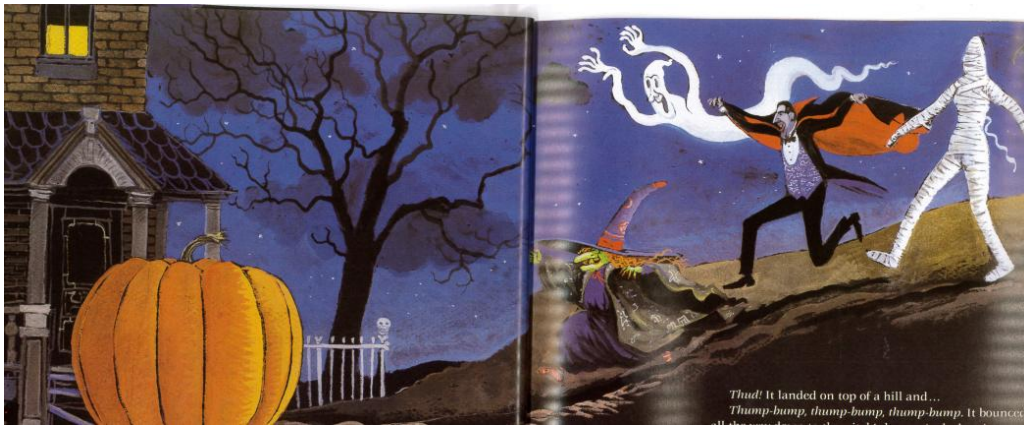
« Ready, set, pull ! » called the **bat**. The **bat** pulled the **mummy**, the **mummy** pulled the **vampire**, the **vampire** pulled the **ghost**, the **ghost** pulled the **witch**, and the **witch** pulled the pumpkin.

Well, they pulled, and they tugged and they pulled. First they pulled hard, then they pulled harder and ...



*Snap! Off came the pumpkin!  
"Drat!" said the witch.  
Whoosh! It flew and it flew and*

*Snap ! Off came the pumpkin. « Drat ! » said the **witch**.  
Whoosh ! It flew, and it flew and ...*



*Thud! It landed on top of a hill and...  
Thump-bump, thump-bump, thump-bump. It bounced*

*Thud ! It landed on top of a hill and ...*

*Thump-bump, thump-bump, thump-bump, it bounced all the way down to the witch's house. And when it got to her door, the pumpkin just sat.*

*« Hurray for the **bat** ! » shouted the **witch** and she hurried inside to make a pumpkin pie.*



*"Mmm," said the ghost.  
"Have some more," said the witch.  
"Couldn't eat another bite," said the vampire.  
"Fun party," said the mummy.  
"Time to go," said the bat.*

*« Mmm, » said the **ghost**.*

*« Have some more, » said the **witch**.*

*« Couldn't eat another bite, » said the **vampire**.*

*« Fun party, » said the **mummy**.*

*« Time to go, » said the **bat**.*



*« Drat ! » said the **witch** as she watched them all leave. Then she went right out and planted another pumpkin seed.*