



# Spookley the Square Pumpkin™

## A DIGITAL TOOLKIT

Celebrating Kindness, Acceptance and Inclusion

This document includes discussion guidelines and learning activities to accompany author Joe Troiano's book, *The Legend of Spookley the Square Pumpkin*, and the animated hit *Spookley the Square Pumpkin*.

### Part I: Discussion Guidelines

#### Bullying Prevention and Tolerance Discussion Questions

| Questions   | Key Themes / Objectives   |
|---|---|
| <p>How do you think Spookley felt when he was teased by the other pumpkins?<br/>How do you think it would feel if you were teased by someone?</p>                         | <p>Use empathy to help children recognize that they would feel badly if they were teased and bullied.</p>   |
| <p>How do you think Spookley felt by the end of the story?</p>  | <p>Lead children to recognize that it is okay to be different</p>   |
| <p>What are some things that you can do if you are being teased or bullied?<br/>What are some things that you can do if you see someone else being teased or bullied?</p> | <p>Have children 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</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: It's best to focus on behavior rather than labels. For instance, don't encourage children to label someone a "bully" but rather teach them how to recognize bullying behavior. You may wish to visit <a href="http://pacerkidsagainstabullying.org">pacerkidsagainstabullying.org</a> for more strategies</i></p> |

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|--|---|
| <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 children 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 children 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 children recognize that Spookley is square and the other pumpkins are round   |
| What happens in the pumpkin patch at the end of the book?  | Have children 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 children 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 children 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 children 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 children create their own pumpkins of any shapes, sizes and colors using crayons, paint, popsicle sticks and/or construction paper.
- Have children share their pumpkins and discuss how each one is different and why that is okay and create Spookley’s Pumpkin Patch.
- Have children 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 children 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)

### **Create a (Virtual) Classroom/Community Book**

- Create a cover page that introduces the children and what the book is about (e.g., “Ms. Jones’ Third Graders are special because...” or “The children of Main Street are special because...”)
- Have each child create his/her own page for the book:
  - Have each child write and complete the sentence “I’m special because...”
  - Have each child write down and illustrate something that makes him/her special. (Be prepared to offer suggestions to children who are reluctant to come up with something.)
- When the children are finished, collect the pages (physically and/or virtually).
- Display the book physically and/or virtually for everyone to see.

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

- Acquire your own Spookley (e.g., you can 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 children that Spookley is going to join them every day throughout October to remind everyone to be a good friend and show kindness towards others.
- Each morning, place Spookley in a different spot and have finding Spookley become a part of your morning routine.