



There Was a Young Zombie Who Swallowed a Worm

By Kaye Baillie, illustrated by Diane Ewen

These discussion questions and activities can easily be adapted to a larger audience for an interactive storytime or even a small Halloween party for your child and a few friends.

Reading the book

- Ask your child what they think the meaning of “zombie” is.
- Review the song “There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly” with your child.
- Encourage your child to repeat the final line “It made him squirm” with you each time.
- After reading the page where the zombie begins to hiccup, ask your child what they think might happen next before continuing to read.
- On a second readthrough, encourage your listener to perform the actions on each page as you go. *(With a group, you may want to assign roles for performing the actions, i.e., the zombie, the bat, the toad, etc., then have the children switch roles.)*



After reading the book

- Ask your child to choose another traditional Halloween character (e.g., witch, bat, ghost, vampire) and help them make up a new song based on the “There Was an Old Lady” song.
- Ask what their favorite thing about Halloween is. Is there anything they don't like?
- Explain that some children might be fearful of costumed characters, the dark, etc. Talk about their own feelings, feelings of others they may know, and what they might say to a friend who is a little bit scared. *(You may want to also read aloud **The Pumpkin Who Was Afraid of the Dark** by Michelle Robinson and Mike Byrne.)*
- Download the activities for this book from the Kane Miller website. Provide colored pencils or crayons for use on the sheets. Complete the “Guess the Creature” sheet aloud together.
- Serve a Halloween-themed snack, such as roasted pumpkin seeds, homemade gummy worms made with gelatin and drinking straws (find a recipe online), or sandwiches cut into Halloween shapes using cookie cutters.
- Allow the child to decorate a small pumpkin using stickers, markers, cut paper shapes and glue or help them make a garland of tissue paper ghosts.

Find lots more fun holiday craft and decorating projects for the whole family to enjoy in **Halloween Paper Crafts** from Kane Miller Books.