HALLOWEEN

LINGUALA HOMEWORK SET

Title: The Dark Side of Halloween

Every October, people around the world celebrate Halloween with costumes, candy, and haunted houses. But beneath the fun and excitement, there lies a darker, eerie history that many don't know about. This holiday, often filled with laughter and parties, originally had much scarier roots.

Thousands of years ago, Halloween began as an ancient Celtic festival called Samhain (pronounced "sow-in"), which took place on the night of October 31st. The Celts believed that on this night, the boundary between the living and the dead blurred. Spirits could roam freely, and people feared that these ghosts would cause trouble or bring sickness to their families. To protect themselves, the Celts wore costumes made of animal skins to disguise themselves and ward off the wandering spirits.

As time passed, Samhain merged with other celebrations, including the Roman festival for Pomona, the goddess of fruit, and the Christian holiday All Saints' Day. Together, these influences transformed the ancient rituals into what we now call Halloween. Despite the changes, some frightening traditions remained.

One such tradition was the Jack-o'-lantern. According to legend, a man named Jack was so mean and tricky that he couldn't enter heaven when he died. But because he had tricked the devil, he couldn't go to hell, either. He was left to wander the earth with only a burning coal inside a carved-out turnip to light his way. Eventually, people began carving pumpkins and placing candles inside to keep "Jack of the Lantern" and other evil spirits away from their homes.

Even trick-or-treating has its roots in dark practices. During the Middle Ages, poor people would go door to door on All Souls' Day, asking for food in exchange for prayers for the dead. Over time, this practice evolved, and children began dressing up in costumes, going house to house for candy. While it's a fun activity today, its origins were closely tied to fears about the afterlife.

Halloween today is mostly about harmless scares and fun costumes, but its dark history serves as a reminder of ancient beliefs about the dead, the afterlife, and the unknown. So, next time you dress up as a ghost or carve a pumpkin, remember—you're taking part in a tradition that has haunted people for thousands of years.

Comprehension Questions:

What was Halloween originally called, and who celebrated it?

Why did the Celts wear costumes during Samhain?

What does the legend of the Jack-o'-lantern explain about the Halloween tradition of carving pumpkins?

How did trick-or-treating originate in the Middle Ages?

How has the meaning of Halloween changed over time?

In your opinion, why do people enjoy celebrating Halloween despite its dark history?

LIVEWORKSHEETS