



My Nightmare Before Halloween



It was the night before Halloween, and I couldn't wait for the next day. My costume—a vampire with a long black cape and fake fangs—was hanging on my closet door, ready to go. I'd carved my pumpkin, decorated my front porch with spiderwebs, and even helped my little sister pick out her fairy costume. Everything was perfect—until I went to bed.

That's when the nightmare began. I dreamed I woke up and Halloween had already started—but something was wrong. The streetlights flickered, the air smelled like smoke, and the pumpkins on every porch had creepy faces that moved. I heard whispering from behind me, and when I turned around, my own pumpkin was grinning with real, sharp teeth. Then, my reflection in the window blinked at me—even though I hadn't!

I ran outside, hoping to find my friends, but the trick-or-treaters were gone. Instead, shadows floated down the street, carrying empty candy buckets. One of them turned toward me—it looked just like my best friend, Eli, except his eyes glowed bright orange. "Come join us," he said, his voice echoing like it was underwater. I screamed and ran, tripping over my cape. Suddenly, I heard a loud **BANG**—and sat straight up in bed.

It took me a moment to realize I was safe in my room. The noise was just my window slamming shut from the wind. My heart was still pounding, but when I looked at my pumpkin, it was just a regular old jack-o'-lantern again. I laughed, kind of embarrassed. Still, when I went back to sleep, I kept my nightlight on—just in case.

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1. Why do you think the dream felt so real to the narrator?
2. What part of the nightmare do you think was the scariest?
3. How do you think the narrator felt the next morning about Halloween?

Multiple Choice Questions



1. What costume was the narrator planning to wear?
 - a) A werewolf
 - b) A vampire
 - c) A mummy
2. What strange thing did the pumpkins do in the nightmare?
 - a) They started talking
 - b) They melted into goo
 - c) Their faces moved and grinned with teeth
3. What woke the narrator up from the nightmare?
 - a) A scream
 - b) The sound of thunder
 - c) The window slamming shut

