

Chris and the Bad Pumpkin

By Sivon (Grade 4)

Chris was in his house playing video games. All of a sudden, his game started glitching like it was possessed by something. The game turned back on, but the screen was frozen. Just at that moment, a scary pumpkin face popped out of the screen and started chanting, "I'm coming for you. I'm coming for you!"

Chris ran downstairs for help, but his parents were not there. He noticed a note on the table. It read, "I have your parents at the haunted pumpkin patch, and if you come and complete all seven of my games, I *might* release them. If you cannot complete all seven, then I will steal their souls AND YOURS!"

Chris dropped the note and ran straight to the haunted pumpkin patch 5 blocks away. As soon as he got there, he saw seven pumpkins, all with the same scary face that had been on his screen. They were positioned with the biggest pumpkin in the middle and three on each side. Chris was freaked out. He ran away and looked all around for his parents, but he didn't see them anywhere. Then he noticed the tiniest pumpkin he'd ever seen. He could barely see it.

The tiny pumpkin spoke, "Come, come! I know what you are here for. You must complete all seven games if you ever want to see your parents again!"

"I accept the challenge!" Chris replied.

"Excellent!" the tiny pumpkin said. "For this game, you will have to choose one of these three pumpkins to smash. To win the game, you have to choose the one that won't blow up in your face."

Chris bent down and put his ear next to each of the three pumpkins. One sounded like it was fizzling like burning acid, "Fzzzzz." The next one was ticking like a bomb, "tick...tick...tick." The third one was fine, so Chris picked it up and threw it on the ground. "Success!" He won the first game and found a key in the pumpkin.

Chris used the key to open a door and completed the next five tasks with ease. "Easy!" He was feeling good and was ready for the last task.

But the tiny pumpkin yelled, "You failed! And now your soul and your parents' souls get stolen! I get your souls!"

"What?" Chris was confused.

The tiny pumpkin explained, "You didn't complete the first game. You missed it. You ran away from the seven pumpkins so fast that you didn't notice the note next to the big pumpkin. The note said you were supposed to carve the big pumpkin and put the light inside to make a jack-o-lantern. Now your souls are mine!"

"Aaaaaah!" Chris was gone.

After the tiny pumpkin took the souls, it grew a little bit bigger. Then, it turned and watched a new kid walk into the haunted pumpkin patch.

**The moral of the story is: Don't be too scared to pay attention.*