

# Halloween – like it or loathe it?

E3-L2 Writing: sentences, paragraphs and commas

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



## Halloween - like it or loathe it?

I hate Halloween well lots of things about it anyway what I really don't like is trick-or-treating I just don't get why we spend all year telling our kids not to take sweets from strangers or to bother other people but then all of a sudden send them out to knock on doors and ask for sweets it's even worse that they not only ask for sweets but threaten to do nasty things if people don't give them some of the costumes they wear are really disgusting if not downright frightening and I've heard of some very unpleasant "tricks" being played around where I live

I also get a bit worried about the effect all this stuff about black magic and spirits of the dead can have there is enough bad news going on in the world without giving people more things to have nightmares about I love Christmas decorations with lights and colour but I just don't see why you would want to cover your house in cobwebs and skeletons and do spooky facepaint on your kids my sister dressed me up as a vampire once and I hated it I just wanted to wear a pretty costume that made me look and feel nice

There are some Halloween traditions I do like I love to see some of the creative ideas some people have for pumpkin lanterns we have had some really happy family days choosing pumpkins and then carving them mind you the grownups ended up doing most of the work the kids lost interest pretty quickly apple bobbing is good fun though I haven't done it for years and some of the food I like like pumpkin soup gingerbread and toffee apples

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## Tasks

### Task 1

There are no full stops in the text. Work out where they should go.

### Task 2

The text is organised into three logical paragraphs. Think of a subheading for each paragraph. Read each sentence and check it fits in with the subheading.

### Task 3

Read through the text again. Are there any long sentences where you feel like you need a breath? Maybe you could add in a comma or a dash.

(Clue: some of these are optional but some have a specific job to do.)

## Extension tasks

### Task 4

Most of the text is written in complex sentences. When you read it out loud, it sounds like someone talking. Take one paragraph and break it down into simple and compound sentences – just cross out the “extra” information. Now read this out loud. Which version do you think is more interesting? Which flows better?

### Task 5

What do you think about Halloween?

Write **three paragraphs** of your own.

- Give each paragraph a sub-heading. Make sure each sentence fits in with it.
- Use a mixture of simple, compound and complex sentences.
- Think about where and why you should use commas.