HALLOWEEN ELA ACTIVITIES

figurative language, rhetoric, theme, and novel activities



Afraid

Aggressive

Arrogant

Appreciative

Assured

Awestruck

Bitter

Boring

Casual

Cheerful

Cold

Complacent

Encouraging

Enthusiastic

Funhoric

Fervent

Friendly

Flippant

Frivolous

Gracious

Greaarious

Teache Halloween Fid

Overview

This activity helps students review and pra language in a Halloween-themed contex apply their knowledge to sentences that i hyperboles, personification, irony, and mo

Why This Activity?

Middle schoolers often recognize figurativ conversation, songs, or commercials, but activity gives them seasonal, high-interest connecting definitions with real usage.

Instructions

- 1. Introduce Figurative Language Use the reference chart (simile. onomatopoeia, personification, definitions and examples toget
- 2. Independent Practice
 - Students complete the workshee Identifying the type of figu Explaining the meaning of
 - Review & Discuss

Go over the answer key as a cla thinking and notice that some p

4. Extension Options

- · Have students create their language examples for ea
- Use them to create a "cla Tie it into writing: challenge language devices to a The

allenge: Ask students to explain agery, tone, or meaning in writ





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Teacher Guide Page Horror Novel Would You Rather Read...

This activity helps students explore new novels while practicing d making and written explanation skills. Students read short synops books, decide which one they would rather read, and explain the reasonina.

This "Would You Rather" structure builds buzz ground independe presenting students with real choices. It also encourages them to critically about what draws them to a book-whether it's genre.

Instructions

1 Introduce the Activity

 Show students the slides (included in a separate f Each slide presents two fall-themed novels with c and a synopsis

2.Student Choice

- Students read both synopses.
- They choose which book they would rather read.

- They write a short explanation for their choice, cit something specific from the synopsis that appeal

3.Optional Add-On

- If you have physical copies of the books, display
- Encourage students to check them out or preview the activity.
- Use this as a springboard into book talks, indepen reading, or literature circles.

- Support: Provide sentence starters like "I would rather read _ because..
- . Challenge: Ask students to connect their choice to a past favorite book or genre
- Engagement: Let students vote on the most popular picks and track results on a class chart.



would you rather read ...

vas inspired by an dea from the late oov who has ame nightmare since his mother



graveyard for a boy-an o gateway to the abandone strange and terrible Sleer. graveyard, he will be in da Jack-who has already ki



She doesn't know who now where she is, or when she comes to in ransacked cabin is hat there are two nen arguing over whether or not to kill And that she must run.

n her riveting style, April Henry crafts a ail-biting thrille involving murder

biological warfare. Follow Cady and Ty (her accidental savior turned companion), as they race against the clock to stay alive, in The Girl Who Was Supposed to Die.



abandoned orphanage. A strange collection of very curious photographs. It all waits to be discovered in Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children an unforgettable novel that mixes fiction and hotography in a thrilling reading experience. As our story opens, a horrific family tragedy sets sixteen-year-

As Jacob explores its abando it becomes clear that the c peculiar. They may have be been quarantined on a de good reason. And somehow though it seems—they may: spine-tingling fantasy illustrate



Chartina Cauill-The Hungry Teacher

A MIDDLE SCHOOL ELA

HALLOWEEN ELA ACTIVITIES BUNDLE VOLUME ONE

This engaging seasonal unit gives students multiple ways to practice key ELA skills while keeping them hooked with spooky season-themed texts, songs, and activities. With teacher guides, scaffolded practice, and ready-to-go student pages, you'll have everything you need to bring a little spooky season energy into your classroom—without sacrificing depth or rigor.



Halloween Word Search (color + black-and-white with answer key)



Figurative Language Activity with Teacher guide, reference chart, student practice pages, and answer key.



Halloween TV Commercials: Rhetorical Appeals with Teacher guide, curated video links, reference pages (ethos, pathos, logos), and student analysis worksheets



Fall Songs Theme/Main Idea with Teacher guide, curated playlist, and student lyric/theme analysis sheets



Halloween Novel "Would You Rather Read..." Activity with Teacher guide + slides and student response

spooky season-themed ELA activities bundle

This bundle of Halloween-themed activities helps middle schoolers practice figurative language, rhetoric, theme, and independent reading skills, while keeping them engaged with seasonal texts, commercials, songs, and novels. With teacher guides, reference charts, and scaffolded practice, you'll have everything you need to make Halloween both academic and fun.

Here's what they'll learn:

- **Figurative Language Foundations**: Identify, explain, and create similes, metaphors, idioms, personification, irony, and more in Halloween-themed sentences.
- **Rhetorical Appeals in Media**: Analyze how ethos, pathos, and logos are used in Halloween commercials to persuade audiences.
- **Theme Through Music**: Listen to spooky season songs across genres and analyze lyrics for theme, imagery, and tone.
- **Independent Reading Choices**: Explore novels through "Would You Rather" activities that get students thinking critically about genre, plot, and style.

Why this works:

Instead of random holiday worksheets, these activities combine seasonal engagement with real ELA skill-building. Students move from surface-level responses to deeper analysis using high-interest media and texts they can relate to. With built-in teacher guides, reference pages, and answer keys, you can run these activities with confidence and keep the rigor high—even during busy fall weeks.

Perfect for:

- Teachers who want seasonal activities that still hit standards
- Students who need engaging, high-interest practice to stay motivated during spooky season
- Any middle school ELA class looking to weave seasonal fun into figurative language, media analysis, and theme work

teachers like you have said...

This resource cost me money! After reading this, the students couldn't wait to read some of these novels. I had a bunch in my library, but I ordered the rest quickly. When they came, my students couldn't wait to get their hands on the new books! That made my teacher heart happy!" – Kingdom A.



My kids loved using this resource for their school day. They were engaged in the resource and had no trouble getting started. It didn't take a lot of time to prepare this resource, so it was easy for to use quickly. –Shannon H.



I love all of Martina's things! I bought this because my students loved the similar packet she made with Valentines English activities - I especially love the pick a book activity:) –Literary Jane



I used this mainly for the mood and tone tasks and it did not disappoint. My students were so engaged and interested in these activities. Everything you do is GOLD." -Jennifer S.

"I love all of Martina's resources, so when I heard she was making a Halloween DIGITAL activity, I had to jump on it! This was perfect for my students to do remotely. They got to choose which activities they wanted to do, so I love the variety. Plus, most of these topics were already covered in class (thanks to her other units), so I didn't have to reteach anything!"
-Christian B.

loved the "would you rather" horror book activity!
Many of them found new books to try out and had fun discussing with one another why they would pick one over the other! –Niewo Knows Best

My students

MIDDLE SCHOOL

HALLOWEEN-THEMED ELA ACTIVITIES

digital google slides links:

WOULD YOU RATHER READ MOVEL SLIDES:

HTTPs://docs.google.com/presentation/d/i-skrit-vt_urvzfcwhopcaa6x_com0zf-k032pyyc24/copy?usp=sharing

DIGITAL STUDENT ACTIVITY PAGES (GOOGLE SLIDES):

HTTPS://DOCS.GOOGLE.COM/PRESENTATION/D/IN/JISIFIIG5-MLLUSOSPPXHKKDOMOV/JMKBKBSKKPLJA/COPY?USP=SHARING



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TEACHER GUIDES FOR EACH ACTIVITY

Includes teacher guides, activity materials, fullsize reference materials, and student worksheets.



Why This Activity?

This activity uses Halloween commercials to

GUIDE

Teacher Guide Pa **Halloween Songs Theme**

Overview

apply their knowledg

hyperboles, personific

This activity uses music with Halloween vibes to help students p analysis. Students will listen to short clips from a curated list of so then analyze the lyrics for themes, imagery, and seasonal conn

I just play the songs, I don't show the videos.

Always preview all songs before playing to check for appropria classroom

Why This Activity?

Music provides a powerful and relatable entry point for middle songs use figurative language and emotional appeals that con analysis skills. Plus, the fall theme helps engage students in a sec

Instructions

1.Introduce the Activity

- Explain that students will analyze the lyrics and
- each sona
- Remind them to listen for imagery, figurative lar

2.Play Song Clips

- For time management, play only the first sectio
- Pause after each clip for quick discussion or no
- Use teacher notes provided for any special star

3 Analyze Themes

- Students can work individually, in pairs, or as a whole class
 - What is the central theme or message of this s How does it connect to fall, change, memory
 - What figurative language devices stand out?

4.Wrap-Up Writing / Discussion

- Compare how different genres express similar
- Optional writing prompt: Choose one song and theme connects to your own Halloween experi

Differentiation Ideas

- Support: Provide lyric excerpts or guiding questions.
- · Challenge: Ask students to compare a song to a poer
 - Engagement: Let students suggest and analyze their of



This activity uses Halloween commercials to teach students how authors and creators establish mood and tone. Students will watch a curated selection of commercials and analyze how elements like lighting, music, color, pacing, and dialogue work together to create a specific feeling and attitude toward the subject.



Teacher Guide Page Horror Novel Would You Rather Read...

Overview

This activity helps students explore new novels while practicing decisionmaking and written explanation skills. Students read short synopses of two books, decide which one they would rather read, and explain their reasonina.

Why This Activity?

This "Would You Rather" structure builds buzz around independent reading by presenting students with real choices. It also encourages them to think critically about what draws them to a book—whether it's genre, plot, theme, or style.

Instructions

1.Introduce the Activity

- · Show students the slides (included in a separate file).
- Each slide presents two fall-themed novels with cover images and a synopsis.

2.Student Choice

- Students read both synopses.
- They choose which book they would rather read.
- They write a short explanation for their choice, citing

something specific from the synopsis that appealed to them. 3.Optional Add-On

- · If you have physical copies of the books, display them in the classroom.
- Encourage students to check them out or preview them after the activity.
- Use this as a springboard into book talks, inc reading, or literature circles.

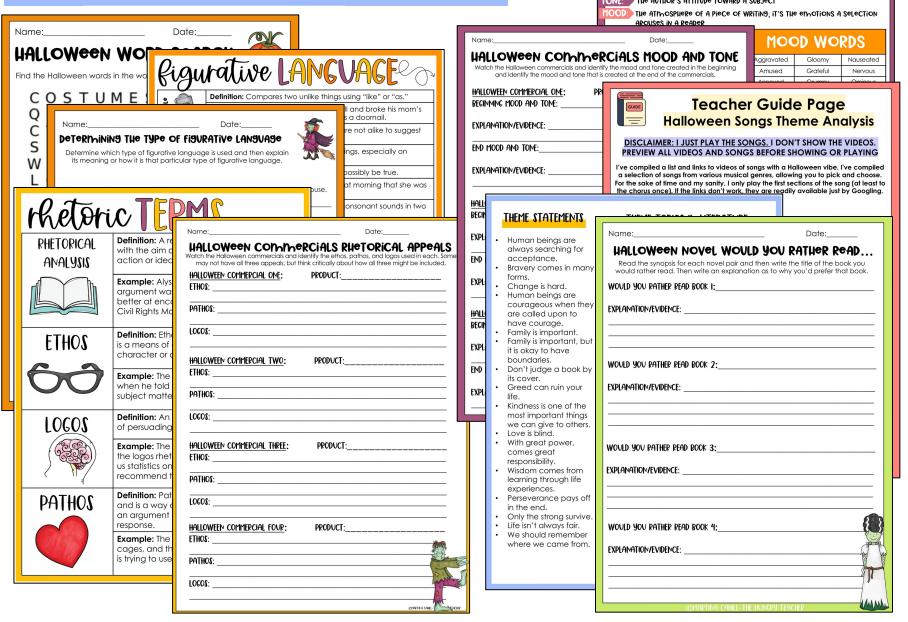
Differentiation Ideas

- · Support: Provide sentence starters like "I wa because '
- · Challenge: Ask students to connect their book or genre.
- · Engagement: Let students vote on the m results on a class chart.

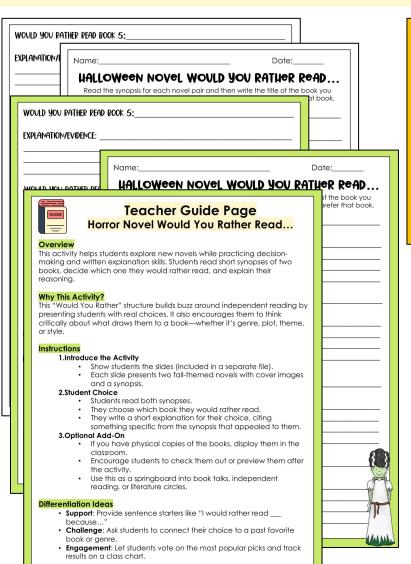


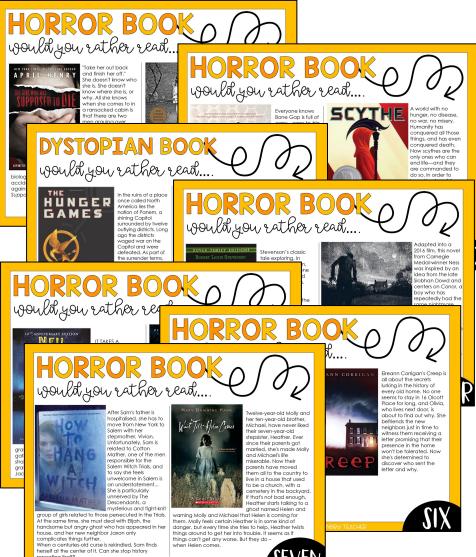


FIVE HALLOWEEN ELA ACTIVITIES



WOULD YOU RATHER READ ... ACTIVITY





SPOOKY SEASON SONG THEME ACTIVITY

Each lesson plan has a teacher guide, all teacher links, student resources, and any applicable reference sheets.



Teacher Guide Page Halloween Songs Theme Analysis

DISCLAIMER: I JUST PLAY THE SONGS. I DON'T SHOW THE VIDEOS. PREVIEW ALL VIDEOS AND SONGS BEFORE SHOWING OR PLAYING

I've compiled a list and links to videos of songs with a Halloween vibe. I've compiled a selection of songs from various musical genres, allowing you to pick and choose. For the sake of time and my sanity, I only play the first sections of the song (at least to the chorus once). If the links don't work, they are readily available just by Googling.

1. "Ghostbusters" by Ray Parker Jr.

https://youtu.be/Fe93CLbHixQ?si=-aNirB9EGedNltT0

2. Somebody's Watching Me" by Rockwell

https://voutu.be/7YvAYLJSSZY?si=U5ecYSffJHWYgzGo



Teacher Guide Page Halloween Songs Theme Analysis

This activity uses music with Halloween vibes to help students practice theme analysis. Students will listen to short clips from a curated list of songs across genres, then analyze the lyrics for themes, imagery, and seasonal connections.

I just play the songs, I don't show the videos.

Always preview all songs before playing to check for appropriateness in your

Music provides a powerful and relatable entry point for middle schoolers. Many songs use figurative language and emotional appeals that connect easily to literary analysis skills. Plus, the fall theme helps engage students in a seasonal and creative

Instructions

1.Introduce the Activity

- · Explain that students will analyze the lyrics and overall theme of
- · Remind them to listen for imagery, figurative language, tone, and message.

- For time management, play only the first section up to the chorus.
- Pause after each clip for quick discussion or notes.
- Use teacher notes provided for any special start times or cautions.

3.Analyze Themes

Students can work individually, in pairs, or as a whole class to identify:

- · What is the central theme or message of this song?
- How does it connect to fall, change, memory, or nostalaia? What figurative language devices stand out?

4.Wrap-Up Writing / Discussion

- Compare how different genres express similar fall themes.
- · Optional writing prompt: Choose one song and explain how its theme connects to your own Halloween experiences.

Differentiation Ideas

- Support: Provide lyric excerpts or auiding auestions.
- Challenge: Ask students to compare a song to a poem or short story with a
- · Engagement: Let students suggest and analyze their own "fall vibe" songs.

THEME STATEMENTS

- Human beings are always searchina for
- Change is hard. Human beings are are called upon to have courage.
- it is okay to have boundaries.

THEME STATEMENTS

Human beings are

acceptance.

Change is hard.

always searching for

Bravery comes in many

THEME TOPICS IN LITERATURE

- Bravery comes in many
- courageous when they
- Family is important. Family is important, but

- Acceptance Adoption
- Ambition Apathy
- Beauty
- Betraval Bravery
- Change Communication •
- Cooperation Courage
- Creativity

SONG FOUR:

Main Idea:

- Justice Kindness
 - Knowledge Loneliness Love
 - Moving Music
 - Nature Peace
 - Peer Pressure Perseverance Power
 - Pride
 - Progress

- Acceptance
- Apathy
- Beauty
- Human beings are courageous when they are called upon to
- have courage. Family is important.
- Family is important, but it is okay to have boundaries.
- Don't judge a book by
- Greed can ruin your
- Kindness is one of the most important things we can give to others. Love is blind.
- With great power, comes areat responsibility.
- Wisdom comes from learning through life
- experiences. Perseverance pays off in the end.
- Only the strong survive. Life isn't always fair.
- We should remember where we came from.

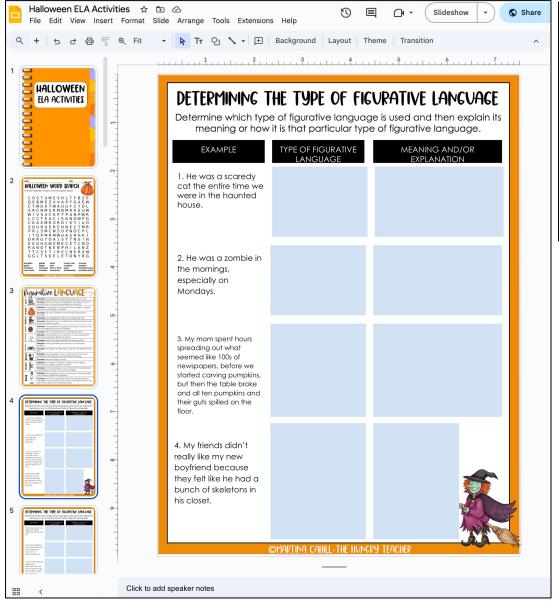
THEME TOPICS IN LITERATURE

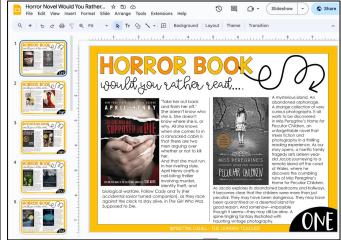
- Justice
- Adoption Kindness Ambition Knowledge Loneliness
- Love
- Movina Betrayal Music Birth
- Bravery Peace Change Peer Pressure
- Communication · Perseverance
- Cooperation Power Courage Pride
- Creativity Progress
- Cultures Religion Death Rumors
- Discovery · Running away Divorce Sacrifice
- Dreams School Life Equality Science
- Fairness Self-Discovery
- Faith Self-Esteem Family · Sharina
- Friendship Siblings Good vs. Evil Suffering
- Greed Survival Growing Up Teamwork Happiness Temptation
- Hate Trust War Honesty
- Hope Immortality
- Wealth Wisdom · Independence · Youth

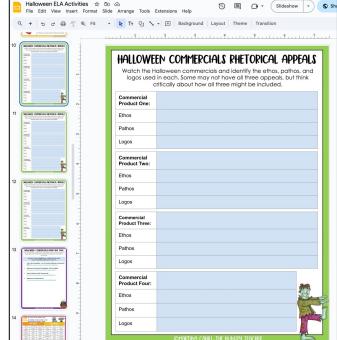
Text Evidence:	-
SONG FIVE:	
Main Idea:	
	G FIVE: I Idea: DEFINITION OF THE STATE OF
Name:	

Name:		
analyzing the th	ieme of Halloween son:	9
	and/or read the lyrics and determine the theme and ma biece of evidence (a song lyric) that proves your theme.	iin
SONG ONE:		-
Main Idea:		_
		_
Theme:		_
		_
Text Evidence:		_
SONG TWO:		_
Main Idea:		_
		_
Theme:		_
Text Evidence:		
SONG THREE:		
Main Idea:		
Theme:		_
ineme:		_
		-

digital student notebook and google slides included







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THANK YOU SO MUCH!



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