

MIDDLE SCHOOL

HALLOWEEN ELA ACTIVITIES

figurative language, rhetoric, theme, and novel activities

MOOD AND TONE

TONE: THE AUTHOR'S ATTITUDE
MOOD: THE ATMOSPHERE OF A WRITING
AROUSSES IN A READER.

WORD

Admiring	Encouraging
Afraid	Enthusiastic
Aggressive	Euphoric
Arrogant	Excited
Appreciative	Fearful
Assured	Fervent
Awestruck	Friendly
Bitter	Flippant
Boring	Frivolous
Brash	Giddy
Calm	Grateful
Casual	Gracious
Cheerful	Gregarious
Cold	Happy
Complacent	Harsh
Confiding	Haughty
Confused	Hesitant
Consoling	Humble
Critical	Hollow
Cynical	Horrific
Deliberate	Humorous
Depressed	Innocent



Teacher Guide Page
Halloween Fiction

Overview

This activity helps students review and practice language in a Halloween-themed context, apply their knowledge to sentences that use hyperboles, personification, irony, and more.

Why This Activity?

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

Instructions

- 1. Introduce Figurative Language**
Use the reference chart (smile, personification, definitions and examples together).
- 2. Independent Practice**
Students complete the worksheet.
 - Identifying the type of figure.
 - Explaining the meaning of the figure.
- 3. Review & Discuss**
Go over the answer key as a class, thinking and notice that some phrases are metaphors.
- 4. Extension Options**
 - Have students create their own language examples for each type.
 - Use them to create a "classroom dictionary" or "classroom dictionary."
 - Tie it into writing: challenge students to use figurative language devices to a Halloween story.

Differentiation Ideas

Figurative Language



Definition
Exam favorite



Definition
Exam Monday



Definition
Exam flying



Definition
Exam or more



Definition
Exam with you



Definition
Exam quality



Definition
Exam some



Definition
Exam refer



Definition
Exam Frank



Definition
Exam that n



Definition
Exam teen



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

Overview

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

Why This Activity?

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

Instructions

- 1. Introduce the Activity**
 - Show students the slides (included in a separate file).
 - Each slide presents two fall-themed novels with 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 appeals 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 the activity.
 - Use this as a springboard into book talks, independent reading, or literature circles.

Differentiation Ideas

- 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.

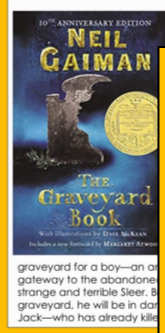
©MARTINA CAHILL- THE HUNGRY TEACHER

HORROR BOOK

would you rather read...

HORROR BOOK

would you rather read...



IT TAKES A

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

this bewitching and harrowing tale of mystery and survival, and memory and magic, makes the

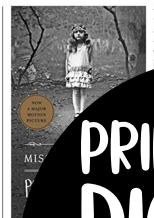
Adapted into a 2016 film, this novel from Carnegie Medal-winner Ness was inspired by an idea from the late Siobhan Dowd and centers on Conor, a boy who has repeatedly had the same nightmare since his mother became sick. But the monster that

HORROR BOOK

would you rather read...



"Take her out back and finish her off." She doesn't know who she is. She doesn't know where she is, or why. All she knows when she comes to in a ransacked cabin is that there are two men arguing over whether or not to kill her. And that she must run. In her riveting style, April Henry crafts a nail-biting thriller involving murder, identity theft, and 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.



A mysterious island. An abandoned orphanage. A strange collection of very curious photographs. It all waits to be discovered in this novel by the author of the New York Times bestseller The Girl Who Was Supposed to Die.

PRINT AND DIGITAL

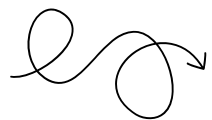


volume two

©MARTINA CAHILL- THE HUNGRY TEACHER

©MARTINA CAHILL- THE HUNGRY TEACHER

A MIDDLE SCHOOL ELA



HALLOWEEN ELA ACTIVITIES BUNDLE VOLUME TWO

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 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.



My students 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



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.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

HALLOWEEN-THEMED ELA ACTIVITIES

digital google slides links:

WOULD YOU RATHER READ NOVEL SLIDES:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1-8B8T-VT_UFVZTCWHOPCA96X_COM0ZT-K03ZP9NC2V/COPY?usp=sharing

DIGITAL STUDENT ACTIVITY PAGES (GOOGLE SLIDES):

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1M4X0PPYU#FEDOMOVNMBF5S3KPLJA/COPY?usp=sharing>

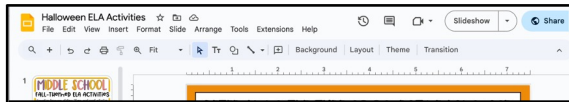


TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE	CONTENT
3	Halloween Word Search (COLOR)
4	Halloween Word Search (BLACK AND WHITE)
5	Halloween Word Search ANSWER KEY
6	Figurative Language TEACHER GUIDE PAGE AND LINKS
7	Figurative Language Reference Pages
11	Halloween Figurative Language (COLOR)
14	Halloween Figurative Language (BLACK AND WHITE)
17	Halloween Figurative Language ANSWER KEY
18	Halloween TV Commercials Rhetoric TEACHER GUIDE PAGE AND LINKS
20	Rhetoric reference pages
24	Halloween TV Commercials Rhetoric (COLOR)
26	Halloween TV Commercials Rhetoric (BLACK AND WHITE)
28	Halloween TV Commercials Mood and Tone TEACHER GUIDE PAGE AND LINKS
30	Mood and Tone reference pages
34	Halloween TV Commercials Mood and Tone (COLOR)
36	Halloween TV Commercials Mood and Tone (BLACK AND WHITE)
38	Halloween Songs Theme/Main Idea Activity TEACHER GUIDE PAGE AND LINKS
40	Theme reference pages
44	Halloween songs Theme/Main Idea Activity (BLACK AND WHITE)
46	Halloween Novel Would You Rather Read... TEACHER GUIDE PAGE
47	Halloween Novel Would You Rather Read... (COLOR)
49	Halloween Novel Would You Rather Read... (BLACK AND WHITE)

©MARTINA CAHILL- THE HUNGRY TEACHER

TEACHER GUIDES FOR EACH ACTIVITY

Includes teacher guides, activity materials, full-size reference materials, and student worksheets.



Teacher Guide Page: Halloween Figurative Language

Overview

This activity helps students apply their knowledge of figurative language in a Halloween-themed activity.

Why This Activity?

Middle schoolers often struggle with figurative language.



Teacher Guide Page: Halloween Commercial Rhetoric

Overview

This activity uses Halloween commercials to teach students how to analyze rhetorical appeals (ethos, pathos, logos). Students will analyze the commercials and identify the rhetorical appeals.



Teacher Guide Page: Halloween Songs Theme

Overview

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

Disclaimer

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

Always preview all songs before playing to check for appropriate content for your classroom.

Why This Activity?

Music provides a powerful and relatable entry point for middle schoolers. Songs use figurative language and emotional appeals that can be analyzed. Plus, the fall theme helps engage students in a seasonal activity.

Instructions

1. Introduce the Activity

- Explain that students will analyze the lyrics and each song.
- Remind them to listen for imagery, figurative language, and message.

2. Play Song Clips

- For time management, play only the first section of each song.
- Pause after each clip for quick discussion or notes.
- Use teacher notes provided for any special instructions.

3. Analyze Themes

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

4. Wrap-Up Writing / Discussion

- Compare how different genres express similar themes.
- Optional writing prompt: Choose one song and write a paragraph connecting it to your own Halloween experience.

Differentiation Ideas

- Support:** Provide lyric excerpts or guiding questions.
- Challenge:** Ask students to compare a song to a poem with a similar theme.
- Engagement:** Let students suggest and analyze their own songs.

©MARTINA CAHILL- THE HUNGRY TEACHER



Teacher Guide Page: Halloween Commercial Mood and Tone

Overview

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 decision-making and written explanation skills. Students read short synopses of two books, decide which one they would rather read, and explain their reasoning.

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, independent reading, or literature circles.

Differentiation Ideas

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

©MARTINA CAHILL- THE HUNGRY TEACHER

PRINT AND DIGITAL



©MARTINA CAHILL- THE HUNGRY TEACHER

FIVE HALLOWEEN ELA ACTIVITIES

Name: _____ Date: _____

HALLOWEEN WORDS

Find the Halloween words in the word search.

C O S T U M E S

Q
C
S
W
L

Figurative LANGUAGE

Definition: Compares two unlike things using "like" or "as."

DETERMINING THE TYPE OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Determine which type of figurative language is used and then explain its meaning or how it is that particular type of figurative language.



_____ and broke his mom's _____ as a doornail.

_____ are not alike to suggest _____

_____ things, especially on _____

_____ possibly be true.

_____ at morning that she was _____

_____ consonant sounds in two _____

Rhetoric TERMS

RHETORICAL ANALYSIS



Definition: A rhetorical analysis is a type of writing that examines the author's purpose, audience, and style in a text.

Example: Alysia's argument was better at ending the Civil Rights Movement.

ETHOS



Definition: Ethos is a means of persuasion that establishes the character or credibility of the speaker or writer.

Example: The speaker's credibility was established when he told the audience about his subject matter.

LOGOS



Definition: Logos is a means of persuasion that uses logic and reasoning to persuade the audience.

Example: The speaker's logic was established when he used statistics and facts to recommend the solution.

PATHOS



Definition: Pathos is a means of persuasion that appeals to the audience's emotions.

Example: The speaker's pathos was established when he described the horrors of the concentration camps, and the audience's response.

Name: _____ Date: _____

HALLOWEEN COMMERCIALS RHETORICAL APPEALS

Watch the Halloween commercials and identify the ethos, pathos, and logos used in each. Some may not have all three appeals, but think critically about how all three might be included.

HALLOWEEN COMMERCIAL ONE:

PRODUCT:

ETHOS:

PATHOS:

LOGOS:

HALLOWEEN COMMERCIAL TWO:

PRODUCT:

ETHOS:

PATHOS:

LOGOS:

HALLOWEEN COMMERCIAL THREE:

PRODUCT:

ETHOS:

PATHOS:

LOGOS:

HALLOWEEN COMMERCIAL FOUR:

PRODUCT:

ETHOS:

PATHOS:

LOGOS:



MOOD AND TONE

TONE: THE AUTHOR'S ATTITUDE TOWARD A SUBJECT

MOOD: THE ATMOSPHERE OF A PIECE OF WRITING; IT'S THE EMOTIONS A SELECTION AROUSES IN A READER

MOOD WORDS

Aggravated	Gloomy	Nauseated
Amused	Grateful	Nervous
Assured	Careless	Delicious

Name: _____ Date: _____

HALLOWEEN COMMERCIALS MOOD AND TONE

Watch the Halloween commercials and identify the mood and tone created in the beginning and identify the mood and tone that is created at the end of the commercials.

HALLOWEEN COMMERCIAL ONE:

BEGINNING MOOD AND TONE:

EXPLANATION/EVIDENCE:

END MOOD AND TONE:

EXPLANATION/EVIDENCE:

HALL

BEGIN

EXPL

END

EXPL

HALL

BEGIN

EXPL

END

EXPL

THEME STATEMENTS

- Human beings are always searching for acceptance.
- Bravery comes in many forms.
- Change is hard.
- 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 its cover.
- Greed can ruin your life.
- Kindness is one of the most important things we can give to others.
- Love is blind.
- With great power, comes great 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.

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.

Name: _____ Date: _____

HALLOWEEN NOVEL WOULD YOU RATHER READ...

Read the synopsis for each novel pair and then write the title of the book you would rather read. Then write an explanation as to why you'd prefer that book.

WOULD YOU RATHER READ BOOK 1: _____

EXPLANATION/EVIDENCE: _____

WOULD YOU RATHER READ BOOK 2: _____

EXPLANATION/EVIDENCE: _____

WOULD YOU RATHER READ BOOK 3: _____

EXPLANATION/EVIDENCE: _____

WOULD YOU RATHER READ BOOK 4: _____

EXPLANATION/EVIDENCE: _____



WOULD YOU RATHER READ... ACTIVITY

WOULD YOU RATHER READ BOOK 5:

EXPLANATION/EVIDENCE:

Name: _____

Date: _____

HALLOWEEN NOVEL WOULD YOU RATHER READ...

Read the synopsis for each novel pair and then write the title of the book you would rather read.

WOULD YOU RATHER READ BOOK 5:

EXPLANATION/EVIDENCE:

Name: _____

Date: _____

HALLOWEEN NOVEL WOULD YOU RATHER READ...

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



Overview

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

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, independent reading, or literature circles.

Differentiation Ideas

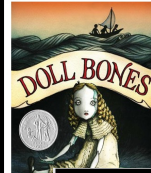
- **Support:** Provide sentence starters like "I would rather read _____ because..."
- **Challenge:** Ask students to connect their choice to a past favorite book or genre.
- **Engagement:** Let students vote on the most popular picks and track results on a class chart.



©MARTINA CAHILL - THE HUNGRY TEACHER

HORROR BOOK

would you rather read...



Zach, Poppy and Alice have been friends for ever. They love playing with their action figure toys, imagining a magical world of adventure and heroism. But disaster strikes when, without warning, Zach's father throws out all his toys, declaring he's too old for them. Zach is furious, confused and embarrassed, deciding...

HORROR BOOK

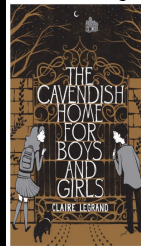
would you rather read...



In Coraline's flat, there are twenty-one windows and forty doors. Thirteen are open and close, and fourteen is locked. The other side is well, until the door unlocks the door passage to another house. Only, only it's not first, things seem in the other flat...

HORROR BOOK

would you rather read...



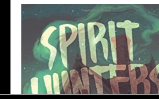
At the Cavesend Home for Boys and Girls, you will definitely learn your lesson. An atmospheric, heartfelt, and delightfully spooky novel for fans of Coraline. Splendors and Glooms, and The Mysterious Benedict Society. Victoria hates nonsense. There is no need for it when your life is perfect. The only smudge on her pristine life is her best friend Lawrence. He is a disaster, lazy and dreamy, shift always untucked, obsessed with his silly plans. Victoria often wonders who she ever bothered being to friend. Lawrence does...

too.) But then Lawrence goes missing. And he is not the only one. Victoria soon discovers that The Cavesend Home for Boys and Girls is not what it appears to be. It goes in but come out different. Or they don't come out at all. If anyone can sort this out, it's Victoria, even if it means getting a little messy.

©MARTINA

HORROR BOOK

would you rather read...



Harper Raine is a 7th grader who's just moved into a new home with her family. From the moment she steps foot in this...



In this book, a classic childhood game of hide-and-seek becomes a gateway to a nightmare world. Justin's best friend Zee has been missing for a whole year. Then out of nowhere and without explanation, Zee comes back, and Justin can tell something about him is different. At Zee's welcome home party, a...

HORROR BOOK

would you rather read...



Caroline La Mer isn't afraid of anything. Not scorpions, not the boys who tease her, and certainly not Jumbies. They're just trickster's parents make up to frighten their children.



Iris and her best friend Daniel are playing in the freshly fallen snow when they come across something unexpected: the crumbling gravestone of a young girl named Avery Moore. From that moment forward, strange things start happening to Iris. She has vivid...

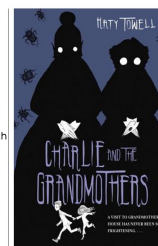
HORROR BOOK

would you rather read...



Kestrel, a young huntress, lives in a seemingly endless forest crawling with dangerous beasts. But the most dangerous beasts of all are the Grabbers—beings that are born when you are and stalk you throughout your life, waiting for the perfect moment to snatch and eat you. No one has ever defeated their Grabber once attacked, and those that die from accidents or other creatures are considered "lucky." Kestrel has been tasked by her mother, a powerful and controlling...

spell-caster, to hunt down the Grabbers in an effort to protect their village in the forest. Accompanied by Pipit, a hilariously bloodthirsty weasel, she hones her skills as she searches for a way out of the forest—and away from the judgmental villagers who despise her. But her own Grabber is creeping ever closer, and nothing in this forest is what it seems... including her mother's true motivations.



When fearful twelve-year-old Charlie and his bolder younger sister are sent to visit a grandmother they never knew they had, they discover a dark secret. A visit to Grandmother's house has never been so scary... Twelve-year-old Charlie Ought knows something is fishy when he and his little sister Georgie are sent away to spend time with a grandmother they've never met. Grandmother Pearl and her sister Grandmother Opal seem harmless enough, but Charlie soon uncovers a dastardly plot: the grandmothers are acting as minions for an ancient queen desperate to rule the world. Can Charlie and Georgie find a way to save themselves and the other children held captive in the Queen's lair before it's too late?

©MARTINA CAHILL - THE HUNGRY TEACHER

FIVE

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 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/Fe93CLbHxQ?si=qNjr89EGedNlft0>
2. Somebody's Watching Me" by Rockwell
<https://youtu.be/7YvAYJSS7Y?si=U5ecYSffJHWYazGo>



Teacher Guide Page Halloween Songs Theme Analysis

Overview

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.

Disclaimer

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

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

Why This Activity?

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 way.

Instructions

1. Introduce the Activity

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

2. Play Song Clips

- 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 nostalgia?
 - 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 guiding questions.
- **Challenge:** Ask students to compare a song to a poem or short story with a similar theme.
- **Engagement:** Let students suggest and analyze their own "fall vibe" songs.

©PARTITA CARROLL: THE HUNGRY TEACHER

THEME STATEMENTS

- Human beings are always searching for acceptance.
- Bravery comes in many forms.
- Change is hard.
- 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 its cover.

THEME TOPICS IN LITERATURE

- Acceptance
- Adoption
- Ambition
- Apathy
- Art
- Beauty
- Betrayal
- Birth
- Bravery
- Change
- Communication
- Cooperation
- Courage
- Creativity
- Cultures
- Justice
- Kindness
- Knowledge
- Loneliness
- Love
- Moving
- Music
- Nature
- Peace
- Peer Pressure
- Perseverance
- Power
- Pride
- Progress
- Religion

THEME STATEMENTS

- Human beings are always searching for acceptance.
- Bravery comes in many forms.
- Change is hard.
- 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 its cover.
- Greed can ruin your life.
- Kindness is one of the most important things we can give to others.
- Love is blind.
- With great power, comes great 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

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



PARTITA CARROLL: THE HUNGRY TEACHER

SONG FOUR:

Main Idea: _____

Theme: _____

Text Evidence: _____

SONG FIVE:

Main Idea: _____

Theme: _____

Text Evidence: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

ANALYZING THE THEME OF HALLOWEEN SONGS

Listen to the famous summer songs and/or read the lyrics and determine the theme and main idea of the music. Provide one piece of evidence (a song lyric) that proves your theme.

SONG ONE:

Main Idea: _____

Theme: _____

Text Evidence: _____

SONG TWO:

Main Idea: _____

Theme: _____

Text Evidence: _____

SONG THREE:

Main Idea: _____

Theme: _____

Text Evidence: _____

digital student notebook and google slides included

Halloween ELA Activities ☆ 📁 🌐

File Edit View Insert Format Slide Arrange Tools Extensions Help

🔍 + ↶ ↷ 🖨️ 🔍 Fit 📏 Tr 📐 📌 Background Layout Theme Transition

1 **HALLOWEEN ELA ACTIVITIES**

2 **HALLOWEEN WORD SEARCH**

3 **Figurative Language**

4 **DETERMINING THE TYPE OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE**

5 **DETERMINING THE TYPE OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE**

DETERMINING THE TYPE OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Determine which type of figurative language is used and then explain its meaning or how it is that particular type of figurative language.

EXAMPLE	TYPE OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE	MEANING AND/OR EXPLANATION
1. Nick scared the pants off his mom when he jumped out from behind the bushes.		
2. When it comes to the best Halloween movies, she is a walking encyclopedia.		
3. We spent hours planning our costumes & make up for Halloween party but an hour before it was supposed to begin, we received a call that it was cancelled.		
4. While watching the scary movie alone I heard a knock on the door, but I couldn't move, I was scared stiff.		

©MARTINA CAHILL- THE HUNGRY TEACHER

Click to add speaker notes

Horror Novel Would You Rather... ☆ 📁 🌐

File Edit View Insert Format Slide Arrange Tools Extensions Help

🔍 + ↶ ↷ 🖨️ 🔍 Fit 📏 Tr 📐 📌 Background Layout Theme Transition

1 **Horror Book**

2 **Horror Book**

3 **Horror Book**

4 **Horror Book**

5 **Horror Book**

HORROR BOOK
would you rather read...

DOLL BONES
by Holly Black

Lilac Skully
AND THE HAUNTED HOUSE
by Amy Cress

Safe. Lilac will need to face her fears, trust herself, and make new friends that will change her life forever.

©MARTINA CAHILL- THE HUNGRY TEACHER

SEVEN

Halloween ELA Activities ☆ 📁 🌐

File Edit View Insert Format Slide Arrange Tools Extensions Help

🔍 + ↶ ↷ 🖨️ 🔍 Fit 📏 Tr 📐 📌 Background Layout Theme Transition

10 **HALLOWEEN COMMERCIALS RHETORICAL APPEALS**

11 **HALLOWEEN COMMERCIALS RHETORICAL APPEALS**

12 **HALLOWEEN COMMERCIALS RHETORICAL APPEALS**

13 **HALLOWEEN COMMERCIALS RHETORICAL APPEALS**

14 **HALLOWEEN COMMERCIALS RHETORICAL APPEALS**

HALLOWEEN COMMERCIALS RHETORICAL APPEALS

Watch the Halloween commercials and identify the ethos, pathos, and logos used in each. Some may not have all three appeals, but think critically about how all three might be included.

Commercial Product One:	Ethos	Pathos	Logos
Commercial Product Two:	Ethos	Pathos	Logos
Commercial Product Three:	Ethos	Pathos	Logos
Commercial Product Four:	Ethos	Pathos	Logos

©MARTINA CAHILL- THE HUNGRY TEACHER

THE HUNGRY TEACHER'S TERMS OF USE

EACH PAGE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS COPYRIGHTED

YOU MAY NOT

- YOU **MAY NOT** CLAIM ANY PART OF THIS DOCUMENT AS YOUR OWN.
- YOU **MAY NOT** SHARE OR SELL ANYTHING BASED ON THIS DOCUMENT.
- YOU **MAY NOT** POST ANY PART OF THIS DOCUMENT ONLINE OR ON A SHARED SERVER.
- FOR EDITABLE RESOURCES, YOU **MAY NOT** EDIT THEM TO BE REDISTRIBUTED IN ANY WAY, CLAIMED AS YOUR OWN IN ANY WAY, OR ALTERED AND SHARED AS IF IT WERE MY ORIGINAL WORK.

YOU MAY

- THIS PRODUCT IS DESIGNED FOR **PERSONAL USE IN ONE CLASSROOM** (ONE TEACHER) ONLY. FOR USE IN MULTIPLE CLASSROOMS, PLEASE PURCHASE ADDITIONAL LICENSES.
- **FREEBIES:** IF YOU CHOOSE TO SHARE ONE OF MY FREEBIES ON YOUR WEBSITE OR ON SOCIAL MEDIA, PLEASE SHARE A LINK FOR PEOPLE TO DOWNLOAD THE ITEM FROM ME AT THE ORIGINAL SOURCE.
- **BLOGGERS:** FEEL FREE TO BLOG ABOUT USING MY PRODUCTS IN YOUR CLASSROOM OR USE THE COVER PAGE TO A RESOURCE AS LONG AS YOU CREDIT ME AND PROVIDE A LINK TO THE ITEM AT THE ORIGINAL SOURCE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PURCHASE AND FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN PROTECTING MY WORK



MARTINA@THEHUNGRYTEACHERHUB.COM

