THE PUMPKIN PATCH

An Unofficial Minecraft Book

Zom is out in his **backyard** pumpkin patch. He has spent a lot of time on the pumpkins so that he can cook with them.

Zom's plan is to bake the pumpkins into pumpkin cakes from his **cookbook.** That sounds like a good plan. Maybe things will work out for Zom this time?

Hey! There is a hole in the dirt. Where did that pumpkin go? Did pests take it before **sunrise?**

Skel comes **outside** to help, and Bones trots **nearby** with his nose on the ground. 'Bones will sniff out the thief,' says Skel. Bones sneezes, then sits down and scratches his ear. Not one **footprint**, not one clue.

The next day, two more pumpkins were gone. They were nearly ripe, and Zom had hoped for pumpkin cakes for **breakfast.** What a **setback!**

Zom told Skel that he had a plan. He would stay up all night and catch this pumpkin thief. Skel said that he would keep watch from the **doorway.** They both wanted to find out who took the pumpkins.

Zom wanted to
stay up all night.
He wanted to
watch his pumpkins
until **sunrise,** but
he grew tired and
could not last.

When Zom woke at **sunrise** in the pumpkin patch, he found there was just one pumpkin left. He did not see how that could be. Had they grown legs and run off?

At **nightfall,** Zom and Skel took shifts to watch the last pumpkin. They did not want to lose this one like they had with the rest of the patch.

One night, the pumpkin spun and shook in the dirt! Was a beast taking the pumpkins under the ground? A mole? A big **earthworm?**

No! In the **moonlight,** the pumpkin stood up! It had spooky eyes and a big mouth. It had arms and legs as well. He said that his name was Jack.

Jack came **inside** to warm up by the fire. Zom and Skel were glad to have him in their **household.** There would be no pumpkin cakes, but there was a new pal.

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The Pumpkin Patch

Zom adores his pumpkin patch more than anything - he waters the pumpkins, sings to them, and dreams of baking the most incredible pumpkin cakes ever. But one morning, a pumpkin is gone. Then two more vanish without a trace! Who - or what - is stealing from Zom's patch under cover of darkness? Can he stay awake long enough to catch the sneaky thief? This decodable reader practices compound words such as 'backyard,' 'sunrise,' 'nightfall,' and 'moonlight.'

Reading Skills: Compound

backyard, breakfast, cookbook, doorway, earthworm, fireplace, footprint, household, inside, moonlight, nearby, nightfall, outside, setback, sunrise

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