

Who Is the Pumpkin Crook?



Zom is in his
pumpkin patch. He is
keen on his pumpkins.

Each day he checks
them in the **dew**.

'Grow big for me,' he
says.





The pumpkins grow
and grow. Now
they are so big!

'Skel! Big **news!**
yells Zom. 'I can
bake grand cakes
with this crop!'

The next day, Zom checks his patch.
One pumpkin is not there!

The vine is snapped and **askew**. 'A crook did this!' says Zom.





Skel and Bones
come to help.
Now they are a
crew. Bones
sniffs at the
ground. But there
is no clue at all.

The next day,
fewer pumpkins
sit in the patch.
'Fewer and fewer!'
yells Zom. 'No
crook steals from
my patch!'





That night, Zom has
a **new** plan.

'I can hide in the
patch and wait,' he
says. 'Then I can nab
that crook.'

'Do not doze off,'
says Skel.

Zom sits in the
patch. The night is
dark and **dewy**.

He waits and waits,
but no crook comes.
His lids droop, and
Zom starts to doze.





The sun comes up,
and Zom wakes.

He scans the
patch. Just one
pumpkin is left! 'Oh
no,' says Zom.

'This is grim **news.**'

Skel sits by the last pumpkin, and Zom stands with him. 'We keep watch, day and night,' says Zom. 'With the seeds from this one, I can start **anew**. This pumpkin is my last hope.'





At midnight, the
pumpkin starts to
shake. It spins and
spews up dirt! Dirt
and leaves are
strewn all around.
Bones yaps at it.
'Look!' yells Zom.

Pop! Up comes the pumpkin. It
has legs and arms, and its face
glows!

'Hello! My name is Jack,' it says.

'Well, this is **new**,' says Skel.



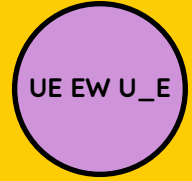


Jack stays at the farm.

Zom has a **newfound** pal.

'No cakes for me,' says Zom, 'but a **new** pal is best.' Jack glows in the home at night.

But out in the dark, a **few** pumpkins still roam.



Who Is the Pumpkin Crook?

Zom loves his pumpkin patch more than anything, and this year the pumpkins have grown enormous. But one morning a pumpkin is simply gone, with no footprint, no fur, and not one clue left behind. Who could be stealing pumpkins from right under his nose? Written for Jolly Phonics classrooms (Step 2, Unit 12: ue, ew, u_e as in glue, new, cube), this book practices words like 'crew', 'dew', 'clue', 'fewer', 'news'.

Phonics Focus: <ue> <ew> <u_e>

anew, askew, clue, crew, dew, dewy, few, fewer, new, newfound, news, spews, strewn

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