A relaxed Halloween puzzle-and-talk gathering

Combine an easy printable word search, partner clues and a shared closing question for a small family gathering.

25 minutes | 2-6 participants; pairs welcome

Who this is for

Mixed readers with adult support. Participants recognize some Halloween words. The host checks whether the theme is comfortable for the group.

Prepare

One easy Halloween puzzle per person or pair, pencils and the clue sheet. Keep the puzzle answer page with the host.

1. Welcome and choose | 4 minutes

Read the word bank together. Offer the short-a or plant activity if a participant prefers another theme. Pair a confident reader with someone who wants support.

2. Find without racing | 8 minutes

Circle words across or down in the easy puzzle. Partners take turns: one finds, the other reads. Participants may ask for a starting-letter hint.

3. Give a clue | 8 minutes

Choose a word from the bank and describe it without saying it. A partner guesses and explains the clue that helped. Use the recording sheet for two clues.

4. Share and close | 5 minutes

Invite each pair to share one clue, then choose a favourite word or a different theme for next time. Finish at the agreed time even if the grid is incomplete.

Questions, options and checking

What this practises

Share clues, take turns, and use seasonal words in conversation

Questions to ask

Which clue helped without giving away the whole word? / How did you make space for your partner's turn? / Which theme would we choose for another gathering?

Offer more support

Use the easy puzzle, read aloud, or play the clue game from the word list without a letter grid. Participation is optional.

Extend the activity

Try the medium puzzle on the linked resource page only if the group wants diagonal searching; it is not a test of reading ability.

Answers and checking

Clue answers depend on the chosen words. Use the exact answer page in the downloaded puzzle PDF to check placements. Accept sensible clues and ask the speaker to explain their choice.

Limits and care

A seasonal puzzle is an optional group activity, not a full lesson or an assessment. Print only the puzzle page for players and keep its exact answer page for checking.

Open the guide and tool

https://handydaytools.com/blog/family-halloween/

https://wordsearch.handydaytools.com/?puzzle=halloween-easy#maker

Print page 3 for participants. Keep pages 1-2 with the adult. Download the separate sample game or puzzle from the guide when listed.

Free for personal, classroom and free community activities. Please do not resell or rehost our original files. Full terms: handydaytools.com/use/

Two clues to share

Name (optional): _____ Date: _____

Word 1 (keep hidden from your partner):

My clue for word 1:

Word 2 (keep hidden from your partner):

My clue for word 2:

A theme we could try next time: