



# SPOOKLEY THE SQUARE PUMPKIN, THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL ACTIVITY KIT



## EDUCATORS, PARENTS, AND CAREGIVERS

Use this activity kit, along with the book *Spookley the Square Pumpkin, the First Day of School*, to celebrate the new school year! Children will learn to identify and manage the emotions that come with this exciting time.

# Let's Talk

Read *Spookley the Square Pumpkin, the First Day of School* by Joe Troiano and discuss its themes.

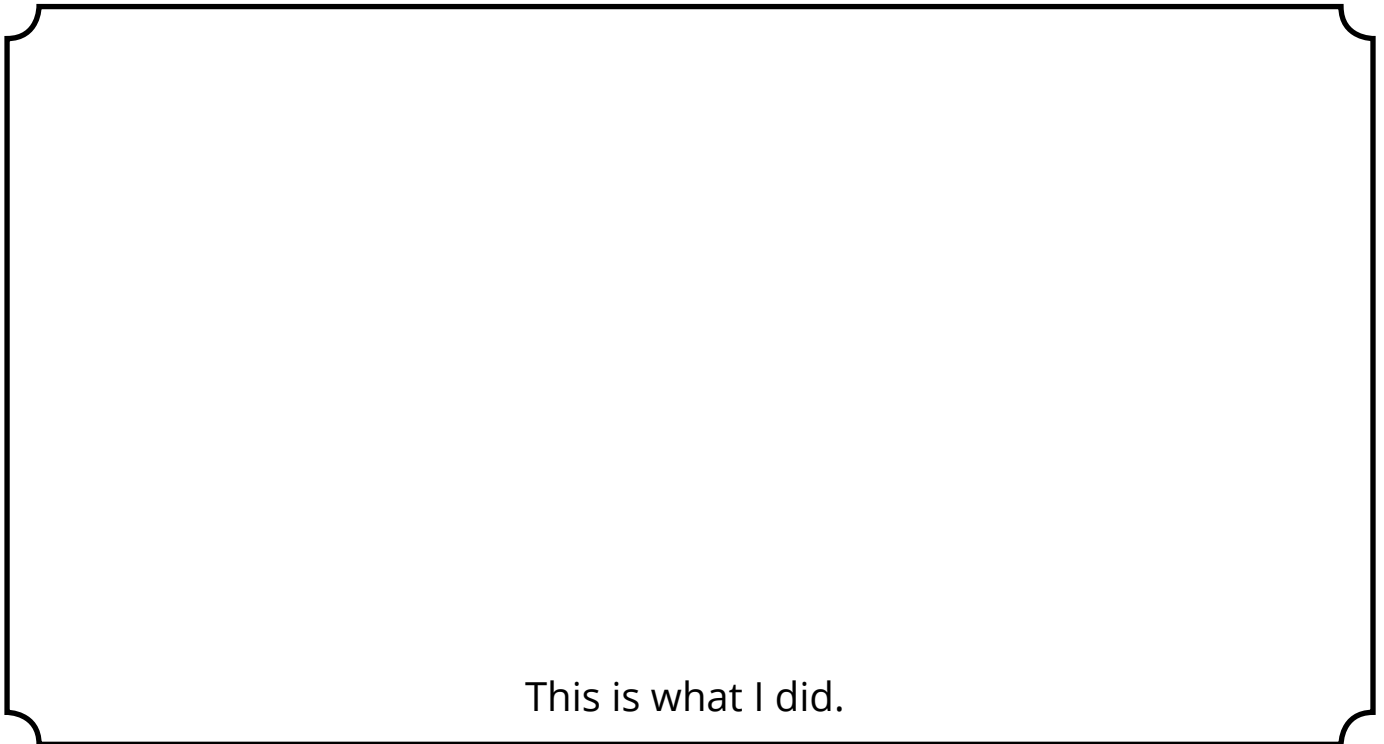
QUESTIONS	KEY THEMES AND OBJECTIVES
How does Spookley feel in the morning on his first day of school?	He is excited and nervous, scared and glad. <i>Guide children to understand that people can have many feelings at one time—sometimes even feelings that seem like opposites, such as happy and sad.</i>
How do we know how Spookley is feeling?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He tells Jack how he is feeling. <i>Encourage children to talk about their feelings.</i></li> <li>• He looks worried in the illustrations. <i>Encourage children to look for clues in illustrations.</i></li> </ul>
Why does Spookley hide during his first lesson? What do Spookley's classmates do when they see him glow?	He does not know "if the glow he is glowing is right" and he thinks the other pumpkins will tease him. <i>Help children feel comfortable being themselves in a new environment.</i>
At the end of the book Spookley feels excited about school. What has he discovered makes it so fun?	Spookley has discovered that friends make learning fun! <i>Introduce the value of creating a caring classroom community.</i>

## Ideas for teamwork

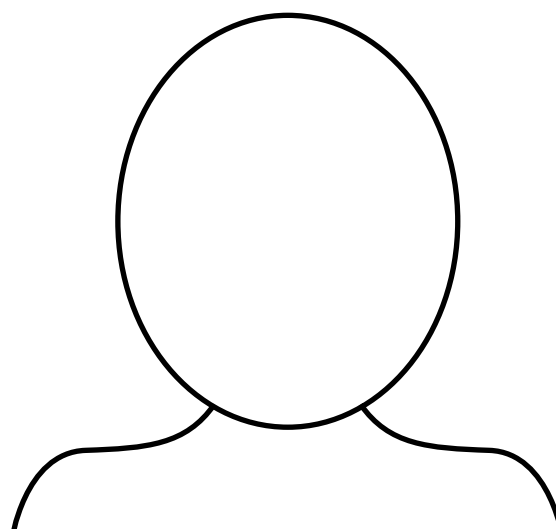
1. Spookley feels many different emotions on the first day of school. Gather in a circle. The teacher introduces an emotion word from the book and describes what it means: excited, nervous, scared, glad. Ask the children to raise their hands if they have ever felt that way. Can anyone think of other emotions?
2. Spookley and his classmates play with peas at recess, throwing them in fun and different ways; they throw high, low, fast, slow, and Mistletoe even uses his tail! Use a small, soft ball to play catch while seated on a rug or outdoors. Try different kinds of passing.
3. Spookley discovers that learning with your friends can be lots of fun. Split the children into pairs; have them talk together to find a similarity, then they can tell the class what they have in common. (favorite color, pets, feelings, etc.)

# Storytelling

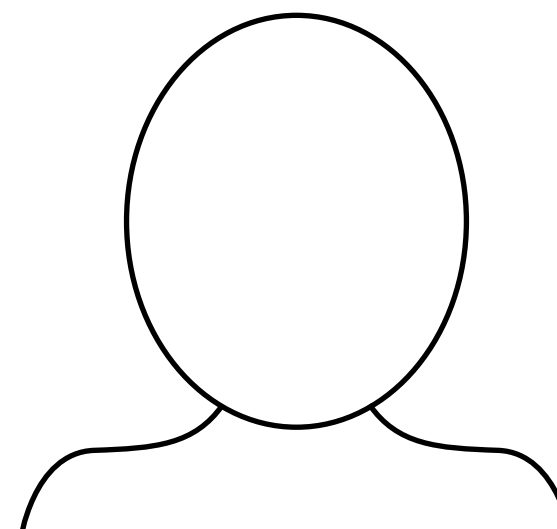
The author of *Spookley the Square Pumpkin The First Day of School* got the idea for his book from his son's first day of school. His son felt worried before school and happy afterwards. Have you ever felt one way before doing something and a different way after? Draw your story! (And if you can't think of a story, it's OK. Make one up!)



This is what I did.



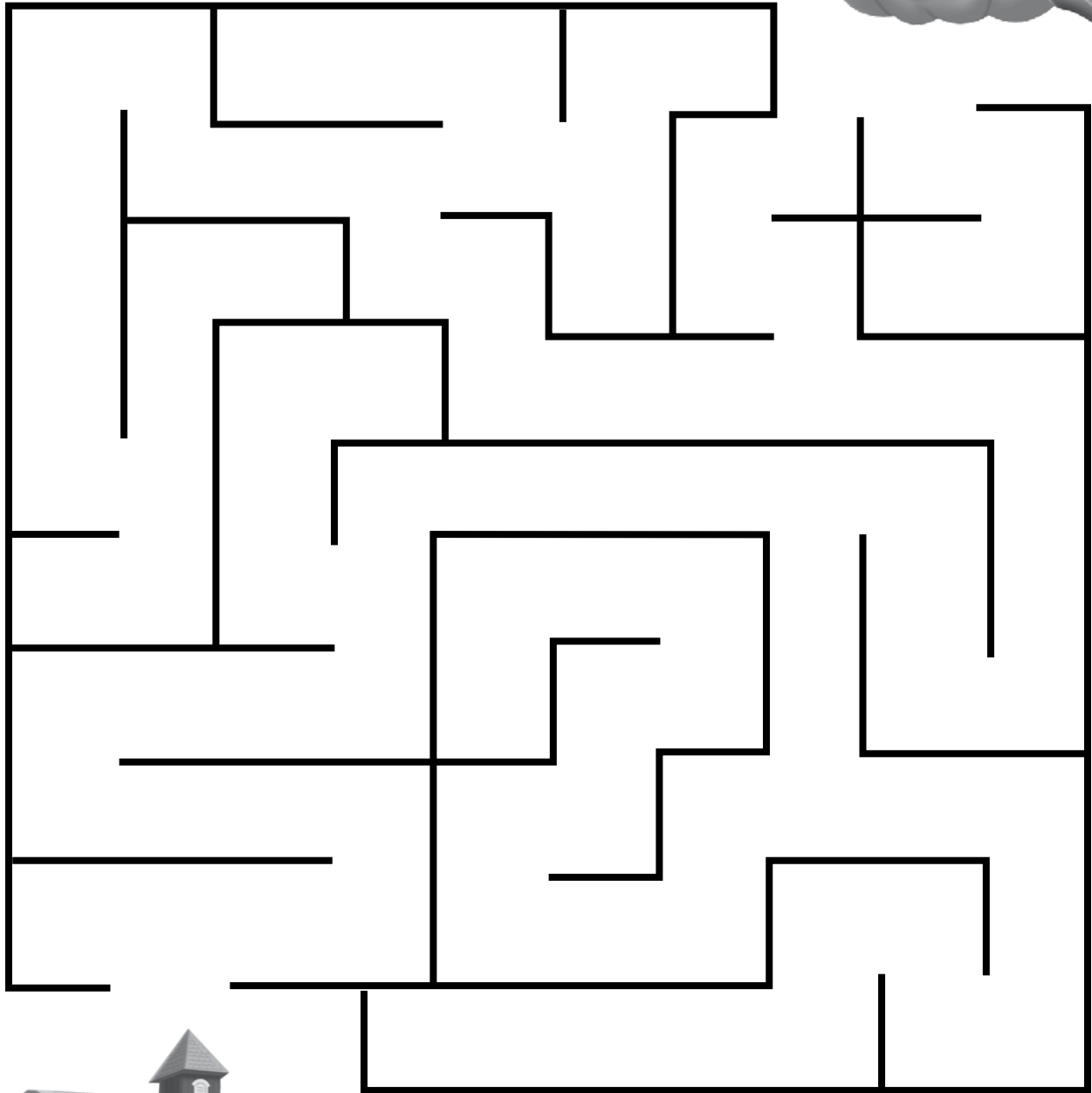
I felt like this before.



I felt like this after.

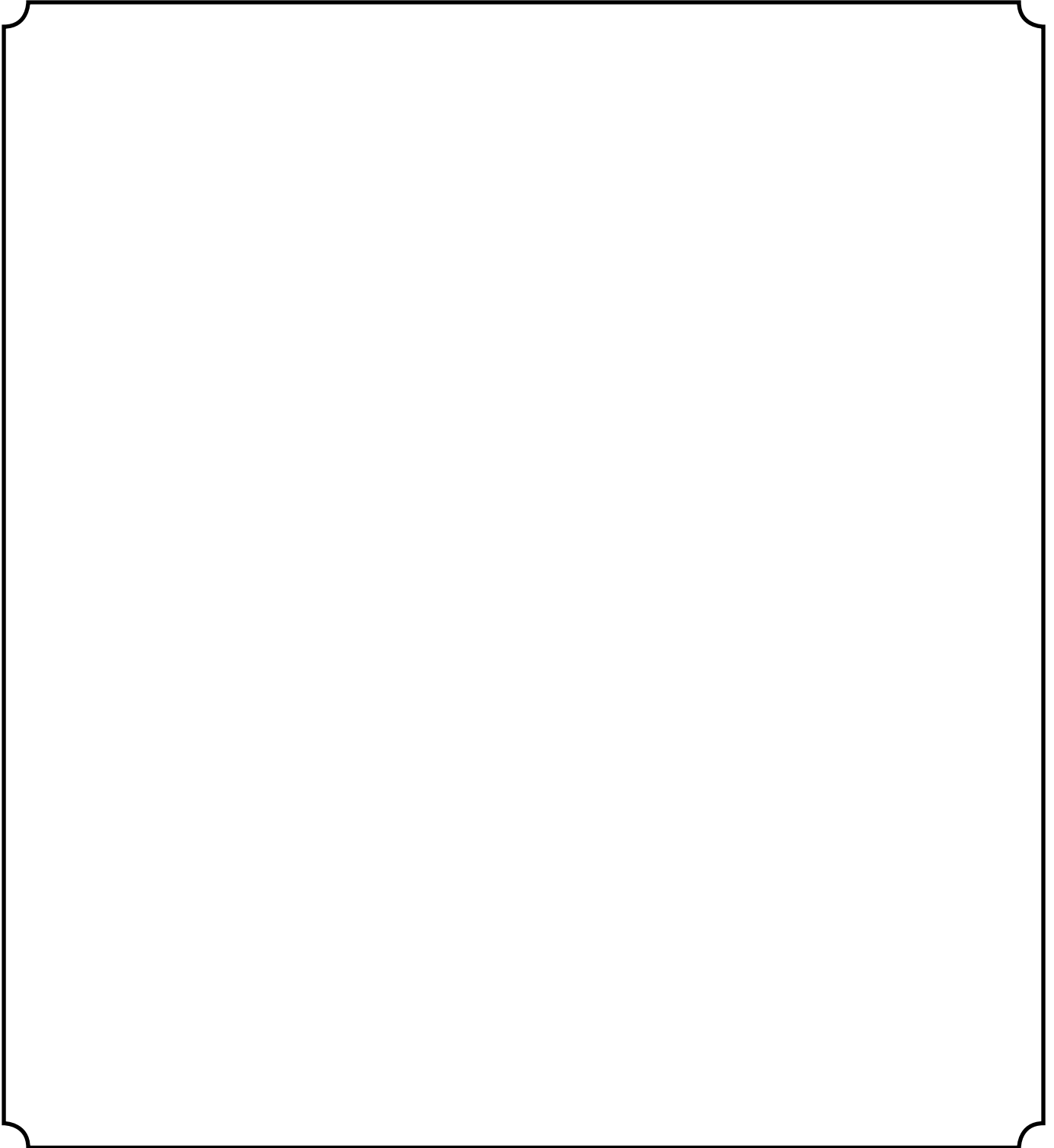
# Getting to Your Classroom

Jack helps Spookley find his way to the classroom. Now it's your turn to help Spookley find his way through the maze.



# Sharing is Fun

In the story, Spookley shares his favorite book with his friends. Please draw a picture of something you have that you could share with your classmates to make them happy.



# SPOOKLEY THE SQUARE PUMPKIN™



Every Day is a Holiday™

**Today I am celebrating** \_\_\_\_\_

