Why Do We Dress Up on Halloween?

Background reading · National Geographic Readers Level 2 Halloween

1 Long Ago

Long ago, people lived in cold places. Winter was long. Food was hard to find.

October 31 was the last day of fall. People were **scared**. They thought ghosts came back that night.

2 Three Plans

So they made three **plans**.

1. They put on scary clothes. Then the ghosts would think, “They are ghosts, too.”

2. They made a big fire. Fire keeps bad things **away**.

3. They put food outside. The ghosts ate the food and went away.

3 Turnips, Not Pumpkins

Long ago, people **carved turnips**. Turnips are small.

Later, they went to America. Pumpkins are big. Pumpkins are easy to carve.

So now we carve pumpkins.

4 Today

We **still** do these three things. We wear costumes. We make lights. We give candy.

That is why we say, “Trick or treat!”

5 The Same Day, Two Ways

In Mexico, people have a day too. It is called **Day of the Dead**.

They do not run from the dead. They **invite** them.

Families clean the **graves**. They bring flowers and food. They eat **skull** candy.

IRELAND · long ago	MEXICO · today
“Go away.”	**“Come and eat.”**

Same day. Two different ideas.

6 Four Long Words

ancient = very, very old. **tradition** = something a family does again and again. **honor** = to show you still remember someone. **patch** = a small piece of land where plants grow.

拦路词（家长用 · 先读一遍再开始，只读不考）

scared 害怕的 · **plans** 办法；计划 · **away** （走）开 · **carved** 刻 · **turnips** 萝卜 · **still** 仍然 · **invite** 邀请 · **graves** 坟墓

正文 210 词。与书对应：第 2 段→p12 · 第 3 段→p7 · 第 4 段→p4 · 第 5 段→p14 · 第 6 段→p16。第 1 段（冬天/食物难找）是我加的通俗化铺垫，书里没有；Samhain / Celtic / 罗马人 / 教皇 / Jack 传说为简化省略。