

# LITERARY PUMPKIN

**DUE DATE AND LITERARY PUMPKIN NIGHT: OCTOBER 29<sup>TH</sup>**

## DIRECTIONS FOR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL



Each year, in late October, the entire CSP student body participates in Literary Pumpkin Night. Students, both middle and high school, write about their favorite book and create a Literary Pumpkin that visually depicts some aspect of the novel.

Our CSP families come to Literary Pumpkin Night in the gym to view hundreds of pumpkins and cast their vote for their favorite, enter contests, and peruse the Scholastic Book Fair. This year, we are adding a few additional activities in which CSP students and younger siblings can participate.

**Completing the assignment is a requirement and an English/Language Arts grade for both middle and high school students.**

**Written Component:** (Assessment Category) 20 pts

**Project Component:** (2 Assessment Category) 20 pts  
= 40 total points

Please make sure you read the correct directions for your grade level.

**DUE DATE and Literary Pumpkin Night:  
OCTOBER 29<sup>th</sup>**

## WRITTEN COMPONENT

### REQUIRED FOR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

Choose **one** of the following options for your written component of the Literary Pumpkin.

#### *Writing Options*

1. Imagine what the novel would be like from a different character's point of view. Consider how it would be different from the story you read. Rewrite one of the scenes in the novel from a different character's point of view.
2. Write a narrative in which you continue the story. Your narrative should be a believable continuation of the events, and it should clearly reflect the characterization and setting in the novel.
3. Write an analysis of how one aspect of the story impacts another (i.e. How the setting of the story shapes the characters or how the characters shape the plot.)
4. Compose an argument in which you advocate for your book being included in the AACPS curriculum. Be sure to include rhetorical strategies and choices to solidify your argument.



## MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECT DIRECTIONS

*Middle school students must complete the Literary Pumpkin.*

- **Create a Literary Pumpkin** based on the novel you wrote about in your *Written Component*.
  - You can carve, paint, or decorate your pumpkin to visually demonstrate the character(s), theme, setting, or plot of the novel.
  - You may use battery operated lights if necessary (no plugs will be available and candles are prohibited)
  - *You will need to bring your pumpkin to school on the day of our **Literary Pumpkin Night** therefore, make sure you are able to carry it by yourself.*
- **Create a Symbolic Character Sketch**
  - Create a model or representation of your character where you turn them in to a magical/fairytale/legendary creature. Think unicorns, wizards, werewolves, ghosts, witches, vampires, etc. Include, in some way, reasons why this character would be this type of creature based on their character traits and experiences in your chosen book (For example: I might create Ron from Harry Potter as a goblin because he always feels “small” in comparison to his friends and siblings.).

## HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT DIRECTIONS

*High school students have a choice of **one** of the following Fall Literary Projects:*

- **Create a Literary Pumpkin or a Symbolic Character Sketch** based on the novel you wrote about in your *Written Component* (follow the directions above)
- **Create a scarecrow** that represents one of the characters in the novel. Dress the scarecrow in time-period appropriate attire, embellish him/her with items with which the character is associated (for example, if he/she is a writer- he could have a pen and paper), and list additional character traits on the scarecrow itself (paint, pin, or staple words on his/her clothing). *This is a good option if you wrote your narrative from the perspective of another character.*
- **Create a self-standing Tombstone** with an epitaph and biographical information that describes either a character or the author of the novel. The Tombstone must be at least 18 inches tall by 12 inches wide but can be larger. The epitaph must figuratively describe one of the major character traits of the character or author. The biographical information of a character should highlight the character’s traits, the novel’s setting, and plot. The biographical information for the author should be accurate information but can also be tied to the novel.
- **Create a 3D representation of a symbol/motif/theme from the novel.** The 3D representation can be made from various materials such as clay, wood, paper mâché, Legos, styrofoam, other and/or any combination. This is an opportunity to artistically represent what could be an abstract concept in a concrete way. If you are unsure if your topic or medium is appropriate, run it by your teacher first.