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Pumpkins and Apples



Genre	Comprehension Skills and Strategy
Animal fantasy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Character, Setting, Plot• Realism and Fantasy• Story Structure

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by Gregory Grissom
illustrated by Ginna Magee





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Squirrel sat in his tree. He looked at all his apples. He scowled.

“I am sick of apples,” said Squirrel. “I am sick of nuts. I want something new. I want to eat a pumpkin!”



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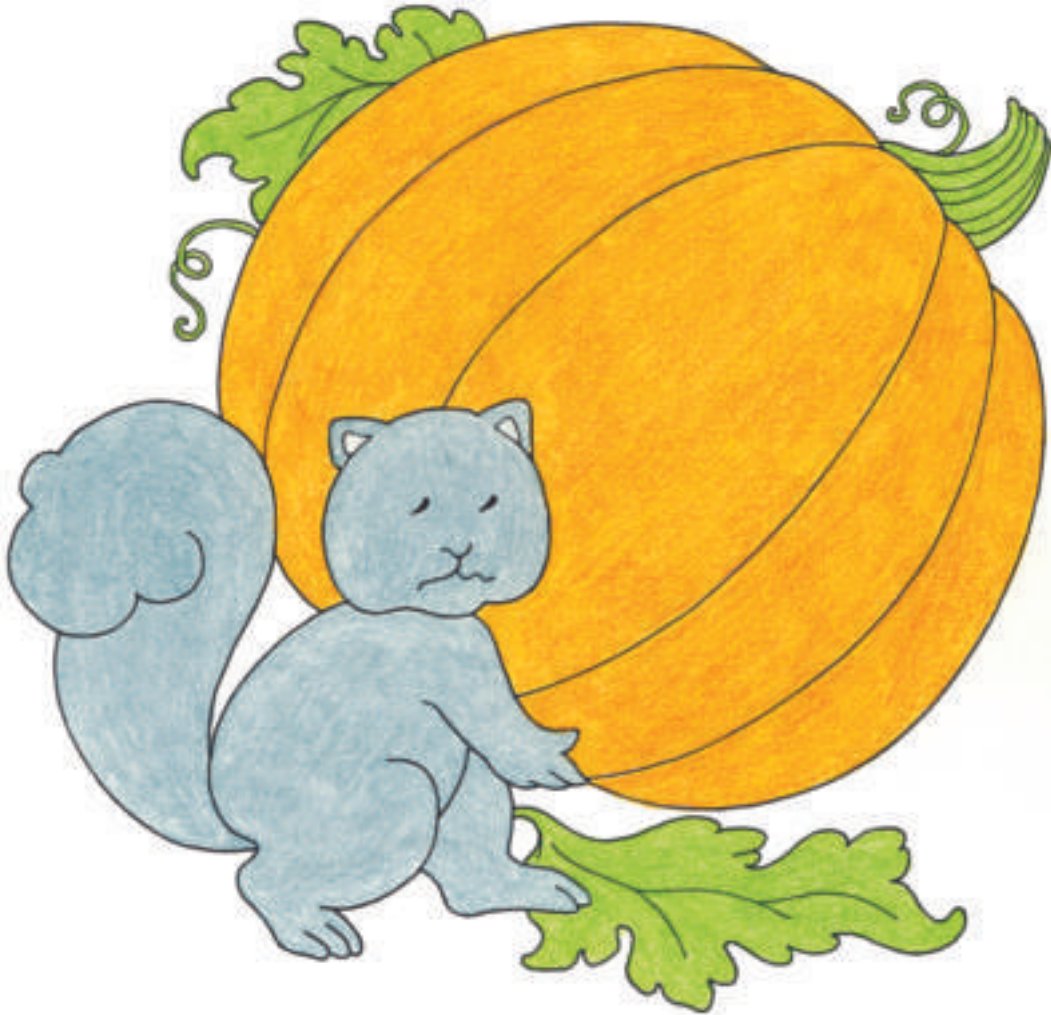
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 Squirrel did not have a pumpkin, but he knew where to find one.

Squirrel lived near a farmer who had a pumpkin patch. Farmers never like squirrels in their pumpkin patches. Squirrel would have to make sure the farmer did not see him.



 Squirrel went to the farmer's garden. He sneaked behind a big pumpkin. He looked around. He did not see anyone. It was safe to take the pumpkin.





Squirrel tried lifting the pumpkin.
It didn't move.

Then he tried pushing the pumpkin.
It still didn't move.

Squirrel even tried pulling the
pumpkin. Nothing worked. Squirrel
could not move that pumpkin.



Squirrel was tired. He needed a rest.
He lay down and closed his eyes.

Suddenly, he heard a loud noise. It
sounded like this: "SNUFFLE!"

Squirrel opened his eyes. Was it the
farmer?





Squirrel peeked around the pumpkin. It was not the farmer. It was a big brown bear.

"Greetings, Bear," said Squirrel. "You look very strong. Will you help me with this pumpkin?"




"I do not like pumpkins," said Bear.

"Oh? What do you like?" said Squirrel in a worried voice. "Squirrels?"


"Squirrels are not bad, but apples are my favorite," said Bear.

"Well," Squirrel said. "If you help me, I will give you lots of apples."



 Lots of apples sounded good to Bear. So Bear pushed the pumpkin along. She pushed it toward the grass. She pushed it toward the trees. She pushed it all the way to Squirrel's apple tree!



 Bear hid the pumpkin behind the tree for Squirrel. Then Squirrel dug in! "Yum, yum," said Squirrel. Bear started eating. "Yum, yum," said Bear. What a day for Squirrel and Bear!





What Do They Eat?

Read Together

Did you know that some squirrels like pumpkins? Did you know that some bears like fruit?

Squirrels like to eat nuts, seeds, grains, vegetables, and fruit. Pumpkins are tasty, and they are full of yummy seeds! If a squirrel is hungry, it will eat almost any kind of food.

Bears eat both meat and plants. Bears sometimes hunt young deer, elk, or moose. Bears also like to eat berries and grass. Sometimes bears even climb trees to get fruit. Bears eat honey too!

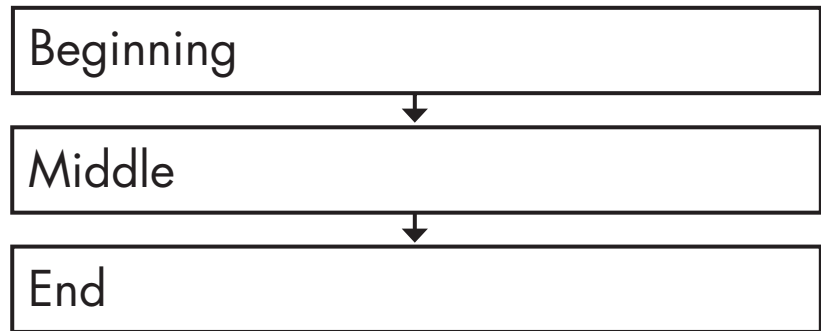
And yes, most bears eat squirrels! In real life, Bear and Squirrel would not be friends.



Think and Share

Read Together

1. Who are the characters in this story? Where does the story take place?
2. Think about what happened in this story. Use a chart like the one below to tell the plot of this story in the order it happened.



3. Find the word *scowled* on page 3. Draw a picture of a face to show what *scowled* means.
4. Squirrel likes pumpkins best. Bear likes apples. What vegetables and fruits do you like best?

