



## It's Halloween

*Jack Prelutsky , Marilyn Hafner (Illustrator)*

Download now

Read Online [➔](#)

# It's Halloween

*Jack Prelutsky , Marylin Hafner (Illustrator)*

**It's Halloween** Jack Prelutsky , Marylin Hafner (Illustrator)

Thirteen poems to spice up the holiday that ghouls and ghosts love most. "Prelutsky's Nightmares tamed for beginning readers. They're catchy at the most rudimentary level."--Kirkus Reviews.

## It's Halloween Details

Date : Published September 20th 1996 by Greenwillow Books (first published August 1st 1977)

ISBN : 9780688147334

Author : Jack Prelutsky , Marylin Hafner (Illustrator)

Format : Paperback 56 pages

Genre : Poetry, Holiday, Halloween, Childrens

 [Download It's Halloween ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online It's Halloween ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online It's Halloween Jack Prelutsky , Marylin Hafner (Illustrator)**

---

## From Reader Review *It's Halloween* for online ebook

### Daniel C Burke says

A delightful collection of poetry and drawings on the joys of halloween - some of which I'm afraid have withered in the more modern era but can be a fun nostalgic romp for the 30 somethings.

---

### Stacy Fetters says

This brings back fantastic spooky memories of me as a little snot who loved being scared. Thirteen poems that are so spooky that you'll wet your pants..... too late!!

---

### Volkert says

Children's poems from a kid's perspective on Halloween. They are cute, but a little too "Halloweenish" for my taste, although a few might make good songs.

---

### Josiah says

No one writes fun poetry quite like Jack Prelutsky, and his holiday collections are among his most enjoyable. After the otherworldly job Arnold Lobel did illustrating Prelutsky's *Nightmares: Poems to Trouble Your Sleep*, Marylin Hafner had a lot to live up to in *It's Halloween*, and she performs admirably, stirring the poet's words to compelling visual life. The childhood excitement of the season is palpable in these thirteen poems (I wonder if that number was chosen deliberately) as we explore the major and mild frights of October 31.

"It's Halloween! It's Halloween!  
The moon is full and bright  
And we shall see what can't be seen  
On any other night"

—*It's Halloween*, P. 7

The title poem starts us off with a lyrical overview of Halloween's delightfully atmospheric thrills. The night's unique ambience is part of why trick-or-treating is such fun. *The Skeleton Parade* is next, all clacking, clinking bones as a troupe of skeletons walks out in the open as they cannot do on any other day. We then read *The Tricksters*, a ballad of three clever kids dressed as a witch, a skeleton, and a ghost, who love Halloween for the opportunities it presents to play minor tricks on others. The story is enhanced by Marylin Hafner's evocative renderings of Halloween night. *Pumpkin* follows three kids who buy a pumpkin, take it home, and carve it into a grinning jack-o'-lantern illuminated by a candle within. Designing a creative jack-o'-lantern is one sure way to get into the spooky spirit of the holiday. *Countdown* builds to a jump scare as a girl holding her cat keeps track of where all the ghosts in the house are, including one sneaking up behind

her... *Countdown* is reminiscent of a lot of scary American folklore. In *Trick...*, a group of kids who approach a house in costume to collect candy are chased away by the mean couple who live there. The kids exact payback with a few traditional pranks—soaping the windows and chalking their door—and maybe the couple will think twice about being rude next Halloween.

"There's a goblin as green  
As a goblin can be  
Who is sitting outside  
And is waiting for me.  
When he knocked on my door  
And said softly, "Come play!"  
I answered, "No thank you,  
Now please, go away!"  
But the goblin as green  
As a goblin can be  
Is still sitting outside  
And is waiting for me."

—*The Goblin*, PP. 33-35

*The Goblin* is the eeriest, most unsettling selection from this book, and the illustrations account for a lot of that. The kid feels pursued by the goblin without the horned creature moving an inch from its perch in the tree outside his window. The kid rebuffs the goblin's soft-spoken invitation to come out and play, but the beast just sits and stares in response, waiting. Goblins will wait as long as necessary to catch us if we wander outside without regard for the danger they pose, and this poem reminds us of that. It's a highly effective piece. ...*or Treat* isn't a direct continuation of *Trick...*, the poem before *The Goblin*. It's a goodnatured verse about trick-or-treating door-to-door, promising to pull pranks if the people inside don't come through with candy. All in good fun. *Bobbing for Apples* frames a kid's frustrating lack of success in the title game, even as the kid's sister has no problem fishing an apple out of the water using only her teeth. It *is* a challenging game, and some take to it better than others. *Haunted House* is another atmospheric poem, about a house on a hill that every kid knows is inhabited by goblins, ghosts, and witches. The monsters congregate inside for their own holiday celebration on October 31, and kids know better to join them if invited. Nothing good happens at a gathering of ghoulish fiends. *Black Cat* shows a stealthy feline pattering around after dark, and a boy who sees it and runs away. He needn't court bad luck by getting too close. *Ghost* is a fun scare shared by a pair of friends, and *Happy Halloween* brings the collection to an end with the same trio from *The Tricksters* as they return home after a night of trick-or-treating, feeling full and satisfied and ready to fall asleep and dream of their happy Halloween. It's a nice final poem.

There are numerous good selections here, but *The Goblin* is best of the lot, a scary little verse with some depth. When a goblin appears at your window and asks you to play, will you agree to its request? Refusal doesn't mean you're safe forever. The monster will always be there waiting if your resolve wavers and you decide to dabble in its forbidden games. Jack Prelutsky is a reliably thoughtful writer, and *The Goblin* is his most intriguing poem in this book. *It's Halloween* is an entertaining collection that I'd rate two and a half stars, and Prelutsky's fans won't be disappointed. Few do juvenile poetry better than he.

---

**Cera Williams says**

This is one of my FAVORITE books ever!!!!!! I could not remember what it was called or who wrote it, but I finally found it again! I memorized this book and it came with a tape. I am definitely going to buy this again!!!!!!

---

### **Jana says**

With fun, rhyming text and kid-friendly, colorful illustrations, this book of Halloween poems would be a lot of fun to share with young readers. The book includes poems about pumpkins, trick-or-treating, ghosts, goblins, and witches. But the poems are not too scary for sensitive children. They might even help inspire some seasonal poems among young writers. This book would be great to include in poetry collections in elementary classroom libraries.

---

### **Christine says**

This is a really fun collection of Halloween poems for kids! This has been one of my favorites so far of Prelutsky's holiday collections I've read and I really love Marilyn Hafner's artwork. What a great \$1 find at a used book sale!

---

### **Tara says**

I memorized a poem from this book for a competition in 2nd grade. 23 years later I can still recite it. I loved this book as a child and still do as an adult. My siblings and I all fought over who would get my parents' copy only to find out that my Mom wasn't going to part with it. So, I bought my own. Jack Prelutsky speaks to children in a completely magical (and mystical to adults) way. You will love any of his collections.

---

### **Kimz Zahour says**

The cover is torn off, the pages are crinkled... some artwork has been added and it's still one of my family's favorite books. It's a great collection of poems for children. If you can't find it... I could probably recite it for you. ;)

---

### **Carolyn says**

.

---