

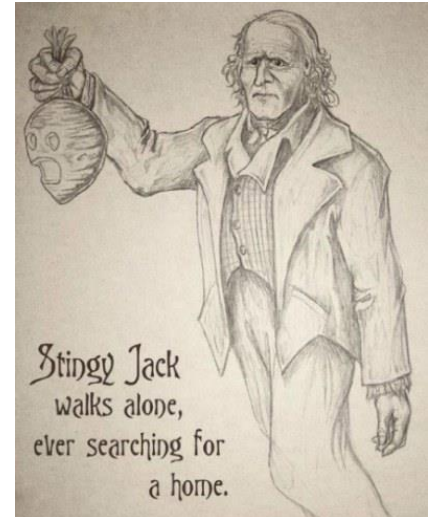


Jack of the Lantern
Morning Speech #9
By Sophie



Good morning! It's the spooky month. That's right, it's Halloween! Although Australia doesn't have many Halloween traditions, I was lucky to experience Halloween in America one year when I was about 14 years old. I got to experience all the typical Halloween traditions like trick or treat, dressing up in costume and decorating the house with Halloween decorations, but one tradition I really enjoyed was pumpkin carving.

Pumpkin carving has become a long tradition for Halloween and serves as a symbol for autumn in many countries, but where did the carving of pumpkins come from? Well, it comes from Celtic traditions (アイルランドの伝統). There is a folktale (民話) that says an Irish man named Jack invited the Devil to come drink with him. Jack, also known as Stingy Jack, was known for not wanting to pay for things, so he tricked the Devil into paying for the drinks. Because of that, the Devil cursed Jack, so when Jack died, he couldn't move on into the afterlife (死後の世界). In other words, his spirit continued to walk the earth even after death. All Jack had was a single flame to guide him in the night. So Jack took the flame and placed it in an empty turnip (カブ). From then, people started to call him 'Jack of the Lantern' or 'Jack-o-Lantern' for short. The Irish started to carve various vegetables like turnips and potatoes, placing a candle inside to keep Jack-o-Lantern away, but welcomed good spirits. In the 1800s, many Irish people immigrated to America and took the tradition with them. Eventually it became popular just to use pumpkins, as pumpkins grew very well in America but not in Ireland, and so the tradition of pumpkin carving remains.



On Halloween, try to spare a thought for Stingy Jack walking through the night.

Please choose the correct answer:

1) What kind of Halloween traditions did Sophie try? A) Trick or treat B) Halloween costumes C) Pumpkin carving D) All the above.	2) Where did the tradition pumpkin carving originate? A) Australia B) Ireland C) Around the world D) United States of America
3) Who is Jack in the story? A) An Irish man B) A famous man named Jack C) The man that paid a price for tricking the Devil D) Any man who carries a lantern	4) What was the original vegetable used for Jack's lantern? A) A turnip B) A pumpkin C) An apple D) A root vegetable

