

HALLOWEEN



Trick or treat – these words have become something quite normal on 31th of October for the inhabitants of the United States, Canada, Ireland as well as Great Britain. Yes, you're right, I mean Halloween. The name originates from All-Hollows-Eve, which was the day before the Christian All Saints' Day. All-Hollows-Eve, the evening before All Hallows, was widely believed to be the time when witches, demons and spirits were at their most active. Nowadays in Great Britain Halloween is the second festival in respect of popularity. Children walk from door to door with bags or boxes in search of candies. If you don't give them any sweets, better be careful,

you can fall prey to a cruel trick! Some adults try to promote health even on this day – for the sake of healthy teeth and lack of dental caries they give them apples, pears or carrots!

On 31th of October every house is decorated with paper bats, zombies, black cats, spiders, vampires or Jack-o'-lanterns. To prepare Jack-o'-lantern you have to take out the inside of a pumpkin and cut holes for eyes, a nose and a mouth and then put a candle inside. Legend has it that ghosts make the flame of the candle flicker, so watch out!



One of the traditions is apple bobbing. You could have played it yourself – you have to pick the apple from a bowl of water with your mouth only. Another tradition is jumping over 12 candles which symbolise 12 months of the next year. Candles which don't go off mean happy months.

While children go knocking at their neighbours' doors, adults throw par-

ties or prepare so-called scary



farms with the scenes of the most popular horror movies. You can find almost all things there: scary masks, frightening make-up, strange horror tools like saws, knives or scythes and everything covered with false blood! Not to mention fortune-telling: crystal-ball gazing or something else like divination cards is very common here.

How about you? Are you taking part in a Halloween party this year?

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GLOSSARY: [SŁOWNIK:]

inhabitants – mieszkańcy
 in respect of – pod względem
 Jack-o'-lanterns – lampion zrobiony z dyni
 legend has it – legenda głosi
 flicker – migotać
 watch out – uważaj
 fall prey – paść ofiarą



it is widely believed – powszechnie uważa się
 dental caries – próchnica zębów
 so-called – tak zwany
 fortune-telling – wróżenie
 crystal-ball gazing – przewidywanie przyszłości za pomocą kryształowej kuli
 saw – piła
 scythe – kosa



The fifth of November is the time when bonfires are lit and fireworks let off all over Britain to commemorate Guy Fawkes' failed attempt to blow up the Houses of Parliament. What led him to take that desperate step? When Elizabeth I died in 1603, James, the king of Scots reigned over England, because Elizabeth had no direct heir to the throne. English Catholics had had a hard time under the reign of Queen Elizabeth, so they hoped the new king would be more tolerant of their religion. However, despite his promises, James I remained intolerant of Catholicism. As the outcome, the Catholics

decided to kill the King. Since he was supposed to open the Parliament on November 5th, a group of Catholics started plotting to blow it up. They stored 36 barrels of gunpowder in the cellar under the House of Lords. However, some of the conspirators started to have doubts about the plot – it became obvious that some innocent people would be killed in the attack. As a result, one of the plotters sent an anonymous letter to his brother-in-law, telling him not to attend the opening of the Parliament. Somehow the anonymous warning letter reached the King and his forces managed to stop the plotters. One of them named Guy Fawkes was caught in the cellar with the gunpowder. He was tortured and finally executed.

Nowadays, the English celebrate Guy Fawkes Night with fireworks and bonfires. They throw big parties and make a big figure made of paper called

a Guy. Children carry the Guy around asking for 'a penny for the guy', which is later spent on fireworks. Even small children know a popular Bonfire Night rhyme:

*Remember, remember, the 5th of November
 The Gunpowder Treason and plot,
 I know of no reason why Gunpowder
 Treason
 Should ever be forgot!*

Glossary:

Gunpowder plot – spisek prochowy
 heir – spadkobierca
 attempt – próba
 reign – rządzić
 barrel – beczka
 obvious – oczywisty
 doubts – wątpliwości
 bonfire – ognisko

