

# The Dragon's Post

## Our Hamden Middle School Student Newspaper

Photo by: Donovan Kirkpatrick



Digital Art By: Tanael Ngomanseke

ISSUE 1 | OCTOBER 2023

Fall/Halloween Issue

HAMDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Happy Fall!

### Issue 1: Table of Contents

- Page 1 –** QR Code:  
View our Online Newspaper
- Page 2 —** Best Halloween Decor of the Year
- Page 3 –** Around Town: Spooky Decorations
- Page 4 –** NJHS Field Trip to Yale!
- Page 5 –** Halloween Comic
- Page 6-7 –** Here's How to Cheer Someone Up
- Page 8 –** Traditional Art
- Page 9-10 –** Fun Stuff
- Page 11-** Review Crew
- Page 12-** Spooky Recipes
- Page 13-** DIY Halloween Decor

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## Read The Dragon's Post... Now Online!!

The Dragon's Post is available to our readers online! Scan the QR code (left) to access our online newspaper.

*A HUGE shout out to our web designers: Riona Pais, Evana Pais & Chloe Butts*



# Best Halloween Decor of the Year

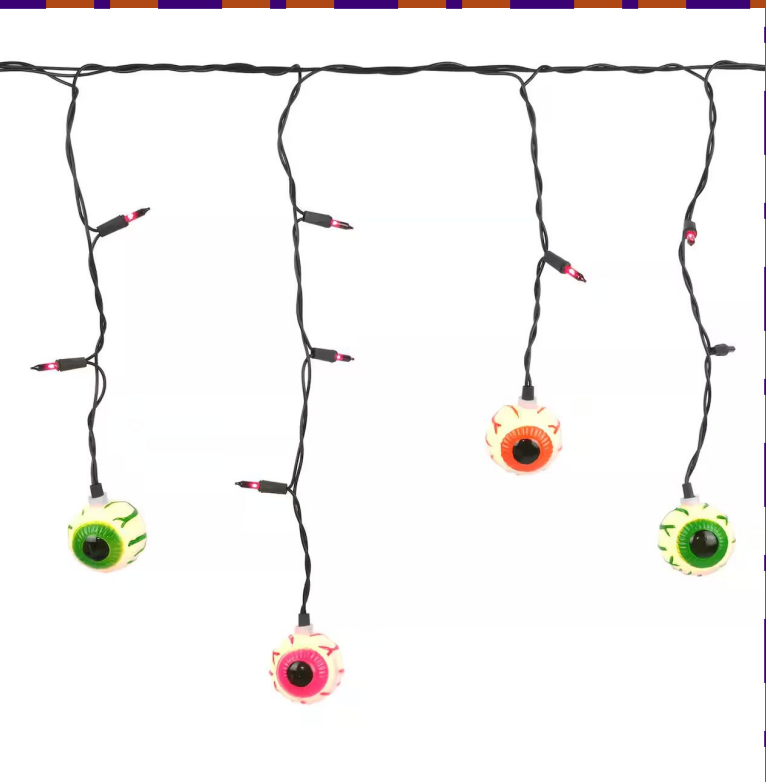
Annabelle Jefferson & Sadie Rocha Report

When hinges creak in doorless chambers, when strange and frightening sounds echo through the hall, you know it's time for Halloween! And decorations are all the rage this year. Here are my picks for the cheapest Halloween decor to make your yard spooky.



Want to have outside decor to scare the neighborhood? Well only at Target, this graveyard set is perfect for your macabre vibes!

14pc Pumpkin scene setter kit  
Hyde and Eek boutique \$14-\$20



Both indoor and outdoor, these eyeball lights are sure to catch everyone's eyes. 23ct eyeballs incandescent icicle lights  
Michaels \$8-\$20



These ghosts will make your front yard look un-BOO- lievable. Hang them up or put them in ground, either way will make all the other haunted houses shriek.

18pc ghost scene setter kit  
Hyde and Eek boutique \$14-\$20



Arachnophobes, WATCH OUT! This spider candy bowl is sure to make your skin crawl.

9" halloween metal spider bowl  
Joann's fabrics \$9-\$29



# AROUND TOWN: SPOOKY DECORATIONS

*The Dragon's Post* photographer Lia Dunford showcases pictures of some spooky decorations around Hamden.





# NJHS Field Trip To Yale!

Chloe Butts, Evana Pais, and Riona Pais Report

[Check Out More Pictures](#)



On The Way To Yale

This month, our fellow NJHS members went on a field trip to the Yale University campus in New Haven. We toured the whole campus and saw many unique things that shaped it into the place it is today. We learned about the exciting history of Yale, like how the "Yalies" believed that if you rubbed Theodore Dwight's foot it would bring you good luck (and we all rubbed his foot!). His foot is golden colored at the tip because of how many generations of students rubbed it.



Trophy Room

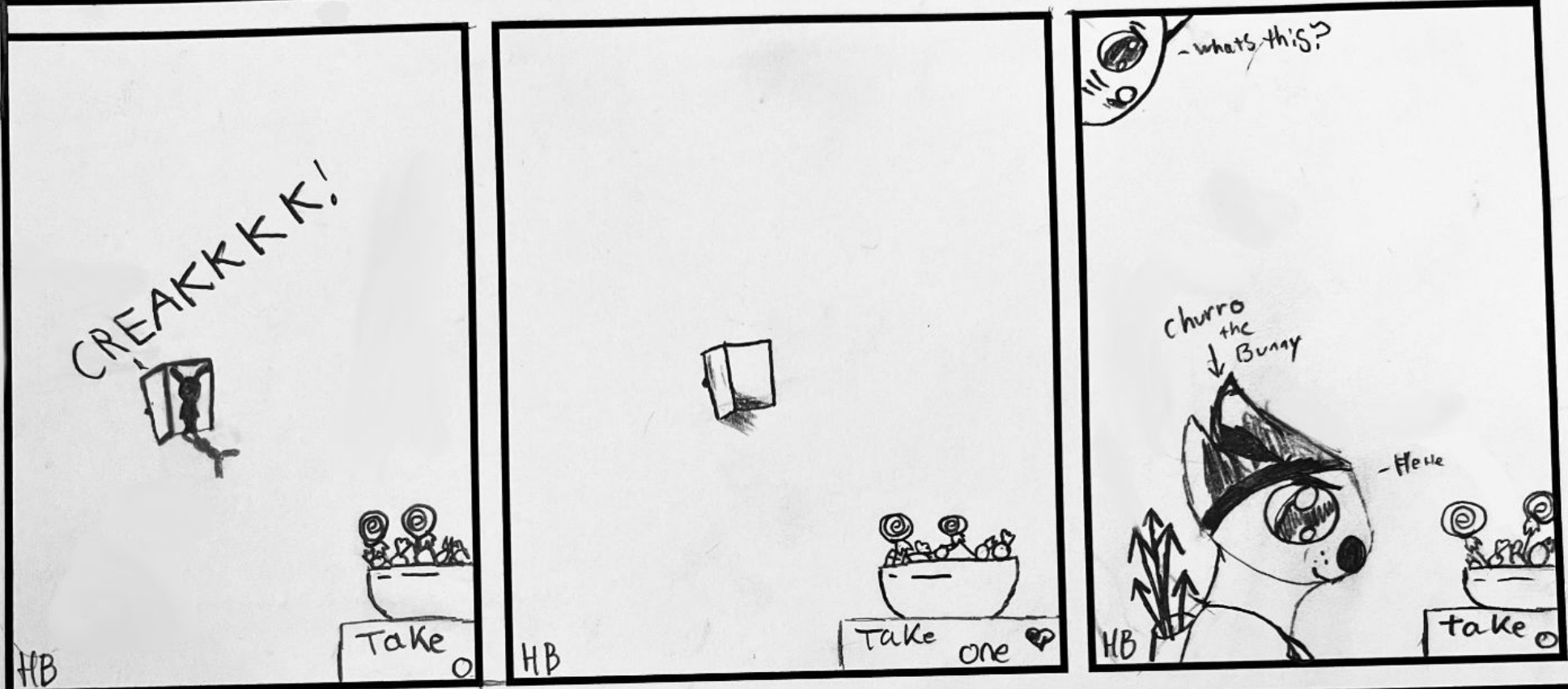
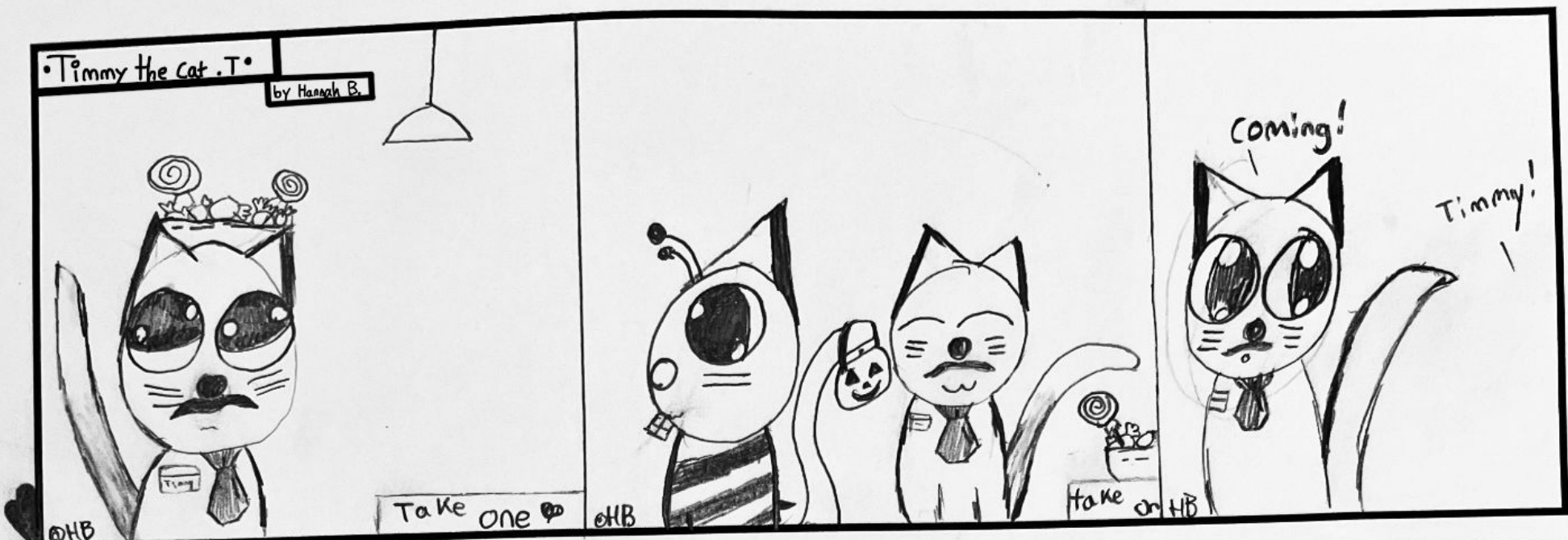
We later got a tour of the sports wing of Yale. When we went to the basketball court, we saw Yale's girls basketball team practicing! We also saw the trophy room that was filled with awards and learned about Yale's sports history. At the ending of the tour, we went to the pool and learned about their sports levels and programs.



York Side's Pizza Shop

Afterwards, we ordered pizza and salad at York Side's Pizza Shop. To end off our trip, we bought normal and crazy donuts from Donut Crazy. This trip made us think about our futures and the many possibilities to come. The possibility of going to Yale and becoming a "Yalie" will always be ingrained in the back of our minds. We will never forget this inspiring trip!







# Here's How To Cheer Someone Up!

Staff Writer Wesley Rogerson shares how YOU can make someone's day.

Article Reviewed by Klaus Jung.

## Step 1: Identify if they are in a bad mood.

If your friend seems to be having a bad day, first make sure that it's not just their usual mood or way of looking at things. Take into account what might be going wrong in their day, this will help you get a grasp of what they're dealing with.

## Step 2: Think of a way to make them smile.

If this is your friend, you should know them well. Talk about something they like to talk about: you could bring up something funny that happened a day ago, and– if you believe your friend is worried about something else and you don't really know what could cheer them up– try showing them the positives in the situation.

## Step 3: The Resolution

If your friend cracks a smile: there, you did it! If not, try to repeat these steps, and if it's still a no, go full one on one with them. Ask them if everything's all right, and tell them you're there for them.

## Fun Fact!

Studies show that if you give someone a gift, parts of the brain will trigger a response and let out dopamine. This means giving someone a gift is almost guaranteed to make someone happy, even if just for a second, no matter if it's a big gift or not!

### Works Cited

Elflein, John. "Share of the U.S. Population with Depression 2019." *Statista*, 9 Feb. 2022, [www.statista.com/statistics/979880/percentage-of-people-with-depression-us/](https://www.statista.com/statistics/979880/percentage-of-people-with-depression-us/).

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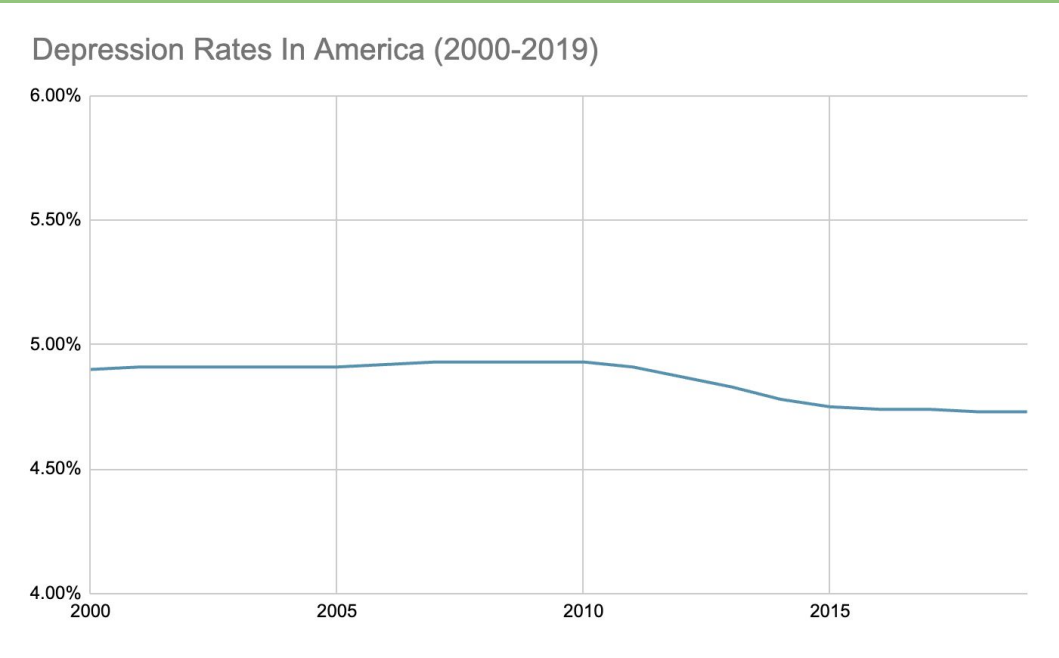
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# Here's How To Cheer Someone Up (cont'd): Some (Friendly) Advice to Remember...

Staff Writer Wesley Rogerson Reports

If a friend is acting differently than normal, not coming to events or other things, and/or just seems to be in a general bad state, this could be sign that they need help. You should talk to a parent or guardian, school counselor or a trusted adult to get more advice. It is important to remember that depression isn't just a feeling, it's a real disorder.



## Works Cited

Elflein, John. "Share of the U.S. Population with Depression 2019." *Statista*, 9 Feb. 2022, [www.statista.com/statistics/979880/percentage-of-people-with-depression-us/](http://www.statista.com/statistics/979880/percentage-of-people-with-depression-us/).

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Photography by: Donovan Kirkpatrick

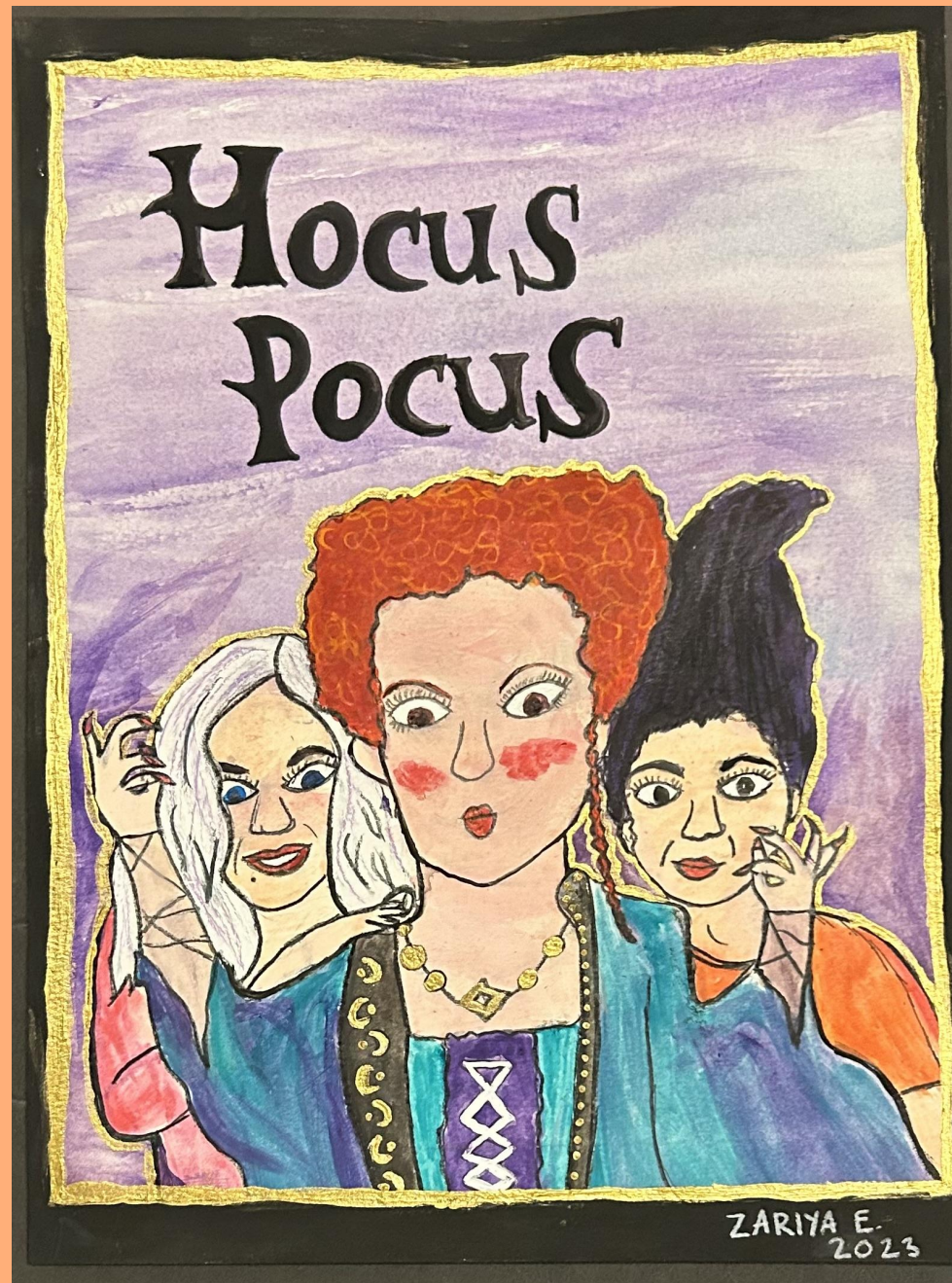


# TRADITIONAL ART

MAIA DETRANI, SADIE ROCHA AND ZARIYA ELAHEE



Sadie R



Zariya E



Maia D



# Fun Stuff

Word Search & Crossword!

Compiled by Staff Writers

Desmond Bohan &

Tannael Ngomanseke

## Fall Word Search

T	D	L	O	H	P	U	M	P	K	I	N	H	I
H	I	H	L	S	K	E	L	E	T	O	N	O	K
G	N	I	V	R	A	C	V	C	E	O	A	N	E
U	D	E	C	O	R	A	T	I	O	N	S	F	W
D	D	H	A	L	L	O	W	E	E	N	A	C	U
E	D	L	E	F	E	O	P	F	F	L	S	L	R
H	K	K	O	L	C	A	C	P	L	C	U	C	O
L	U	V	R	L	C	A	V	I	D	E	W	S	F
E	M	U	T	S	O	C	N	E	N	O	E	H	L
I	Y	C	O	Y	P	S	H	D	S	O	A	A	A
N	N	D	S	O	R	E	T	L	Y	A	S	E	E
V	I	A	L	N	C	N	V	Y	K	O	O	P	S
E	M	E	O	A	P	K	E	P	H	P	C	E	O
E	O	K	L	O	Y	E	C	H	I	L	L	Y	Y

SPOOKY  
PIE  
CANDY  
COSTUME  
CARVING  
HALLOWEEN  
LEAVES  
CHILLY  
PUMPKIN  
DECORATIONS  
FALL  
SKELETON

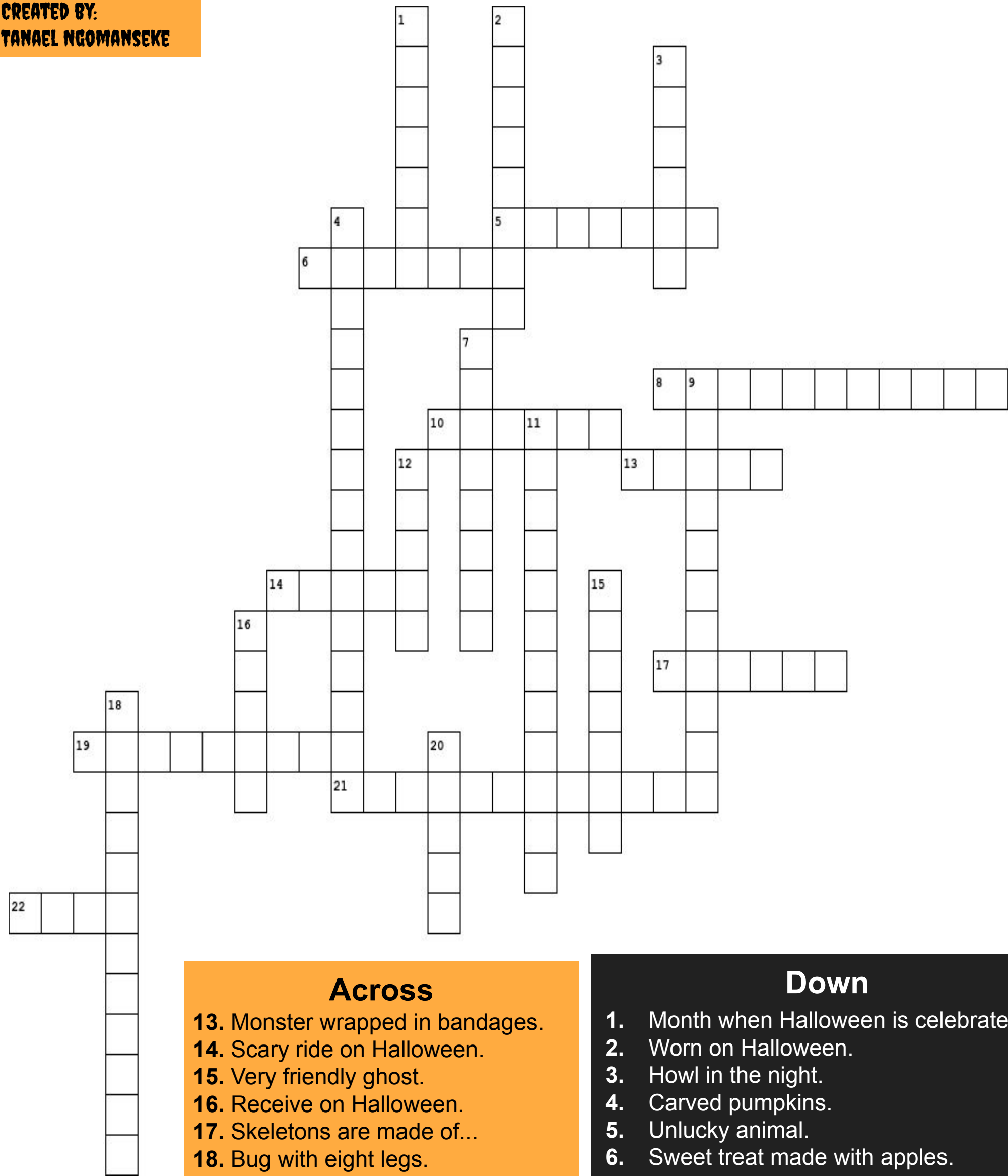
Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/6203703/>





# Spooky crossword puzzle

CREATED BY:  
TANAEL NGOMANSEKE



## Across

- 13. Monster wrapped in bandages.
- 14. Scary ride on Halloween.
- 15. Very friendly ghost.
- 16. Receive on Halloween.
- 17. Skeletons are made of...
- 18. Bug with eight legs.
- 19. Popular candy on Halloween.
- 21. Told around Halloween time.
- 22. Scary obstacle course.

## Down

- 1. Month when Halloween is celebrated.
- 2. Worn on Halloween.
- 3. Howl in the night.
- 4. Carved pumpkins.
- 5. Unlucky animal.
- 6. Sweet treat made with apples.
- 7. Where you go to get Pumpkins.
- 8. Scary non-living person.
- 9. Drinks blood.
- 10. Older woman with a broom.
- 11. People go here to get scared.
- 12. " \_\_\_\_ or Treat!"



# REVIEW CREW

Written By: Chloe Butts, Evana Pais,  
Riona Pais & Kelsey Diaz Roman

The Scare-o-meter is a rating system that determines (IN OUR OPINION) how scary the movies, books, video games and music we are rating in this edition of “The Dragon’s Post.”



## Movie Name: *Ghostbusters* (3/10) PG

This is yet another Halloween classic. This movie is about four scientists who, after moving from New York, become “ghostbusters” to make money. It’s while they are on the job that they stumble on a gateway to a new realm. It’s now up to them to save the world. I rate this a 3 out of 10 on the scare-o-meter (Watch at your own risk)

## Book Title: *There’s Someone Inside Your House*

### Author: Stephanie Perkins

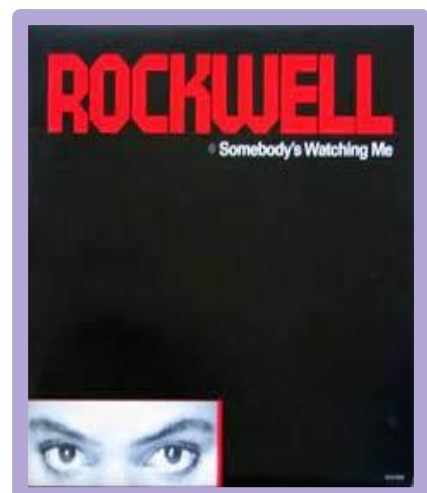
This story is about a girl named Makani Young who was born and raised in Hawaii. She moves to Nebraska with her grandmother and is trying to adjust to her new life. But suddenly one of her classmates gets brutally murdered. Read this book to find out what happens next. This book is rated a 10 out of 10 on the Scare-o-meter . If this book sounds interesting, but you don’t like reading, you can watch the movie.



## Song Two - “Somebody’s Watching Me”

### By: Rockwell Ft. Michael Jackson (3/10)

“Somebody’s Watching Me” is a song made in 1984. Rockwell was inspired to write this song because the paparazzi would always follow him, and he got so used to it that he always felt like somebody was watching him all the time. That’s how he was inspired to write this song. I rated this a 3 out of 10 because this song isn’t really scary, it’s just about how someone feels like they’re getting stalked. Also Michael Jackson is featured in this song!  
(This song includes the “h” word so listen with caution!)



## Video Game - *Phasmophobia* (2020)

### Personal Rating: 7/10

### Developer: Kinetic Games

*Phasmophobia* is a paranormal horror game created by British indie game studio, Kinetic Games. The game is about ghost hunting.





Some deliciously  
spooky recipes for all  
ghouls to enjoy.

Compiled by:  
Sadie Rocha

# spooky recipes

## gluten free:



dirt & worms

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW RECIPE](#)

halloween bark

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW RECIPE](#)



## vegan recipes:

spider web brownies



[CLICK HERE TO  
VIEW RECIPE](#)

sugar skull

[CLICK HERE TO  
VIEW RECIPE](#)



## RECIPES FOR THOSE WITHOUT FOOD ALLERGIES:

spooky halloween nachos



[CLICK HERE TO  
VIEW RECIPE](#)

scary monster



[CLICK HERE TO  
VIEW RECIPE](#)



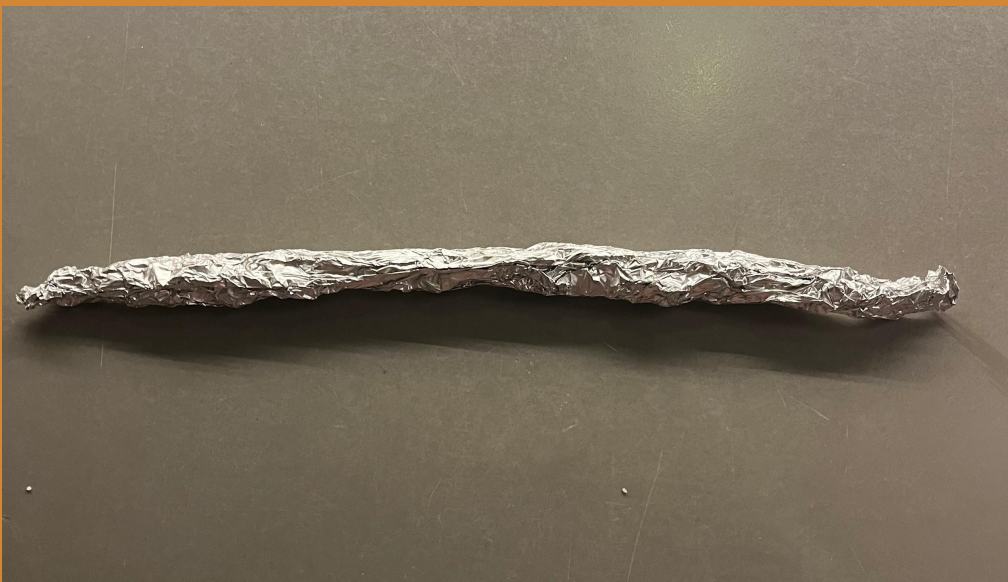
# D.I.Y. HALLOWEEN DECOR!

By Penny Smith and Maia Detrani



## Step 1

Roll a piece of tin foil into a long snake, like this:



## Step 2

Cross the ends and twist them together to form a loop, like this:



## Step 3

Connect your loops together and keep going until you have a chain!!

How to:  
Make tinfoil chains!

Materials:  
-Lots and lots of tin foil  
-Your hands!