



MUSHROOM

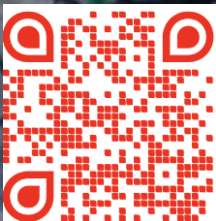
E-MAGAZINE

Celebrating Students' Creativity & English Language Learning

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THIS ISSUE'S TOPIC:
HALLOWEEN





CONTENTS

- [HALLOWEEN ARTWORK](#)
- [EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION](#)
- [STUDENT ARTICLES](#)
 - [STUFF ABOUT HALLOWEEN](#)
 - [HALLOWEEN](#)
 - [OPINION PIECES](#)
 - [WHY HALLOWEEN ISN'T ACCEPTED BY CHINA](#)
 - [MY FAVOURITE THING ABOUT HALLOWEEN IS MAKING MY COSTUME](#)
- [COMIC CLUB](#)
- [IN THE NEXT ISSUE...](#)



HAPPY

HALLOWE'EN



Editor's Introduction

STUDENTS' PERSPECTIVES OF HALLOWEEN

By Dr M A Terrett

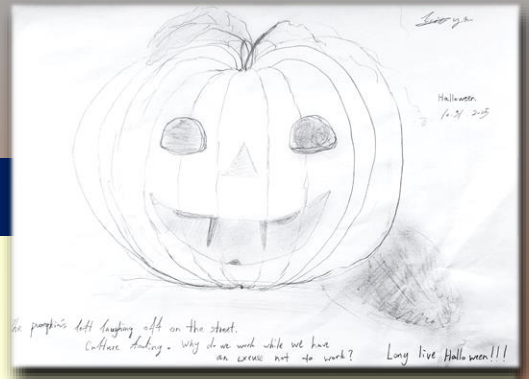
Autumn is the time of year when the weather starts to get cool, and the days become shorter. Farmers finish the harvest (收获), and many leaves begin to change colour as we move toward winter.

At this time, people in many countries also start to think about Halloween. Halloween is a very popular festival (节日) for children in English-speaking countries. It is also very commercialised (商业化), and many shops sell costumes (服装), candy and decorations (装饰).

Today, even in China, many schools have costume parties or dress-up days. But recently many schools try to make these activities less connected to Halloween.

In this issue, we will look at the voices of students who want to share their knowledge and opinions (看法) about this interesting festival.





Student Articles

STUFF ABOUT HALLOWEEN

By Andrew, Grade 7, from Suzhou

Halloween dates back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain (pronounced sow-in). The Celts, who lived more than 2000 years ago, celebrated November 1 as their new year. This day marked the end of summer, which stood for life and happiness, and the beginning of winter, a symbol of death and loneliness. It was believed that the night before November 1 had a blurred boundary between life and death, and that because of this, ghosts would appear.

By the 9th century, Christianity had blended in well with the Celtic tradition, gradually surpassing them in popularity. In 1000, the church declared November 2 as All Soul's Day to honor the dead. It was celebrated just like Samhain, where people would dress up as ghosts and other creatures. It was also called All-hallows or All-hallowmas. The night before it became known as All Hallows' Eve.

Popular cultures of Halloween include carving Jack O' Lanterns and trick-or-treating. The story of Jack O' Lanterns goes like this. There once was a man named "Stingy Jack." He invites the Devil for a drink and persuades him to turn into a coin to pay the bill. The Devil turns into a coin but Jack put it in his pocket next to a silver cross, trapping the Devil in. The Devil is freed only after he promises not to bother Jack for a year or claim his soul after death. A year later, the Devil is persuaded by Jack to climb a tree to collect fruit, but Jack carves a cross on the tree trunk, sealing the Devil. He is freed after Jack gets a 10-year reprieve. After Jack dies, he is neither accepted by heaven or hell, and his spirit found a light inside a carved pumpkin, leading to the "Jack O' Lanterns" we see now.

Trick-or-treating is an American tradition borrowed from the Europeans, involving going to different houses for money and food on Halloween. It was originally scary and creepy, but that all changed in the late 1800s, when a movement that sought to make trick-or-treating a community building and family, children friendly activity began. It has also lasted until now, giving us the opportunity to get lots and lots of candy!

Citations:

1. "Halloween 2025." By History.com Editors. <https://www.history.com/articles/history-of-halloween#What-is-the-History-of-Halloween>. Accessed November 1, 2025
2. "Halloween." By Tamanna Nangia. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Halloween>. Accessed November 1, 2025

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Myself!

Student Articles

HALLOWEEN

By Suzy, Grade 8, from Suzhou

Weird Purposes :)

1. Sponsor:

Dentists: after years of eating tons of candy your teeth rots

Candy sellers: they get huge profit every halloween keeps them alive lol

Pumpkin farmers: get some money into their pockets

2. Get some free candy (obviously), but ur parents have nothing to say...

3. Eat candy in class in school but ur teachers cannot give u red flag (a disciplinary warning - Ed.)

4. Waste a day of school (u don't have any classes), waste 15h of ur life

Get a no hw day :)

5. But... get attacked by Bob Ewell ???





Student Articles



Art by Olivia, Grade 8, from Suzhou

Opinion Piece by Johnny, Grade 8, from Suzhou

I think halloween sucks 

1. Its a cheap excuse for dressing up/ cosplay when its just better to host a dedicated day for it 
2. Its a cheap excuse for ripping off your neighbors candy and skipping homework for trick or treating
3. Most of the culture / story around it is gone. Now its just carved pumpkins left (which should've been turnips btw) 

We carved melons because they're much easier to carve (Ed.)

Student Articles

Opinion Piece by Jessie, Grade 8, from Suzhou



Halloween

pumpkins



kids dressing up



Bat



candies.

(why pumpkins & bats?)

∴ Halloween
= a certain day for
a certain themed party.
(~~with~~ theme: different
unrealistic things came real,
the day is "spooky".)

AND the kids love parties
and ~~be~~ unrealistic stuffs
∴ They enjoy halloween.

what the kids gain: they dressed up to different roles
But they can actually do it anytime
they got candies
But they'll lose candies too
they have parties
But they can have parties any time



① Look I believe the whole purpose of Halloween is just entertain ~~and~~
everyone. It's just a day of international / ~~the~~ English party. Look
they can do parties, dress to different roles, and having candies any
time.

You know what, I don't care if you need to dress up and get
candies during Halloween. Any schools can just not celebrate Halloween
Yes, the kids would be sad, that's certain, they literally gain all the happiness
~~care~~ on ~~the~~ Halloween (or I could say ~~the~~ many of them like most Halloweens).

Kids POV: ∴ No halloween
∴ No candies, no parties, etc. = not happy.

② Maybe they're just too bored (Same with easter).
Look there's literally nothing on the calendar.

Jan

Aug

Feb

Sep

Mar

Oct

Apr

Nov

Halloween

May

Dec

Christmas

Jun

Jul

③ Or maybe they're celebrating the
~~at~~ agriculture? (planting)
(since easter is at the start &
Halloween is the end)

Halloween also uses pumpkins, that
might explain.

Maybe we can learn more about the English Speaking world from
these festivals so the international school let us ~~the~~ participate these festivals?

Student Articles

WHY IS HALLOWEEN NOT ACCEPTED IN CHINA?

By Ian, Grade 8, from Suzhou

Halloween originated in Ireland and West of England, but more importantly it's related with western religion ^{Celtic} ^{and} Catholicism. As we all know, China is very strict and sensitive about Western ideology entering, so often time Catholic churches takes years to get approved 🎃

So, the reason I think Halloween isn't widely accepted even banned in China is because of its ^{2/2} controversial elements that goes against China's ideology.



Art by Coco, Grade 8, from Suzhou



“MY FAVOURITE THING ABOUT HALLOWEEN IS MAKING MY COSTUME”

By Chali-Ray, Grade 5, from Suzhou



First, I put papier-mâché (soggy paper mixed in glue) around a balloon. Then, when it was dry I fixed wires to the mask for eye stalks. I added ping-pong ball eyes and painted the mask. Finally, I fixed some material from black stockings in the mouth so I could see out but others can't see my face.

The result is an alien from one of my stories I wrote.

"I've won the prize for best homemade costume every year. It's an annual thing!"





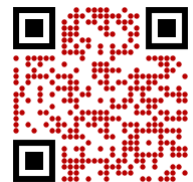
HALLOWEEN THEMED COMIC STRIPS

For this issue a couple of students and the editor had a bit of fun creating Halloween themed comic strips. So, we hope you enjoy them.

First is an exploration of the students' knowledge of Halloween by Gina, Grade 8, from Suzhou...



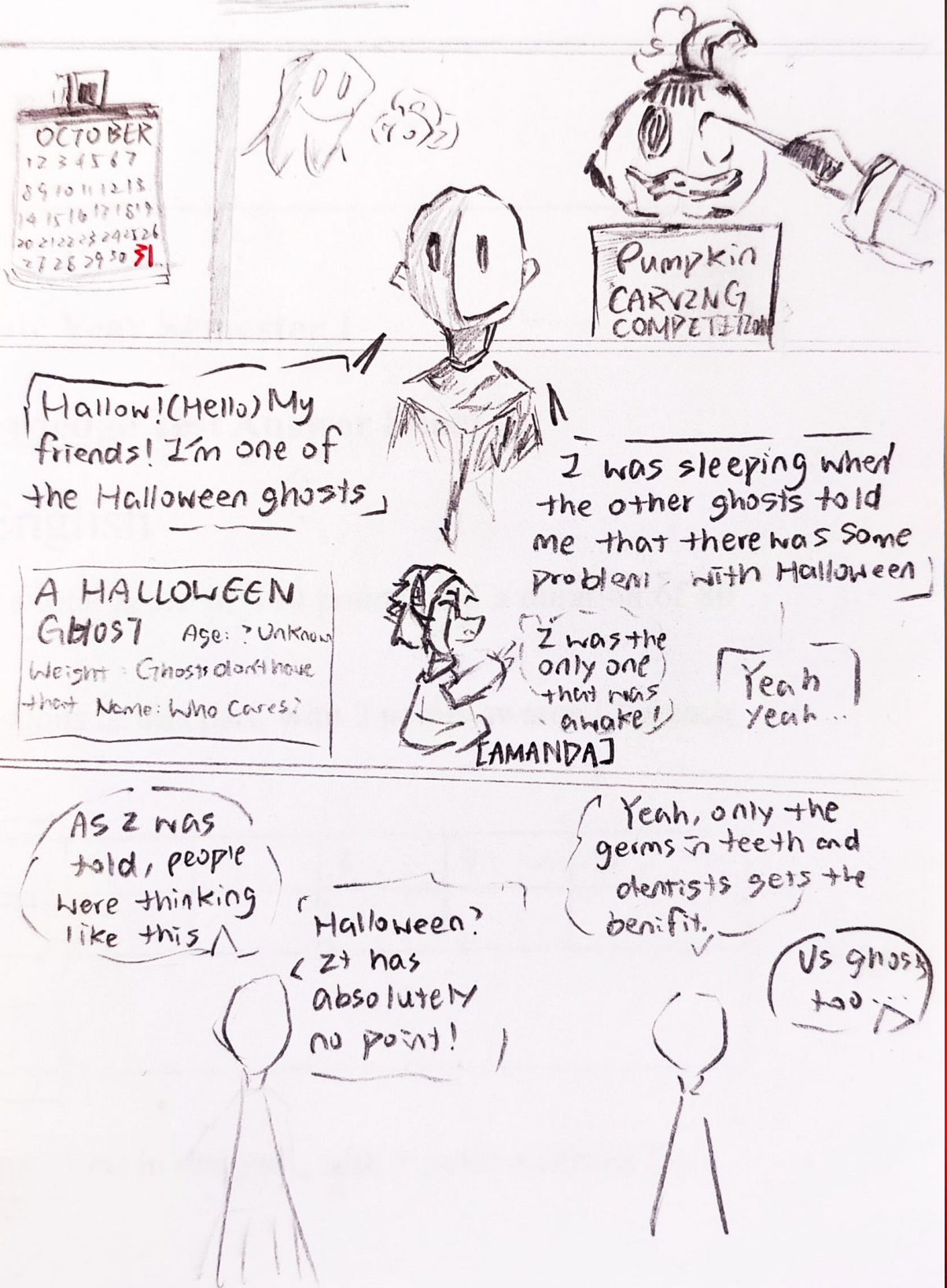
Penny Dreadfuls



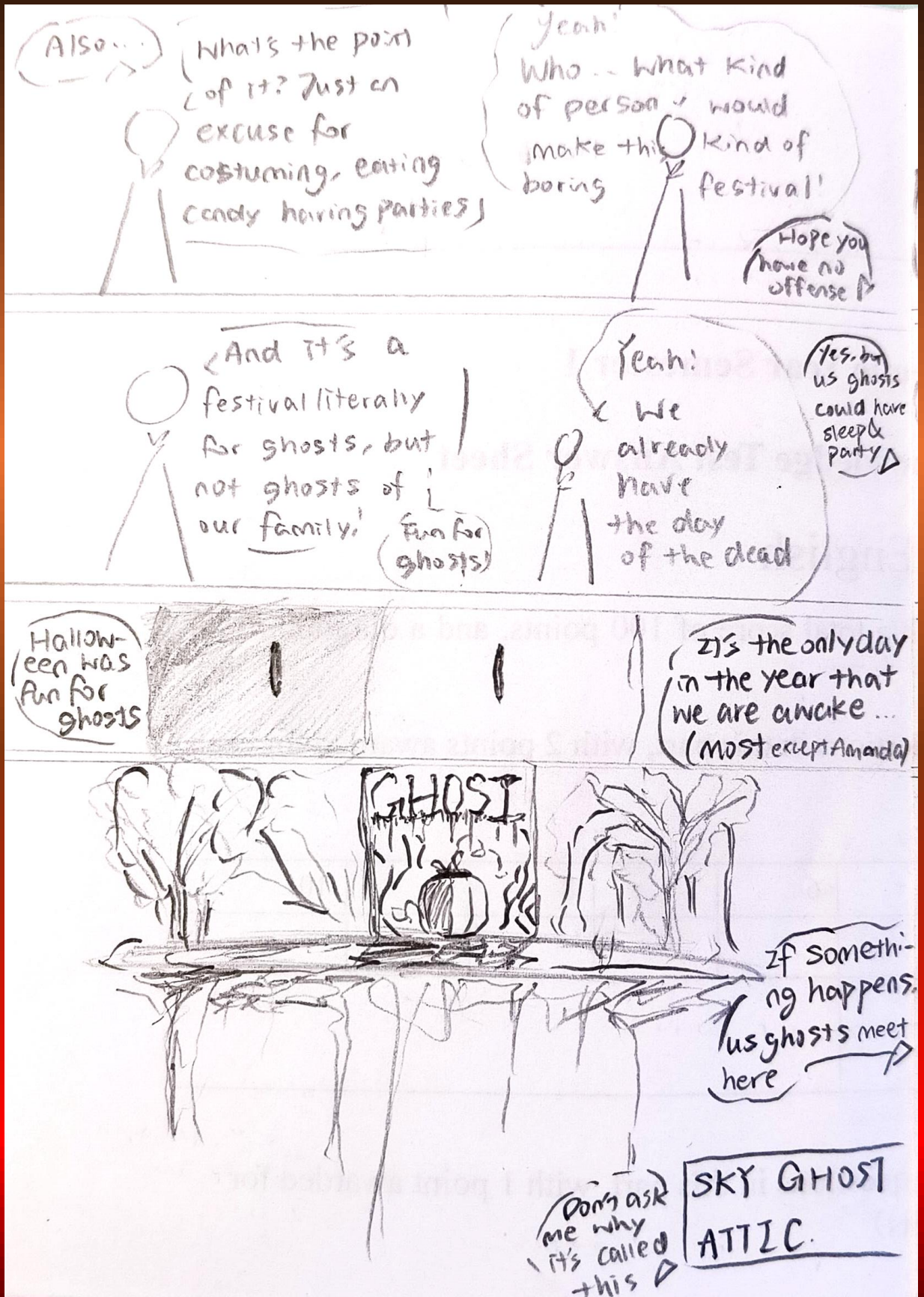
Do you want to read more work by awesome English students? Check out some mysterious [Penny Dreadfuls](#) written by Grade 7 students.



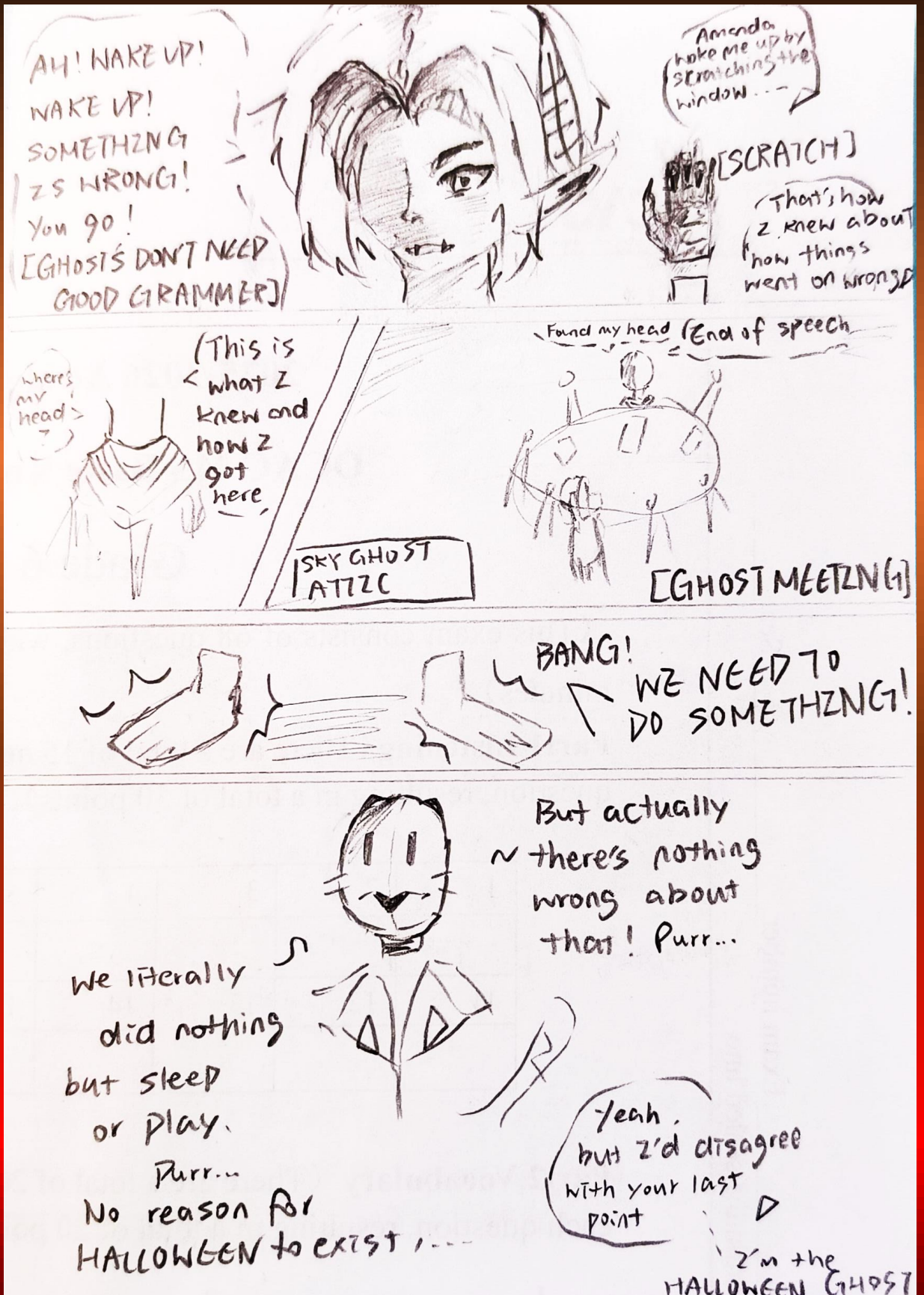
HALLOWEEN



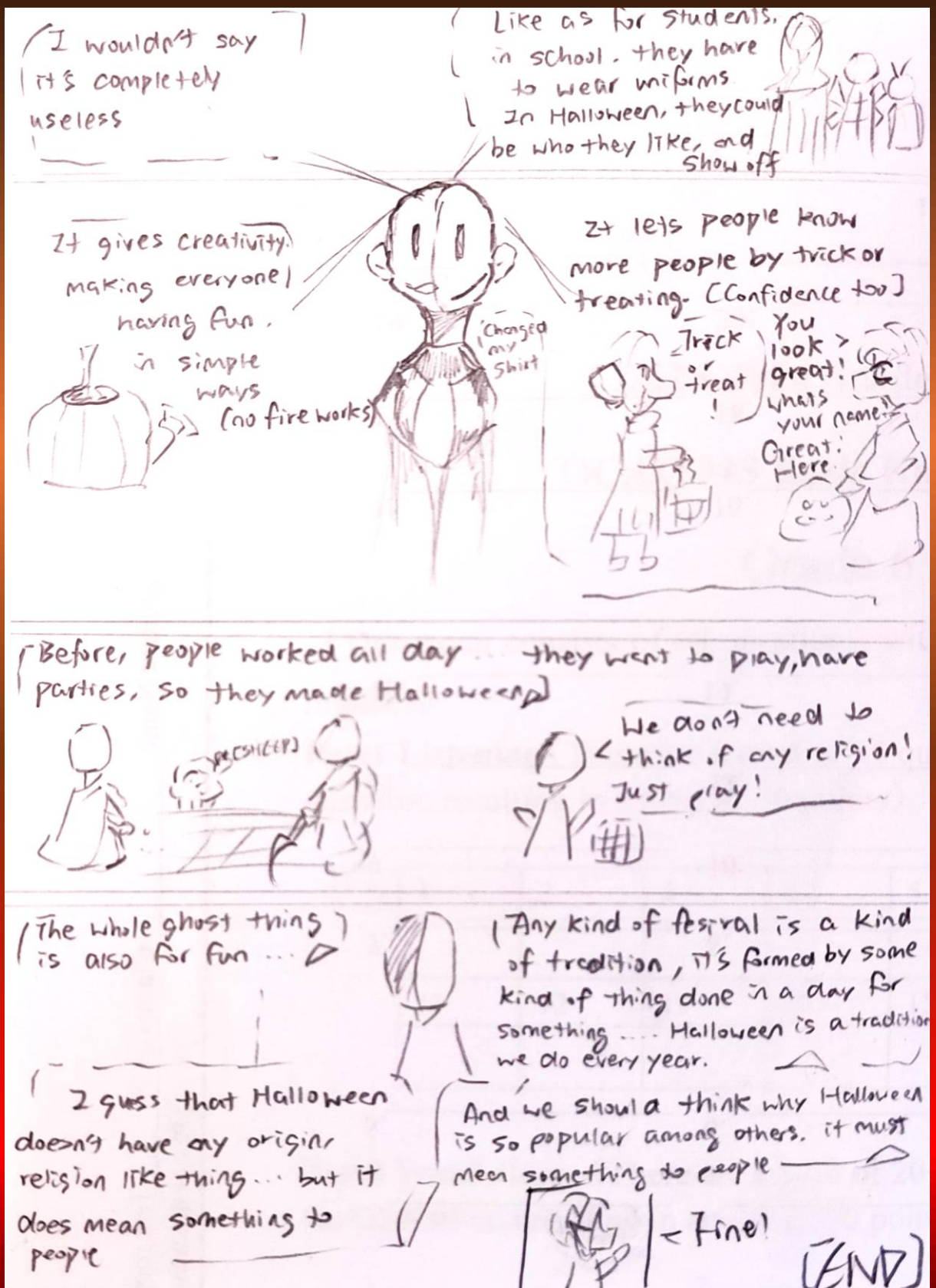
Comic Club



Comic Club



Comic Club



HALLOWEEN THEMED COMIC STRIPS

Finally, following the interesting dialogue between ghosts on the previous few pages, we end this issue with a classic joke reconstructed in comic strip format by our editor, Dr M A Terrett.



In the next issue...

THE NEXT ISSUE'S TOPIC IS...

NEW YEAR: Looking Back and Looking Forward

The next issue of this e-magazine will be published at the end of 2025.

New Year is a time for reflection about what has happened during the last year and a time to set goals (设定目标) for the coming year.

It is also the time for important winter festivals like Christmas and Spring Festival when people visit relatives and strengthen the family bonds (加强家庭团结) that warm us against the winter chill (冬寒).



USEFUL VOCABULARY

Here are some words that are useful for discussing your reflections on New Year:

New Year's Eve (除夕)	gratitude (感恩)
New Year's Day (元旦)	overcome (克服)
celebration (庆祝)	setback (挫折)
countdown (倒计时)	look forward (展望未来)
fireworks (烟花)	set a goal (设定目标)
cycle (周期)	ambition (抱负)
look back (回顾)	plan (计划)
past year (过去的一年)	self-improvement (自我提升)
experience (经历)	progress (进步)
achievement (成就)	discipline (自律)
challenge (挑战)	mindset (心态)
lesson learned (学到的教训)	motivation (动力)
obstacle (障碍)	determination (决心)
growth (成长)	learn a new skill (学习新技能)
memory (记忆)	

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WeChat connection coming soon...

