



# Pumpkin Town! Or, Nothing Is Better and Worse Than Pumpkins

*Katie McKy , Pablo Bernasconi (Illustrations)*

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One pumpkin makes a tasty pie. Two pumpkins can be carved into grinning jack-o'-lanterns, and a couple hundred more make for a decent pumpkin patch. Gather one thousand pumpkins and you'll have a grand fall festival.

But what happens when a town has an accidental abundance of pumpkins?

What do José and his brothers do with a mountain of pumpkins? An EXPLOSION of pumpkins? Step into Pumpkin Town and see!

## **Pumpkin Town! Or, Nothing Is Better and Worse Than Pumpkins Details**

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Author : Katie McKy , Pablo Bernasconi (Illustrations)

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## **From Reader Review Pumpkin Town! Or, Nothing Is Better and Worse Than Pumpkins for online ebook**

### **VadaK says**

This a wonderfully cheerful story of a family that grows all kinds of pumpkins. The family harvests their pumpkins and saves some of the seeds. When the boys in the family decided to toss the seeds into the wind they land on a town near by. Pumpkins start growing everywhere and taking over the town, the family must help! The story takes a fun twist and continues on. Written by Katie McKy and illustrated by Portuguese artist Pablo Bernasconi, this picture book is a wonderful addition to a classroom library for fall. The book is best used with pre-k through 2nd grade.

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### **Chinook says**

I've taken to hiding away the holiday specific books and it was nice to be able to pull out the Halloween box with a couple of Halloween necklaces for them to wear as we read four stories and kept busy waiting for dark to go trick or treating.

This one was a bit too old for both Kait and Maddie, but I think it will go over better next year.

I liked the way the story addressed that a good thing could quickly become a bad thing in other circumstances, how your actions can have unexpected consequences but that fixing your mistakes can lead to thanks and appreciation.

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### **Heather says**

Why does the title say (Or, Nothing Is Better and Worse Than Pumpkins)

Oh wow, this animation.

Are Jack-Be-Littles, Happy Jacks, and Big Moons technical terms?

It said they collected the vines. What did they do with them?

I'm surprised his dad said to keep the best pumpkins and sell the rest.

Why would they take the seeds and fling them down the hill. Why not throw them in the trash?

The vines with the cat up in the air on one is ridiculous.

The drawings are based on the over exaggerated and the ridiculous. The town is literally covered in pumpkins. One house seems to be lifted up by them. Also, the cows noses are ridiculous.

It's weird because the straw, hair and trees look like real pictures.

"It is our fault." I hate that proper way of speaking that no one actually does.

It was weird how they said they'd go rest, but then on the next page they were diligently working to clear the pumpkins out of town.

They were put in a cart, loaded with watermelons, so much you can't even see all the brothers. How were they still sleeping through being loaded into a cart?

I don't like the "nothing is better than pumpkins" "nothing is better than watermelons" stuff. Why are they saying that?

Here we go again with the seeds. This time it's watermelons. Instead of throwing them in the trash, they're

put in a ‘great bowl’ outside.

The father takes the watermelon seeds and scatters them off the hill. I can’t believe this is happening again, except with watermelons. I didn’t expect it to happen twice, much less with a different fruit.

THAT was the end of the story? You have to be kidding me?! There was no story in this book. I didn’t like the illustrations at all. There were surprisingly more words in this book than I thought, which I would usually appreciate, but not here, because the second I opened the book and saw the illustrations, I didn’t want to read it. I just wanted to hurry and be done with it. beforehand, I thought there would be more of a story here.

I was reading over the author’s bio and read she was a teacher, and was inspired by her students willingness to fix their mistakes, and also from the time she planted too many pumpkin seeds and vines grew everywhere. It made me appreciate the story a little more. What ruined this for me were the illustrations. It just wasn’t my cup of tea. And how ridiculous the story was at times, with vines growing all over the town& through houses.

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### **Jana says**

This fun picture book tells what can happen when you have too much of a good thing. A pumpkin farmer and his sons aren’t very careful when it come to disposing of their leftover pumpkin seeds. When the nearby town becomes inundated with pumpkins growing everywhere, the boys know it’s their fault and they need to fix it. The story reminds me a little of *Too Many Pumpkins* by Linda White and would be fun to share with young readers as part of an autumn collection. The clever illustrations were created with collages of original art and found objects.

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### **Paige Brown says**

Pumpkin Town is a good book that can be read to children of all ages. Although it can be read whenever, it is a great book that can be read during the fall season. It is all about pumpkins and how they are used to make crafts, foods, and so much more.

The pictures in the book are so fun and colorful. You can vividly get a good picture of what is being read on the page. There are different characters that go along with the story as well.

The text is easy to understand, but may be challenging for children to read who are under the age of 7. The text is not very large and the words are more complex.

This book would be great to read before doing a hands-on activity such as actually making a jack-o-lantern or making a pumpkin pie in the classroom.

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### **Alysia says**

The pictures were colorful. The book had too may words for too few pages based on my daughters taste.

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### **Shelby Miller says**

I thought this book had an interesting storyline, but overall I did not think there was a lot of meaning to the

plot of the story. I did like the illustrations of the story and how the characters emotions were displayed. Topics: Halloween, pumpkins, growing plants, farming, comparing sizes, uses of seeds, responsibility, accidents, helping others.

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### **Jen says**

This is a GREAT fall story about pumpkins! Jose and his brothers grow pumpkins on their farm. Their father tells them every year that they need to save the best seeds so that they have them for next year. They toss the rest of the seeds at the edge of their field where the seeds settle down in a neighboring town. The following Spring, the seeds start sprouting and taking over the little town with pumpkins! Jose and his brothers go and help harvest the pumpkins and are heroes to the townspeople. The town send the brothers home with 5 giant watermelons to share with their family in appreciation for their work. These seeds get tossed and makes you wonder if McKy will ever write a sequel called Watermelon Town!

We had the author visit our school a few years ago and she was AWESOME!

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### **Tabatha Mulkey says**

Summary: One, two, three or even a thousand pumpkins a town can handle. But what happens when there is a mountain of them? Jose and his brothers find out what to do with an explosion of pumpkins. Then, at the end of the book a watermelon seed gets loose.

Evaluation: I liked this book because it was a fun book. It is easy for pumpkins to grow anywhere, so it is true in that sense. When talking about pumpkins with your class, I feel like this is an awesome book to use.

Teaching Idea: I would use this book when teaching about pumpkins. After talking about what pumpkin seeds need to grow, we would plant seeds in different environments (ex. plastic bag with wet paper towel, solo cup with soil) to see if it grows in both or either.

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### **Kathryn says**

This is one of the few children's books where I actually liked the text better than the illustrations. The story is one of my favorite themes in that it shows how our actions are all interconnected and sometimes have consequences (good and bad) that we don't realize as farmers toss their pumpkin seeds over the hill, not realizing that the wind carries them down to the town where they grow up all over the place!

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### **Kendra says**

Cute idea. And we liked it, but the book just wasn't our favorite. That being said we read it yesterday and the book came up today in conversation and we chatted about it. So I guess it was memorable!

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### **Sandybear76 says**

The classes of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders loved this book. It was a new book we just finished processing in the library. First, the story was very colorful with the collage art. Second, the story had a lesson or 2 hidden in the action. Third, it could be used for a few units in classrooms - growing and harvesting, taking responsibility for your actions, sequential learning to list a few. Fourth, it was fun and funny for the kids. They really listened as the story was read to them.

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Jose' and his family grow pumpkins - only the best pumpkins- and they save the seeds from a few good pumpkins each year for next year's crop. The dullest, smallest seeds are not kept and Jose' and his brothers get rid of these seeds with surprising results. This book will become a tradition in my reading fall selection. The kids really liked the ending of Jose' and his brothers' story.

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### **Dawn says**

Cute story about pumpkins that doesn't tread into halloween territory AND doesn't just explain how pumpkins grow. A little bit too much text per page for me. The story could have been told much more succinctly. However, it's still a fun story to read.

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### **Tina Olter says**

Genre: Fiction

Grade Level: K-2

Interesting feature: This book is so fun and filled with creatively unique illustrations! It does a great job showing children how to make good come from a mistake.

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### **Megan says**

This book is about pumpkin seeds that get scattered in a town and the boys that go save the town by chopping the pumpkins and vines. I think it could be developed a little more. It's choppy. On the upside, Natalie has fallen asleep the last two nights I've read this to her.

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