TRICK OR TREAT

THE MYSTERY OF PAPER BOY • HALLOWEEN FILM WORKSHEET

LEVEL B1–B2	AGE 14–15	TIME 20 minutes

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

ACTIVITY 1 • PREDICT THE STORY (3 minutes)

Work with a partner. Read the introduction and discuss the questions.

THE SET-UP
Ben is seven years old. It's Halloween night, but his mother won't let him go trick-or-treating. Then he notices a strange boy standing across the street. The boy is wearing a handmade paper mask and carrying an orange bucket.

1. Why do you think Ben's mother doesn't want him to go outside?
2. Who do you think the mysterious boy is?
3. Why might the boy be standing alone in the street?
4. What do you think will happen next?

Make a prediction: I think the mysterious boy will _____
because _____.

ACTIVITY 2 • WATCH AND UNDERSTAND (5 minutes)

Watch the film and choose the correct answer.

1. What does Ben want to do on Halloween?
a) Watch a scary film. b) Go trick-or-treating. c) Visit his grandparents.

2. Why is Halloween different for Ben this year?
a) His father has left the family. b) His friends have moved away. c) His mother is working.

3. What is unusual about the mysterious boy?
a) He is wearing a superhero costume. b) He is carrying a black bag. c) He is wearing a handmade paper mask.

4. What happens when someone refuses to give the boy candy?
a) He starts crying. b) Terrible things happen. c) He walks away quietly.

5. What might be the mysterious boy's real purpose?
a) To make new friends. b) To play a Halloween trick. c) Something more mysterious.

ACTIVITY 3 • VOCABULARY DETECTIVES (4 minutes)

Work in pairs. Match the words (1–5) with the definitions (A–E).

WORD	DEFINITION
1. Lonely _____	A. A feeling of being afraid
2. Terrifying _____	B. A traditional Halloween activity where children ask for sweets
3. Trick-or-treating _____	C. Feeling sad because you are alone
4. Mysterious _____	D. Very frightening
5. Fear _____	E. Difficult to explain or understand

Complete the sentences using the words above.

1. Ben feels _____ because his father has left.
2. The Paper Boy is a very _____ character.
3. Halloween can be a _____ experience!
4. Children enjoy _____ on Halloween night.
5. The dark street fills Ben with _____.

ACTIVITY 4 • THE BIG QUESTION

GROUP DISCUSSION • 5 MINUTES • GROUPS OF 3 OR 4

Imagine you are a group of film critics. Discuss the questions and give reasons for your opinions.

1. Do you think the Paper Boy is evil, lonely or misunderstood? Explain your opinion.
2. Why do you think the story connects Halloween with loneliness and family problems?
3. Is Ben's mother right to keep him inside? Why or why not?
4. What do you think the orange bucket and the paper mask symbolise?
5. If you were Ben, would you open the door?

USEFUL LANGUAGE
In my opinion… • I partly agree because… • I see it differently.
The character might represent… • One possible explanation is…
If I were Ben, I would…

GROUP CHALLENGE
Agree on one answer: *Is the Paper Boy a monster, a victim or both?*
Be ready to explain your group's decision to the class.

ACTIVITY 5 • THE FINAL TWIST! (3 minutes)

Work individually. Imagine you are the screenwriter. Write a new ending for the story in 3–4 sentences.

"Ben slowly opened the door. The mysterious boy took off his paper mask, and Ben couldn't believe what he saw…"

_____

_____

_____

_____

BONUS: Give the film an alternative title! My new title: _____

HAPPY HALLOWEEN! ■