

# Spooky the Scaredy Cat

by RV staff writer J.C.

Spooky was a black cat. But Spooky did not like Halloween. She did not like ghosts, and she did not like witches. She did not like scary things at all. Poor Spooky was a scaredy cat.

One night, she was out for her usual evening stroll. As she walked by one house, she was surprised by a creepy face shining in the darkness. It was a jack-o'-lantern. "MEOW!" yelled Spooky. "Get that thing away from me!" She ran from the house.

The cat walked further down the street. Spooky went to a garden where she sometimes liked to nibble the flowers. When she got close, she tripped and fell over a toy skeleton that was lying on the ground. Its hand was reaching up in the air. "MEOW!" shouted Spooky. "It's trying to grab me!" She dashed away as quickly as she could.

Feeling very afraid now, Spooky decided to climb a tree. That would help her relax. She climbed out onto a branch. She was going to take a nap. Suddenly, a white ghost floated in front of her. It was hanging from the tree branch above her head. "MEOW!" screamed Spooky. "That's it! I'm going home!" She raced as fast as she could back to her own door and cried to be let in.

"There you are, Spooky," said Taylor, as she opened the door. "I've been looking for you. I need your help." Taylor was Spooky's favourite person. Spooky would give Taylor any help she wanted.

"I want you to come out trick-or-treating with me. I'm going to be a vampire and you can be my vampire bat. I even made these cool bat wings for you to wear!" Taylor held up a tiny set of shiny, black wings.

"Uh oh," thought Spooky. She did not want to go back outside. It was too creepy. But she loved Taylor. She let the young girl put the bat wings on her. Spooky was not happy.

"Oh, cute!" said Taylor. She let Spooky see herself in the mirror. Spooky looked good! "Let's go out and get some treats now," the girl said. Spooky let out a sad cry to say she was scared. Taylor gave her a hug.

"Don't worry, you can sit on my shoulders and I'll look after you. Okay?"

"Okay," thought the cat. "If it makes Taylor happy, I will try."

They got ready and went outside. The cat sat on the girl's shoulders. Taylor went up to the first house and rang the doorbell. A short lady answered.

"Hello! What a fright you gave me!" said the lady.

"I'm a vampire, and this is my bat," replied Taylor, smiling.

“Oh, that’s a *very* scary bat. Happy Halloween!” said the lady, putting candy in Taylor’s bag. Spooky’s green eyes opened wide in surprise. She was scary? This was new!

At every door Taylor and Spooky visited, people told them how frightening they looked. They gave Taylor Halloween treats, and sometimes gave Spooky cat treats or ear scratches. It made Spooky swish her tail with glee. She liked being a vampire bat! For the rest of the night, Spooky sat on Taylor’s shoulder and waved her tail at people. She was having a good time.

“Meow,” purred Spooky, happily. It was much more fun being scary instead of scared.

**Questions**

1. What does "scaredy cat" mean?
2. Name two things that frightened the cat on Halloween night.
3. Why did the cat agree to go trick-or-treating with Taylor?
4. Compare the feelings Spooky had at the beginning and at the end of the story?

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**Vocabulary List**

Each of the vocabulary words below are used in the reading passage. As you read the passage, pay attention to context clues that suggest the word's meaning.

1. stroll
2. creepy
3. fright
4. scaredy
5. nibble
6. raced

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**Context Clues**

Using context clues from the sentences in the passage, underline the correct meaning of the word in boldface.

1) One night, she was out for her usual evening **stroll**.

a. hunt   b. walk   c. nap   d. meal

2) As she walked by one house, she was surprised by a **creepy** face shining in the darkness.

a. wrinkly   b. cute   c. scary   d. smiling

3) “Hello! What a **fright** you gave me!” said the lady.

a. treat   b. scare   c. surprise   d. trick

4) Poor Spooky was a **scaredy** cat.

a. scary   b. fearful   c. unhappy   d. shy

5) Spooky went to a garden where she sometimes liked to **nibble** the flowers.

a. take small bites of   b. devour in one gulp   c. eat slowly   d. lick

6) She **raced** as fast as she could back to her own door and cried to be let in.

a. galloped   b. tiptoed   c. slithered   d. ran