MADE WITH LITTLE STORYBOOK

Halloween at My Own Pace

Sam and Mum share one small, quiet Halloween, and every choice belongs to Sam.



What's inside

1 Before 4

2 During 9

3 My Pace 15



1

CHAPTER 1

Before

It is Halloween afternoon. Mum puts a teal card on the table. It has four small pictures. Our house. The path. A wave. Home again. "A picture plan shows what comes next," Mum says. I touch the first square. This plan is ours.

Scratchy, No Thanks

Mum holds up my soft pumpkin tabard. A tabard is a vest that slips over your head. Then she points at my yellow T-shirt. "Both can be costumes," she says. I pull the tabard on. It feels scratchy on my neck, like a tag. I frown and take it off. Mum folds it away straight away. "Your T-shirt is a costume too."

IN THIS PICTURE

Too scratchy! Off it comes, and Mum is ready to take it.



IN THIS PICTURE

One arm in, nice and loose. This time it feels okay.



littlestorybook.ai

Hmm, Maybe After All

The tabard sits on my chair. It looks so soft and orange. Hmm. Maybe I do want it. "Can I wear it loose?" I ask. "Sides open?" Mum nods and holds it open. I slip one arm through, then the other. It hangs easy, like my blanket. Nobody makes a fuss. My choice feels just right.

Knock, Knock, I'm the Door

In the hall, Mum holds up a box lid. "I'm the door!" she says. Creak. It swings open. I try a small wave. Then I point at our paper pumpkin. Then I just stand still and quiet. "All of those are fine," says Mum. "Saying nothing is fine too." I let out a big breath.



IN THIS PICTURE
Mum is the pretend door. I try a tiny wave.

IN THIS PICTURE
Up goes my break card, and Mum stops right away.



A Card That Means Stop

Mum gives me a round orange card. It has a flat hand on it. "A break signal means I need to stop now," she says. I can hold up the card. Or squeeze Mum's hand two times. We try it once. Mum walks. I lift the card. She stops at once! Outside, the sky is getting dark. It is almost time.



CHAPTER 2

During

Mum opens our front door. Cool air tickles my cheeks. The sky is a soft blue-green. The street is quiet. I hold Mum's hand and my picture plan. How will next door feel?

Just a Few Steps

We walk on our side, close to the hedges. The road stays far away. Mrs Lin's gate is only a few steps. Mum asked her yesterday if we could visit. She said yes! I tap the path square on my plan. "We are here now," I whisper. Mum nods.

> **WOW FACTS**
> Really true: snails like cool, damp evenings. That's when they slide out to munch on leaves.



IN THIS PICTURE
Past the hedge, step by step, the plan in my hand.

IN THIS PICTURE

The bat is smaller than my hand. Just paper.



Only Paper

Mrs Lin's path is short and smooth. Paper bats hang by her door. A flat cardboard pumpkin leans on a flowerpot. I reach out slowly. I touch a bat's wing. It feels thin, like a page in my book. It's just paper, cut and folded. My shoulders feel softer.

Wobbly Waiting

Mum knocks. Tap, tap, tap. Soft. Then we wait. Waiting feels long and wobbly, like standing on one foot. I tuck half behind Mum's coat. I hold my break card tight, just in case. I don't need it yet. Mum doesn't rush. She waits quietly with me.

IN THIS PICTURE

Half behind Mum's coat, break card ready, we wait together.



IN THIS PICTURE

One small wave from me. One wave back from Mrs Lin.



My Kind of Hello

The door opens. Mrs Lin stays on her doorstep. "Hello, Sam," she says gently. She doesn't ask me anything. My words feel stuck, and that's okay. I lift my hand. One small wave. Mrs Lin waves back. Nobody told me how to say hello. I chose.

Into Mum's Bag

Mrs Lin holds out a tiny wrapped treat. I don't have to take it. Mum takes it instead. "Thank you," she says, and pops it in her bag. "We'll check it at home first." Then I can decide. Maybe later. Maybe never. Both are fine. Now, back home we go.

IN THIS PICTURE

The treat goes into Mum's bag, saved for home.





CHAPTER 3

My Pace

BANG! Down the street, people shout. The noise is too big. It's like a pan crashing right by my ears. My body goes stiff. I hold my amber card up high.

Mum Sees My Card

Mum sees my card right away. "Break now," she says. "Let's go somewhere quiet." She doesn't ask why. She just holds my hand. We walk back through Mrs Lin's gate. Mrs Lin waves from her doorstep. We stop at our own low wall. It only comes up to my knee.



IN THIS PICTURE
Mum holds my hand. We walk back home, slow and close.

IN THIS PICTURE
I point to the little house. That's my choice.



Out Again, or Home?

I sit on the wall. My breathing slows down, like a swing getting still. Mum holds up our picture plan. "Go back out, or go home?" she asks softly. I did want one more look at the paper bats. But I point to the house picture. Mum nods. "Home it is."

Plop Goes the Pumpkin

Inside, I pull off my tabard, my orange pumpkin vest. Plop! It lands on the chair. My star blanket feels soft and heavy, like a warm bath towel. My treat waits in Mum's bag for her to check. I feel a bit happy. A bit tired. A bit sad. Mum says, "All of those are allowed."



IN THIS PICTURE
Wrapped in my star blanket, I feel lots of things at once.

IN THIS PICTURE
My hand flaps like a bat. Mum stays right beside me.



The Best Bit

Later, in bed, Mum asks, "What did you like best?" I think and think. "Touching the paper bat," I say. My hand flaps like a little bat. Mum smiles. My eyes get heavy. My Halloween was small and quiet. It was just right. Mum stays close while I rest.

> **WOW FACTS**
> Really true: real bats sleep upside down, hanging by their feet.

Check your wonder

1 **How did Sam say hello to Mrs Lin?**

- A. With one small wave
- B. With a big loud shout
- C. With a song

2 **What did Sam do when the loud bang felt too big?**

- A. Sam ran down the street
- B. Sam held up the amber break card
- C. Sam hid behind the hedge

3 **Where did Mrs Lin's treat go?**

- A. Into Sam's pocket to eat now
- B. Into Mum's bag to check at home
- C. Under the star blanket

4 **What was Sam's best part of Halloween?**

- A. Touching the paper bat
- B. Hearing the loud bang
- C. Taking off the tabard

ANSWERS 1-A 2-B 3-B 4-A

1. Sam stood half behind Mum and chose one small wave, and that was just right. 2. Sam held up the break card, and Mum took them home straight away. 3. Mum put the treat in her bag, so a grown-up could check it first at home. 4. Snug in the star blanket, Sam said touching the paper bat was the best part.

New words

picture plan
A row of small pictures that shows what we will do, one step at a time.

costume
Clothes you choose to wear for a special day. Your own clothes can be one too!

doorstep
The flat step right outside a front door.

treat
A small special snack. A grown-up checks it first.

tabard
A simple vest you pull over your head, with open sides.

break card
A little card you hold up to say, "I need to stop now."

hedge
A row of bushes that grow close together, like a green wall.

allowed
Okay to have or do. Every feeling is allowed.

Where we looked

This story came straight from our imagination, made just for you.

Goodnight, Sam, and goodnight, Mum. Your small, quiet Halloween was a whole Halloween, just right. What do you think Sam will wave at next time?

THE END

If you had a quiet Halloween like Sam, what would you choose to do?

Make this book about your child

Free to try. Scan the code or visit

littlestorybook.ai

LITTLE STORYBOOK

littlestorybook.ai