

# Kerpoof Scholastics News

## October 2009



## Boo!

It's the October 2009 Kerpoof Scholastics Newsletter!

The spookiest holiday of the year is right around the corner, and Kerpoof is gearing up for a major Halloween takeover. Tricks and treats await you below, including all the details on our new Halloween avatar accessories, lesson plans and activities. And we have another exciting announcement to make: Kerpoof has won the Parents' Choice Gold Award for 2009, our second in a row! A big thank you to everyone who uses Kerpoof in the classroom. We truly couldn't do it without you.

As always, our goal is to provide rich and timely information about Kerpoof's free resources for educators. If you have colleagues who would be interested in receiving this newsletter, please feel free to forward it to them. If you have received a forwarded copy, you can sign up for your own free subscription by clicking [here](#).

For more information about how to use Kerpoof in the classroom, please visit [Kerpoof Scholastics](#). We want our content for educators to be a rich resource for you. If you have any suggestions or comments, feel free to e-mail me at the address below.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Munck  
Education Manager  
[educators@kerpoof.com](mailto:educators@kerpoof.com)  
[www.kerpoof.com](http://www.kerpoof.com)

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### New Halloween Avatars

Kerpoof is celebrating Halloween in style this year with an assortment of all-new avatar accessories, available now in the Kerpoof Store. Kids can click on their circular avatar button at the top of the Kerpoof homepage to create unique "costumes" in almost any combination, using different hair, eyes, masks and hats. Want to be a witch with cat eyes? A robot? Gorilla? Pirate? A cyclops with purple hair and a fruit basket hat? Anything is possible on Halloween...



### Halloween Lesson Plan and Activities

We've added a brand new lesson plan to Kerpoof Scholastics about the History of Halloween. Check it out [here](#).

#### *History of Halloween (Grades 5-8)*

Why do we dress up in costumes on Halloween? Why do we carve pumpkins? Why do we go trick-or-treating and hand out candy? And why is Halloween so spooky? In this lesson plan, your students will learn about the origins of Halloween and the different ways it has been observed. Then they'll make their own Halloween movie with Kerpoof's Make a Movie!

#### *Halloween-themed Activities*

Take advantage of Halloween to have educational fun in the classroom. Have your students use Make a Drawing to illustrate the costume they'll be wearing on October 31 this year. Then have them do some Internet research and write a few sentences - for instance, they might discover that the Ancient Egyptians mummified cats or that goblins owe their origins to British folklore. This can also work for less traditional costumes, from sports stars to Harry Potter.



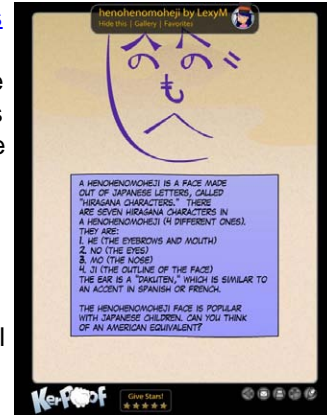
Or, read your students a Halloween story (like *Humbig Witch* by Lorna Balian or *The Monster Trap* by Stephen Krensky and Dean Morrissey) and ask them to write a book report in Make a Drawing. Have them draw their favorite scene or character and write a short summary of the book by inserting a text box. Older students can complete this assignment by reading a chapter book (*The Witch Family* by Eleanor Estes or *The Halloween Tree* by Ray Bradbury, for instance) and then using the Halloween storyline in Make a Movie to write their report.

### New Henohenomoheji Lesson Plan

There's another brand-new lesson plan on [Kerpoof Scholastics](#) about Japanese culture and language. Chances are your students have seen hiragana, kanji and katakana in shows like *Yu-Gi-Oh!* and *Naruto*, or in movies like *Spirited Away*. Here's their chance to learn a little more about these sets of Japanese characters.

#### *Henohenomoheji (Grades 3-6)*

Students will learn about the Japanese writing system, discuss the differences between Japanese and English writing systems, and use four hiragana characters to draw a traditional *henohenomoheji* face in Kerpoof's Make a Picture or Make a Drawing.



This lesson plan was inspired by a Kerpoofer who drew and shared a *henohenomoheji* using Make a Drawing.

### Kerpoof is Golden Again!

We're proud to announce that Kerpoof.com has once again won the Parents' Choice Gold Award. This is a prestigious award, with only 10 websites being awarded gold this year.

Kerpoof is thrilled to have been chosen as one of their top picks for 2009 - we can't wait to see what they have to say in 2010!



### Meet Kerpoof at T+L

Attending the National School Board Association's [T+L Conference](#) in Denver at the end of October? Kerpoof will be there too, and we'd love to meet you! Stop by booth #323 to say hello and chat with our new education manager, Alexandra Munck.

We're pleased to be able to give away **20 free passes** to the Exhibit Hall. We still have a few left, but don't wait! E-mail [educators@kerpoof.com](mailto:educators@kerpoof.com) today and we'll send you your pass.

### September Gallery of Greats

Click on the pictures below to see them at full size.



For more resources for educators visit [Kerpoof Scholastics](https://www.kerpoof.com/scholastics).

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