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Join Sam in the pumpkin patch. Find out what happens when she tries to double the number of pumpkins in her cart.

**Ages:** 6 to 8 years**ATOS Reading Level:**  
2.0**Lexile:** AD510L**ISBN:** 9780439799393**Copyright:** 2004

# Sixteen Runaway Pumpkins

**What would you do with sixteen runaway pumpkins?**

**Topics:** doubling, multiplication, problem solving, counting, adding, cardinality, positional words

**Activities To Do Together:**

Use the book *Sixteen Runaway Pumpkins* to explore the idea of doubling.

While reading the book:

- Ask questions like “How many pumpkins does Sam have now?” and “How many more does she need to double that number?” Ask your child how they know or how they could find out.
- Ask your child when they like to eat pumpkin.
- Count the pumpkins together on the front cover.
- Point out the rhyming words throughout the story.
- Each time Sam doubles her quantity count the number of pumpkins in the illustration.
- Point out the shapes on the illustrations as you read.
- Use positional words to point out where the animals are throughout the story. For example, the bird is on top of the wagon’s handle.

When you have finished reading the story try the following:

- Practice doubling numbers with a group of small objects.
- Make a recipe that uses pumpkin. Find out what measuring tools you will need for the recipe, the amount of time it will take, and the other ingredients you will use.
- Talk with your child about how to double a recipe. How much will the doubled recipe make? Do all of the ingredients need to be doubled when you double a recipe?
- Make your own story about runaway pumpkins.
- Plant seeds and observe how they grow. Create a graph to track the growth.

- Practice making sums of 16. Use objects to represent the numbers that you add together. Practice writing out the equations too,  $16 = 11 + 5$ .
- Think about doubling. If you double the amount of laundry washed, would it take double the amount of time to dry? If you started with one cupcake and doubled the number of cupcakes every 10 minutes, how much time would pass before you had eight cupcakes?
- Create doubling word problems.

### Questions for Mathematical Thinking

1. What is a strategy you can use to double a quantity? triple a quantity?
2. What manipulative can you use in your environment to help you practice doubling quantities?
3. What would you do with sixteen pumpkins?
4. Why can a pumpkin roll down the hill?
5. What is your favorite page and why?

### Early Math Project Resources:

Visit [Sixteen Runaway Pumpkins Activities](https://www.earlymathca.org/sixteen-runaway-pumpkins) (<https://www.earlymathca.org/sixteen-runaway-pumpkins>)

Follow this [link](#) or visit [earlymathca.org/external-resources](https://www.earlymathca.org/external-resources) for additional online resources

### Vocabulary

**Math words found in the story:** all, behind, double, eight, four, front, more, on, one, open, sixteen, two

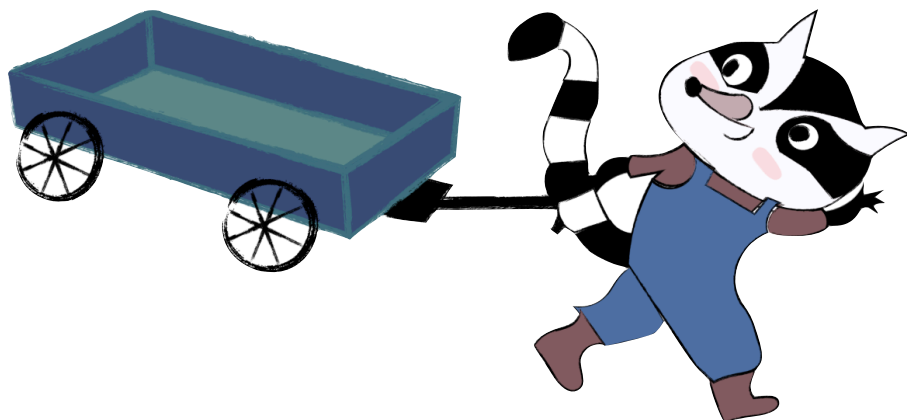
**Related math words:** multiplication

### Words to build reading

**comprehension:** climb, lump, peekaboo, plump, rumple, spare, thump-bump, tumble, vine, whoosh, wobbles

**Related Books:** *Double the Ducks* by Stuart J. Murphy

Click this link to the [World Catalog](#) or enter [bit.ly/3PXHDMH](https://bit.ly/3PXHDMH) to find *Sixteen Runaway Pumpkins* in the public library.



**Math Connections:**

Use *Sixteen Runaway Pumpkins* to explore the idea of doubling. As you read, ask questions like “How many pumpkins does Sam have now?” and “How many more does she need to double that number?” Ask your child how they know or how they could find out.

Practice doubling numbers. Gather a group of small objects. The objects might be pebbles, crayons, or a collection of leaves. Start with a single object and talk about how many objects you would have if you had twice as many or double the number. For example, start with 1 crayon and ask your child to double the quantity by adding one more crayon. Count the crayons and then double the number of crayons again by placing two more crayons in the pile. Count the pile and talk about how four crayons is twice as many crayons as two crayons. Double the quantity a few more times. Practice doubling different objects - toys, chocolate chips, shoes, etc.

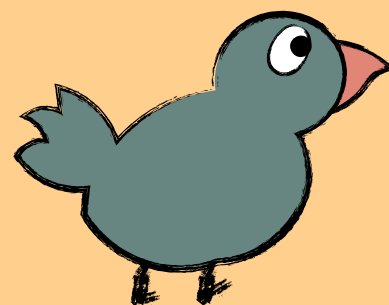
Make a recipe that uses pumpkin. Find out what measuring tools you will need for the recipe, the amount of time it will take, and the other ingredients you will use. Talk with your child about how to double a recipe. How much will the doubled recipe make? Do all of the ingredients need to be doubled when you double a recipe?

After reading, make your own story about runaway pumpkins. How do they become runaway pumpkins? Where do they go? How do they stop?

Plant seeds and observe how they grow. Does it take a few days or a week or more for the sprouts to double in size? Create a graph to track the growth.

Fun things to try together:

- Practice making sums of 16. Use objects to represent the numbers that you add together. Practice writing out the equations too,  $16 = 11 + 5$ .
- Think about doubling. If you double the amount of laundry washed, would it take double the amount of time to dry? If you started with one cupcake and doubled the number of cupcakes every 10 minutes, how much time would pass before you had eight cupcakes?
- Create doubling word problems.



Age/Grade Level	Related Preschool Foundations and <a href="#">CA State Standards</a>
Grade 1	<b>Operations and Algebraic Thinking 1.OA.1</b> Represent and solve problems involving addition and subtraction. <b>Mathematical Practice 1</b> Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them. <b>Mathematical Practice 5</b> Use appropriate tools strategically.
Grade 2	<b>Operations and Algebraic Thinking 2.OA.3</b> Work with equal groups of objects to gain foundations for multiplication.
Grade 3	<b>Operations and Algebraic Thinking 3.OA.1</b> Represent and solve problems involving multiplication and division.

