



The legend of ‘Stingy Jack’

Halloween is celebrated on October 31st. Children wear scary costumes and go from house to house to ask for candy. One of the most iconic symbols of Halloween is the pumpkin with a carved-out face. People put a candle inside the pumpkin to make a lantern. This
 5 idea comes from an Irish myth about a man nicknamed ‘Stingy Jack,’ who made a deal with the Devil.

According to the story, Stingy Jack invited the Devil to have a drink with him (1). True to his name, Stingy Jack didn’t want to pay for
 10 his drink. Jack convinced the Devil to turn himself into a coin that Jack could use to buy their drinks. The Devil turned into a coin, but Jack decided to keep the money and put it into his (2) pocket next to a silver cross. The cross prevented the Devil from changing back into his original form. To be set free, the Devil had to promise him
 15 (3) that he (4) wouldn’t bother Jack for one whole year. Also, if Jack should die, he (5) wouldn’t claim his (6) soul. The next year, Jack again tricked the Devil into climbing into a tree to pick a piece of fruit. While he was up in the tree, Jack made a sign of a cross into the tree. The Devil couldn’t come down until he promised Jack not
 20 to bother him (7) for ten more years.

Soon after, Jack died. As the legend goes, God wouldn’t allow such a horrible figure into heaven. As promised, the Devil didn’t claim his
 25 (8) soul. Also, he didn’t want Jack in hell because he was still upset by the tricks Jack had played on him (9). He sent Jack off into the dark night with only a burning coal to light his (10) way. Jack put the coal into a carved-out pumpkin and has been travelling around the world ever since.

30 The Irish began to call this ghostly figure ‘Jack of the Lantern.’ Later, they simply called it a ‘Jack O’Lantern.’ In Ireland and Scotland, people began to make their own versions of Jack’s lanterns. They carved scary faces into pumpkins and placed them in windows or near doors. The scary faces would frighten away Stingy
 35 Jack and other evil spirits.

Adapted from: www.learnenglish.britishcouncil.org and
www.history.com