

It's Halloween. Sanjay and his friends go trick-or-treating in the streets of York. They meet Joe and take him to a party. Then Joe runs away. But who is Joe, and why is he frightened of fire?

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	CEFR level	Story word count	Headwords
S	Pre-A1	400–600	350
1	A1	1,000–1,600	550
2	A1+	3,000–5,000	700
3	A2	7,000–10,000	1,000
4	A2+	11,000–14,000	1,200
5	B1	15,000–18,000	1,600
6	B1+	18,000–22,000	2,000
7	B2	22,000–26,000	2,500

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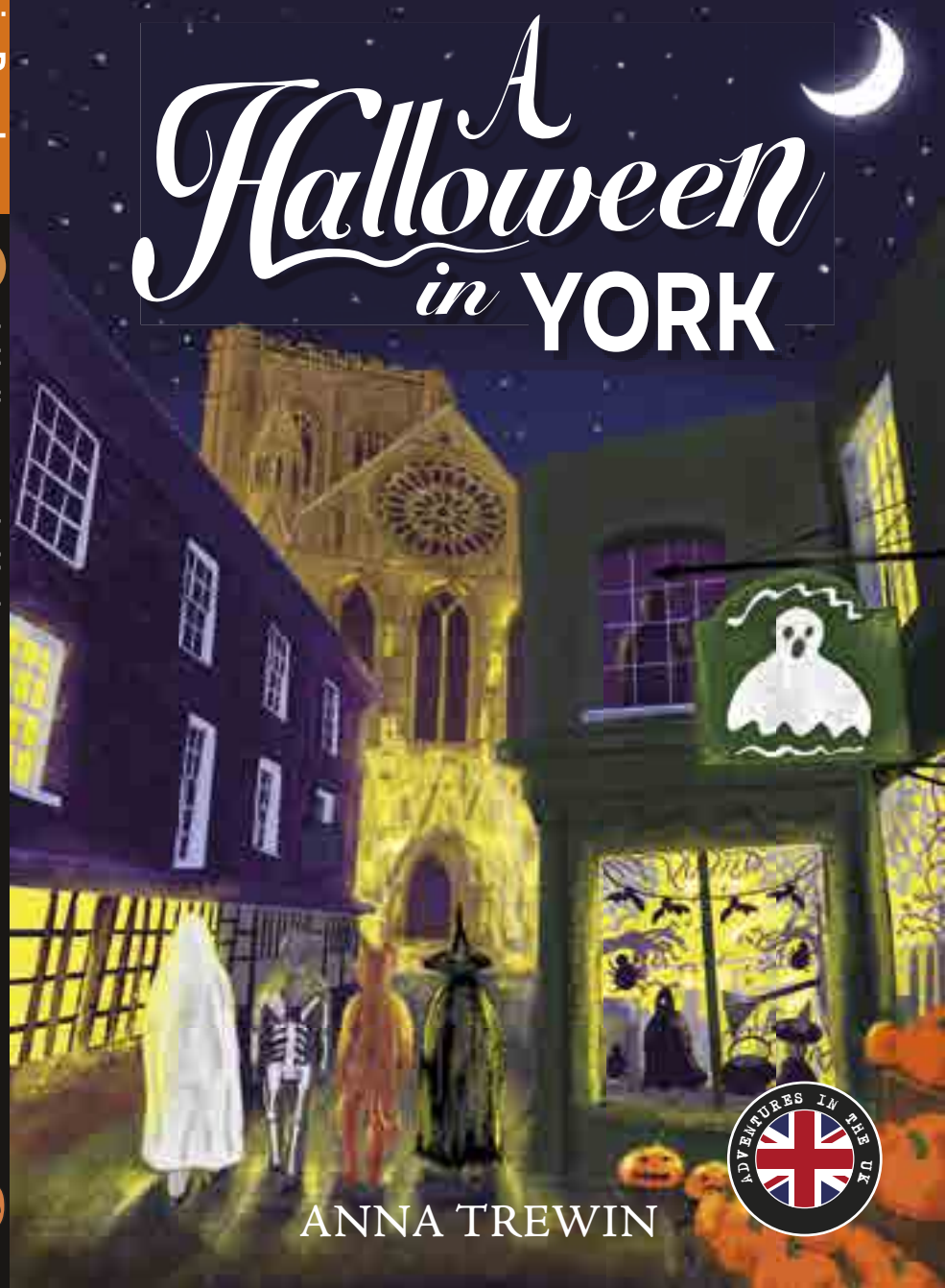


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A Halloween in YORK



ANNA TREWIN



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People in the story



Sanjay Desai



Lou



Ella and Davey



Joe Turner



Matthew Turner,
Joe's grandfather



Martha

New words



ghost



pumpkin lantern



skeleton



web



werewolf



witch

Note about the story

A Halloween in York is about a group of children in York and their strange **Halloween*** night in the city.

York is an old and beautiful city in the north of England. The **Romans** came to England and built it 2,000 years **ago**. Later, the **Anglo-Saxons** came from Europe, and they lived there. Then, the **Vikings** came from Sweden, Denmark and Norway, and they called the town *Jorvik*. The Shambles is a famous **medieval** street in the city. It is very old and has **interesting** shops. York also has a **huge** Minster, a castle and a river – the Ouse.

Halloween is on 31st October every year. Halloween started hundreds of years ago. People thought that the ghosts of their dead families came back at Halloween. Some ghosts were friendly. But some ghosts were **scary**!

At Halloween, people have parties, wear **costumes**, go **trick-or-treating** and make scary pumpkin lanterns.

Before-reading questions

- 1 What do you know about Halloween? Do you have it in your country?
- 2 Look at the map on page 7 and read the “Note about the story” again. Where is York, and what did you learn about it?

*Definitions of words in **bold** can be found in the glossary on pages 62–63.

Places in the story



CHAPTER ONE
Trick-or-treating

It is Saturday morning, 31st October. Sanjay is speaking on the phone to his friends Lou, Ella and her brother, Davey. The children are all 12 years old, and they go to the same school in York.

“It’s **Halloween** tonight!” Sanjay tells them.
“Let’s meet at five o’clock on the Shambles. We can buy our **costumes** there and then go **trick-or-treating** on our street for an hour. Then, we’ll go to Jack’s Halloween party. There’ll be **apple bobbing**, **scary** storytelling and a **bonfire** in the garden. After that, we’ll walk home.”

“What costume will you wear?” asks Ella.

“I’m going to be a werewolf,” says Sanjay.

“I’ll wear a skeleton costume,” says Davey.

“And I’ll be a witch,” says Lou.

“It’s going to be great!” says Sanjay. “We must think of some **tricks**! And remember to bring bags for the **treats**. I want to come home with lots of chocolate and **sweets**.”

It is five o’clock in the afternoon, and the friends are on the old Shambles in the middle of York. “Here’s a costume shop,” says Lou.

They go into the shop and try on some costumes. Everyone laughs.

“We all look great!” says Lou. “But Sanjay’s costume is the best. There won’t be many werewolves at the party tonight!”

The children pay for their costumes and leave the shop.

“It’s early for trick-or-treating,” says Sanjay. “Let’s walk through the city. It’ll be **fun**. We’ll go past York Minster.”

Lots of young people are out for Halloween, and many of them wear costumes. Lou counts two witches, three skeletons, four ghosts and one werewolf. The people in the streets are talking and laughing.



A minute later, Sanjay and his friends arrive at York Minster.

“Wow! The Minster is beautiful this evening,” says Ella. “Look at all the people with their phones. They’re all taking photos.”

“The stained glass in the windows looks very beautiful with the **light** inside the Minster,” says Lou. “Can you see all the colours?”

“How old is York Minster?” asks Davey.

“It’s about eight hundred years old,” says Sanjay.

“How do you know that?” asks Ella.

“My dad told me,” says Sanjay.

“Your dad knows a lot about **history**,” says Davey.

“That’s because he teaches it,” says Sanjay.

“Who first built York?” asks Ella.



“The **Romans**,” Sanjay tells her. “The Romans left England. Then, the **Anglo-Saxons** came, and they called it *Eoforwic*. Later, the **Vikings** came to York, and they called it *Jorvik*.”

“Look at the time!” says Davey. “It’s six o’clock now. History is very **interesting**, but I’m ready to go trick-or-treating. I want to eat some chocolate!”

“Me too!” says Lou.

The children walk to their little street. This place is their home – all their families live here. There are pumpkin lanterns in most of the windows.

“Dad says we can trick-or-treat here because the people know us. Let’s start with this house and go from door to door,” says Sanjay.

The children **knock** on the first door, and a woman opens it. “Hello, Sanjay,” she says, and she smiles. “Oh, and hello, Ella, Davey and Lou. You look wonderful in your costumes!”

“Trick or treat, Mrs Smith!” shout the children.

“Of course you can have a treat!” says Mrs Smith. She has a big bowl in her hand, and she gives them some sweets.

“Thank you!” say the children. They knock on the next door, and a young man opens it.

“Hello, Sanjay,” he says, and he gives them some chocolate. People in the next five houses give them more sweets and chocolate. Everyone has bowls of treats, and they are ready for the children. They all smile and say hello.

“We mustn’t knock on Mr Grey’s door,” says Lou. “He’s not very nice.”

The children look at Mr Grey’s door. Then, they laugh.

“Let’s do it,” says Davey. “I want to play a trick.”

Mr Grey opens the door. The children are right – he is *not* nice.

“Trick or treat!” say the children.

“Stop knocking at my door!” Mr Grey shouts. “I don’t want any more children here. I’m trying to watch television, and I can’t hear anything. Halloween is stupid. Your costumes are stupid!” And he closes the door.

“Trick! Trick! Trick!” shout the children.

“But what trick can we play?” asks Davey.

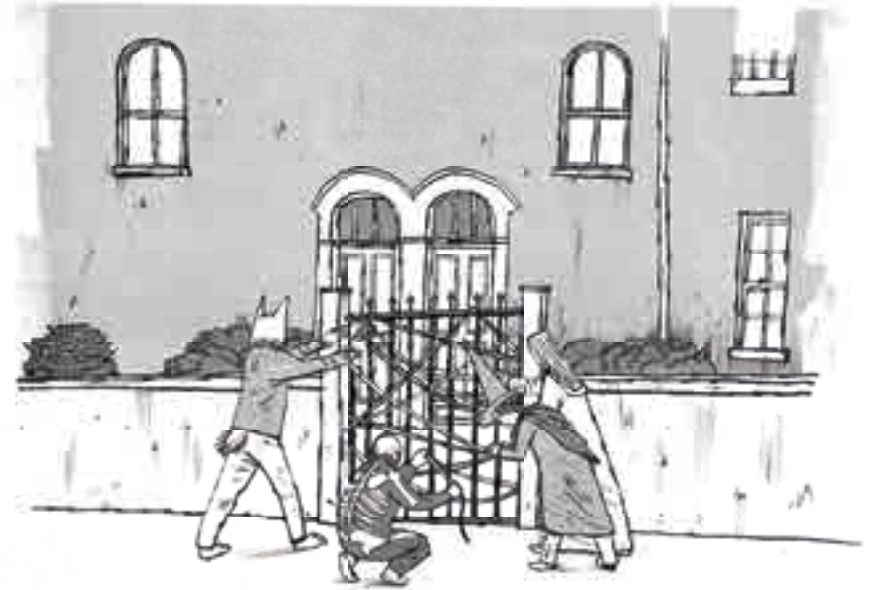
“Let’s use this black wool and make a web in front of his house,” says Sanjay. The other children see the wool and smile.

“That’s a great trick!” says Ella.

Together, the four children make a **huge** web with the wool.

“That will **surprise** him in the morning!” says Lou. The children all laugh and run to the next house. They get more sweets and chocolate.

“My bag is getting heavy with treats!” says Lou.



“But now it’s the end of the street,” says Sanjay, sadly. “And we can’t trick-or-treat on other streets because we won’t know the people. We’ll make our parents angry.”

The children are quiet for some seconds. They all think the same thing.

“Let’s trick-or-treat on one more street,” says Davey. “Then, we’ll go to the party.”