

# How Many Seeds in a Pumpkin?

## A RIF GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY COORDINATORS

**Themes:** Fall, Counting, Estimation

**Grade Level:** K to 1st grade

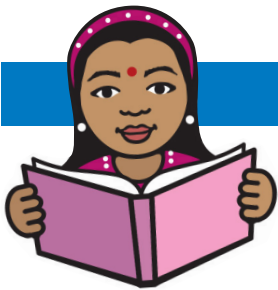
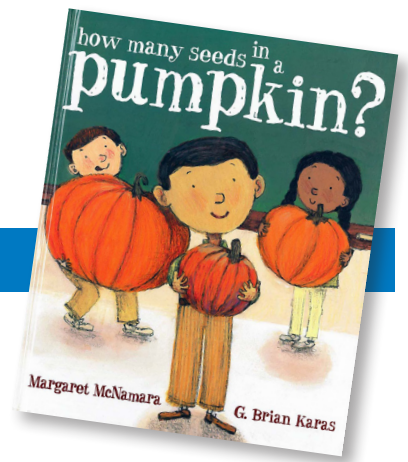
**Book Brief:** With the help of his teacher, Charlie discovers that good things really do come in small packages.

**Author:**

Margaret McNamara

**Illustrator:**

G. Brian Karas



## TIME TO READ!

**Before reading:** Ask how many of the children have ever cut open a pumpkin. Let children share what they found inside. Explain that today they are going to read about a little boy who finds out that being small isn't a problem.

## RELATED ACTIVITIES

*Bring in a couple of pumpkins. Like in the story, let the children dig out the seeds, separate them from the pulp, and wash them to use for the following activities.*

### PUMPKIN PROPERTIES (AGES 5-12)

Ask children to make observations about the outside of the pumpkin using their five senses. Record their responses on chart paper. Cut off the pumpkin top and let each child take turns scooping out the pulp. Again, ask them to use their five senses to observe the inside of the pumpkin. Record their responses. Compare the inside and outside: What is the same? What is different?

### PUMPKIN SEED SNACK (AGES 5-12)

Ingredients: 2 cups of pumpkin seeds, 2 T. butter, 2 T. soy sauce, salt

Let children help you measure out two cups of seeds. Melt butter in a skillet on medium heat. Add soy sauce and pumpkin seeds. Stir until brown. Sprinkle with salt. Let cool, then eat.

### SEED ART (AGES 5-12)

Materials: pumpkin seeds, rubbing alcohol, food coloring, bowls, newspaper

Pour alcohol into bowls. Put a few drops of food coloring in each bowl.

The more food coloring used, the darker the seeds will be. Place seeds in each bowl and let sit until the desired color is achieved. Drain and place on newspaper to dry overnight. Let children use the colored seeds to create pictures and patterns.



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### OTHER BOOKS ABOUT PUMPKINS

*Pumpkins*, Ken Robbins (2006), *Pumpkin Circle: The Story of a Garden*, George Levenson (2002), *Seed, Sprout, Pumpkin, Pie*, Jill Esbaum (2009), *The Very Best Pumpkin*, Mark Kimball Moulton (2010).

### TECHNOLOGY LINK FOR KIDS

[www.rif.org/kids](http://www.rif.org/kids)



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