

Maya and Friends The Halloween Kindness Parade



By Bob LePage

A story about friendship, teamwork,
and making room for everyone

A pumpkin on the calendar



Maya spotted a pumpkin on Ms. Lee's classroom calendar.
"Is Halloween almost here?" she asked.
"Yes!" said Ms. Lee. "Our community is having a costume parade."
Leo clapped. Emma grinned. Maya bounced in her chair.
"Let's make something together!"

Costume creators



Maya made a sunflower headband. Leo built a cardboard robot vest.
Emma made soft cat ears.

“My robot can dance,” said Leo. He wiggled his elbows.

“My cat can giggle,” said Emma.

“My sunflower can say hello!” said Maya.

They laughed until the paper petals shook.

Pumpkin personalities



At the craft table, the friends painted pumpkins with Ms. Lee. Maya's pumpkin had a crooked smile. Leo's had square robot eyes. Emma's had whiskers.

"Every pumpkin looks different," Maya said.

"Just like our ideas," said Ms. Lee.

The friends lined up their pumpkins. Three different faces. Three wonderful smiles.

Welcome to the celebration



Families gathered in the park. Leaves crunched beneath their shoes.
Paper bats fluttered above a table.

Maya stayed with her friends and their grown-ups.

There were games, crafts, and a little parade wagon waiting to be decorated.

“This is going to be the best afternoon!” said Maya.

Then she noticed something white behind a pumpkin planter.

A quiet little ghost



Two orange shoes peeked out. A white costume rustled.

“Is that a ghost?” whispered Leo.

“Maybe it’s someone dressed as one,” said Maya.

The child looked toward the party, then looked away.

Maya remembered her first day of school. She had wanted a friend to say hello.

“I think we should wave.”

Hello, Sam



“Hi! I’m Maya. This is Leo, and this is Emma.”

The child gave a tiny wave. “I’m Sam.”

“Would you like to decorate our wagon?” Maya asked.

Sam held the edge of his costume. “I don’t know anyone here.”

“You know us now,” said Emma.

Sam’s tiny wave turned into a smile.

A star to share



Maya held out an orange paper star.

“You can choose where this goes.”

“Anywhere?” asked Sam.

“Anywhere on our float!” said Leo.

Sam placed the star beside a little cardboard house.

“That looks like a light in the window,” he said.

“A welcome light,” said Maya.

“Make room, make friends, make Halloween kind!”

Four friends, one float



The friends worked together. Leo attached the cardboard house. Emma added paper pumpkins. Sam made a trail of stars. Maya taped sunflower petals along the sides.

“What should we call our float?” asked Leo.

“The Welcome Wagon!” said Sam.

Everyone cheered.

Their wagon was small, but there was room for everyone’s idea.

Whoosh!



A gust of wind rushed through the park.

WHOOSH!

A star sailed away. A paper pumpkin tumbled. One sunflower petal landed on Leo's head.

"Our float!" cried Emma.

Sam's smile disappeared. "I worked so hard on those stars."

Maya took a slow breath.

"We can help each other fix it," she said.

Helping hands



Ms. Lee held the wagon steady. The friends gathered the decorations from the nearby grass.

Leo passed the tape. Emma held a pumpkin. Sam pressed down a star. Maya fixed the petals.

“Teamwork makes more helping hands,” Maya said.

Soon the Welcome Wagon was ready again.

“Make room, make friends, make Halloween kind!”

The kindness parade



The parade began!

Maya walked beside Sam. Leo and Emma pushed the wagon. Their grown-ups walked with them.

A dragon waved. A butterfly twirled. A child in an astronaut helmet gave a thumbs-up.

Sam waved back. This time, his wave was big.

The friends called out together:

“Make room, make friends, make Halloween kind!”

The sweetest part



After the parade, the friends rested in the library's cozy reading corner.

"What was your favorite part?" asked Ms. Lee.

"The costumes!" said Leo.

"The wagon!" said Emma.

"Making friends," said Sam.

Maya smiled. Halloween could have pumpkins, games, and surprises.

But the sweetest part was helping someone feel that they belonged. And there was always room for one more friend.

Let's talk about the story

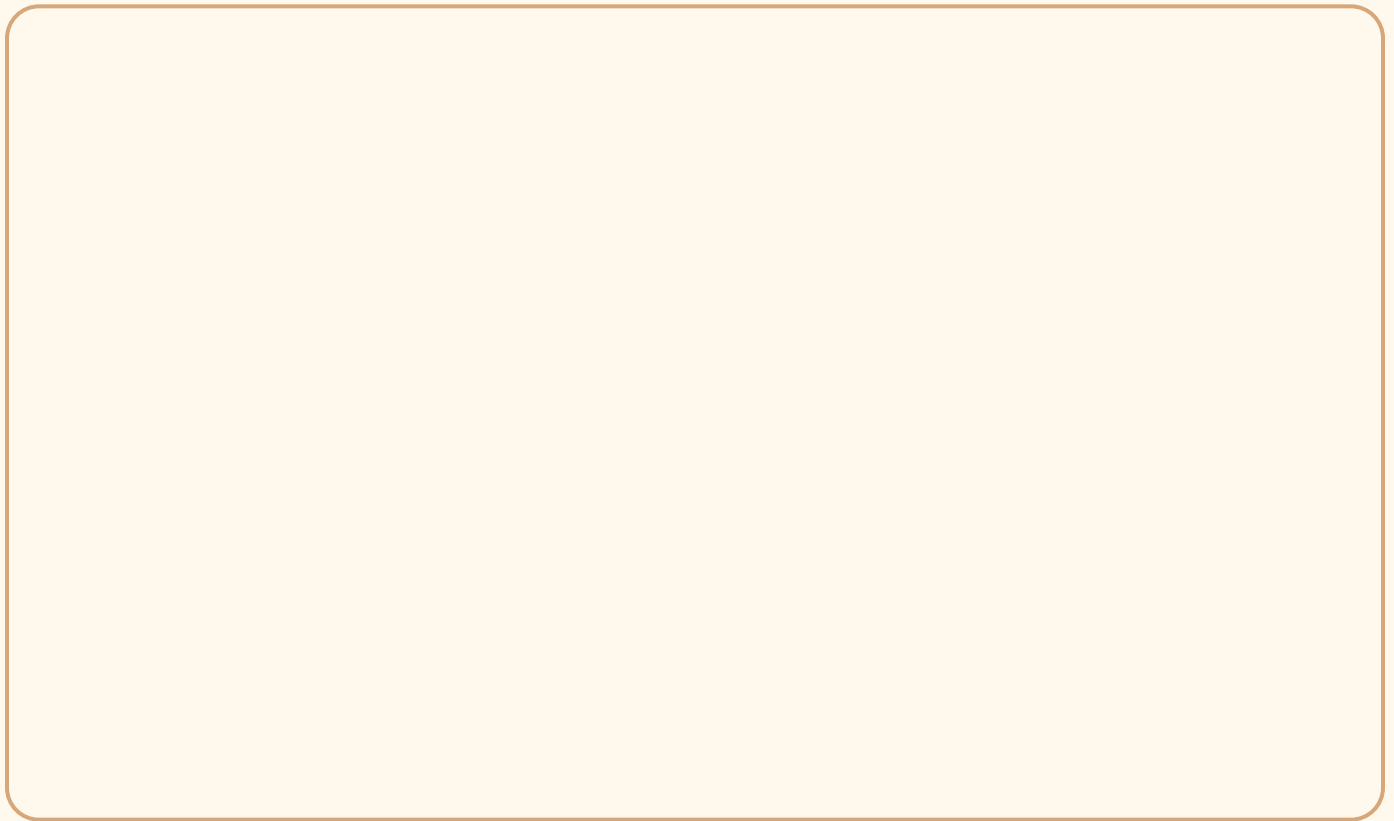
1. Why was Sam standing away from the celebration?
2. What did Maya do to help Sam feel welcome?
3. How did the friends solve the windy wagon problem?
4. How could you make room for someone at school?
5. What would you add to the Welcome Wagon?

Say it together!

“Make room, make friends,
make Halloween kind!”

Design your Welcome Wagon

Draw a float that helps everyone feel welcome.
What colors, shapes, or decorations will you use?



My wagon is called:

One way I can welcome a friend is:

For teachers and families

Suggested audience: ages 5–9, kindergarten through grade 3. Read aloud with younger children or invite developing readers to read with support.

About the story: Maya and her friends welcome Sam into a Halloween celebration. A gust of wind gives the group a chance to practice cooperation and solve a problem together. All characters and events are fictional.

Learning goals: identify feelings from words and pictures; retell the beginning, middle, and end; describe an act of inclusion; explain how teamwork solves a problem.

Try it: Pause when Maya sees Sam. Ask, “What do you notice? How might Sam feel?” After the wind scene, ask children to suggest a solution before turning the page.

Classroom refrain: “Make room, make friends, make Halloween kind!” Invite students to connect the words to an everyday action, such as offering a seat or inviting someone to join a game.

Extend the learning: Create paper stars with welcoming messages. Build a class Welcome Wagon collage. Use the drawing page to hear each child explain one way to include others.

Welcome every family: Some families celebrate Halloween and others do not. Offer an autumn friendship activity without costumes. Children may observe, participate, or choose another role.

Grown-up guidance: Supervise craft tools and outings. Keep children with their trusted adults. Adapt costumes and activities for comfort, mobility, sensory needs, and each child’s preferences.