

Plays "Halloween" Theme Song

One word. Three syllables. It's the one night, every year, that you can deck yourself out in the scariest, the craziest, or the funniest costume and have fun. So many people hold this holiday dear to their hearts and others are in it for the free candy. Whatever your opinion be, I can tell you that this has been my favorite holiday since my brain could remember things. No other holiday can compare to this one, because after all, it is the best. Read this essay if you dare, but don't be alarmed if you get goosebumps when I explain why Halloween is the best holiday out of all the holidays.

Society has a special box filled with labels for everyone; all of us are always being placed into different boxes. Not only does society hold us hostage within these boxes, social media does as well. And because of this inconceivable behavior of categorizing people based on what you see on the outside, this generation of youths are required to know who they are, what they want, and who they want to be, the moment we can function. The amount of emotional and physical pressure forced upon young adults is exhausting. As a current high school student, and fast-growing teenager, I ask that you trust me when I say that we are emotionally drained from having to act one way all the time around everyone. I ask that you trust me when I say we are physically drained from wanting to be skinny and fit. Halloween is the best holiday for this most important reason, a quote by Matka, "You can be whatever or whomever you want." Halloween grants you the freedom to express yourself in ways you can't any other day. No one judges you for your costume because someone else is wearing something crazier. Halloween is the one night a year that you can be someone else, stepping out of your body, morphing to another. This is why I'm a professional when it comes to Halloween, because every year I become someone else, never the same person twice and never uncomfortable with being a different.

Halloween also holds some great characteristics within itself. A crucial object of importance during this night is candy; wherever Halloween is, there will always be junk food.

The main point, or goal if you're competing with friends, of Halloween is to collect as much candy as possible. However, it doesn't take a genius to realize that when you eat junk food, you tend to gain weight. If you eat mounds of candy, whether by yourself or with people, you will often be ashamed for stuffing your face. If you are highly insecure, eating this much candy can hurt your self esteem. Being around people when eating so much junk is worse on your self image because you're constantly wondering if you look like a pig. Halloween can be the most resourceful excuse for this exact reason. Say you have a doctors appointment the day after Halloween; they of course need to weigh you. You see numbers the scale provides that weren't there the day before Halloween, so the quick excuse you can tell your doctor, or yourself, is that you had too much candy. Who are they to judge? They might have children, who get candy and eat the candy. Or they handed out candy themselves to children who are going to feast later in the night. To further my reasoning for why Halloween is the best holiday, please enjoy this short excerpt from an article written by Professor Gina Barreca: "There is about one-one-hundredth as much emotional tension surrounding Halloween as surrounds Valentine's Day, for example, or New Year's Eve. Few wring their hands, wondering "What if I'm not asked out on the 31st of October? Does that make me a total loser (Barreca)?" After reading this, my mind was opened to another reason why Halloween is the best holiday. Valentine's Day is a useless holiday, one day a year you're supposed to show your love for your significant other. Three hundred and sixty-five days to express your love for someone and you choose once a year? It makes no sense. Halloween doesn't let you stress over being judged for celebrating because Halloween is not a holiday for love. Halloween is a holiday for getting spooked, getting dressed up, and collecting as much candy as your pillow-sack can hold.

“There, hanging from the door handle, was a bloody, stainless-steel hook (Schwartz).”

Countless times have I read the story about the escaped convict with a hook for a hand, and countless times the ending always gives me shivers. The author never states what becomes of the

couple in the end of the story and that is what makes it all the more frightening. Halloween is the only holiday you can tell horror stories, watch movies like Friday the 13th, and be genuinely spooked.

I am a huge fan of horror movies, and stories, and have tried watching or reading them when it wasn't Halloween, let me tell you that doing this around Christmas doesn't hold the same feelings it would on October 31st. Halloween is the only holiday you can do things like this and receive the true feeling of terror. Haunted houses aren't meant for Easter, pumpkins don't get carved on April Fools, and candy certainly isn't given out free for the fun of it. Only Halloween gives us these remarkable situations because Halloween is the only holiday you can get the full experience of looking over your shoulder every minute. So what makes Halloween scary you ask? Why is this holiday your favorite? All you do is eat and watch movies about monsters that aren't real. Well, here's the thing; that is the exact reason. You must be out of your mind if you don't like sitting down with some treats and watching a scary movie, your heart beating as loud as the old dead man with the vulture eye hidden in the floorboards. All of the scary things that follow Halloween like a phantom are surely terrifying, awaiting to capture you in the darkness, no matter how bright your flashlight is.

So have you got the shivers or the goosebumps? Is your stomach twisting with the thought of Halloween coming again? Do you have enough information to realize that your favorite holiday is not in fact your birthday, or Valentines Day, or Presidents Day? That your favorite holiday was indeed Halloween all along? You just needed a reminder of how ghoully it is. As a Halloween fan-girl I hope I convinced you that Halloween is the best holiday. And the only holiday you can scare your little siblings and not get in trouble. So remember this, and don't stay up past 3:00 a.m. for all the ghosts and demons may come out; don't dial 666 for the devil may pay you a visit, and most importantly, don't look behind you!

Works Cited

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Schwartz, Alvin. "The Hook." *Scary Website*, 2018, <http://www.scaryforkids.com/the-hook/>