It was a hot afternoon and Wendy looked out of the classroom window. Then the teacher said the word ‘prize’. Wendy sat up and listened.

‘Each student is going to grow a pumpkin. There is going to be a prize for the biggest pumpkin,’ said the teacher.

Wendy was happy. ‘I’m going to win!’ she thought. ‘I’m going to grow the biggest pumpkin!’
‘You can grow the pumpkins in your gardens,’ said the teacher. ‘You have four months.’ The teacher gave each student ten pumpkin seeds.

‘Oh no!’ thought Wendy. ‘I haven’t got a garden.’ Wendy’s family lived in a small flat. It had no garden. Lucy laughed at Wendy. ‘Ha ha! You haven’t got a garden!’ she said. ‘You’re too poor. You can’t grow a pumpkin.’ Wendy was angry and sad.
Then Wendy thought, ‘I can grow my pumpkin in a pot.’ After school she went to the shops. She bought a big pot. She went home by bus, and put the pot on the balcony. Now she was not sad or angry. She was happy.
1. A pumpkin is a vegetable. Do you know the names of these vegetables? Put the letters in the right order and write the right names.

a) oatpot
b) arotcr
c) ensab
d) bagecba
e) norc

2. How many little words can you find in the word VEGETABLES? You can make words like: table, eat, bee ...
Wendy planted the seeds in the pot. She watered the seeds every night. A pumpkin plant grew. Wendy was very happy. She bought some more seeds and grew some flowers, too. Soon her balcony was very beautiful.

A Garden Fairy saw Wendy’s flowers. She flew down and sat on a flower.

‘What a beautiful garden! I like it here,’ she said.
The children’s pumpkins grew and grew. The children measured the pumpkins every week.

John said, ‘My pumpkin is 20 centimetres high!’

Tina said, ‘My pumpkin is 30 centimetres wide! My pumpkin is bigger than John’s pumpkin.’

‘But my pumpkin is the biggest,’ said Wendy. ‘It’s 40 centimetres high and 60 centimetres wide. I’m going to win the prize!’
'Bring your pumpkins to school on Friday,' said the teacher. 'We are going to weigh them.'

The children were all very excited.
1. Measuring
   a) How high is this plant?
      It is 50 centimetres high.
   b) How wide is this table?
      It ____________________.
   c) How tall is this girl?
      She ____________________.
   d) How long is her hair?
      It ____________________.

2. Weighing
   a) This pumpkin weighs 1 kilogramme.
   b) This pumpkin weighs ________________.
   c) This pumpkin weighs ________________.
   d) This ____________________.
Wendy was not excited. She was sad. Her pumpkin was not very big.

On Thursday evening the Garden Fairy came to the balcony. ‘Why are you crying, Wendy?’ she asked.

‘I’m crying because I’m not going to win the prize tomorrow,’ said Wendy. ‘I said my pumpkin was the biggest. But that isn’t true. It isn’t big enough!’

‘Don’t cry,’ said the Garden Fairy. ‘I can help you.’
'Look, the pumpkin is growing!' said the Garden Fairy. Wendy looked. The pumpkin grew very quickly.

'It's as big as an orange!' said Wendy. 'Now it's as big as a football ... Now it's as big as a watermelon! Oh, thank you, Garden Fairy!'

Wendy went to school by bus on Friday. She carried her pumpkin. It was very heavy!
The children looked at Wendy’s pumpkin. It was bigger than all their pumpkins.

‘I’m going to win the prize!’ said Wendy. ‘My pumpkin is the biggest!’

Wendy looked at John’s pumpkin. ‘Oh, yours is very small, John!’ she said. She looked at Tina’s pumpkin. ‘Oh, yours is smaller, Tina!’ she laughed.

The Garden Fairy was there. She looked at Wendy and she was angry.
Put the words in the box in the sentences below.

big    bigger    biggest
small   smaller   smallest

a) The carrot is big.
b) The potato is __________.
c) The pumpkin is the __________.
d) The apple is small.
e) The lemon is __________.
f) The cherry is the __________.
Wendy’s pumpkin grew and grew.

‘It’s growing bigger and bigger!’ said Lucy.

‘We’re going to weigh all the pumpkins at three o’clock,’ said the teacher.

Wendy’s pumpkin was now ENORMOUS. It was bigger than Wendy.

Suddenly there was a big BANG!

‘Look!’ said John. ‘Wendy’s pumpkin has exploded!’
Wendy was very sad.
‘You laughed and said your pumpkin was the biggest,’ said the Garden Fairy. ‘That wasn’t very nice!’
‘I’m sorry,’ said Wendy to Tina and John.
‘That’s alright,’ said Tina. ‘Don’t cry, Wendy. Come to my house after school. We can play in the garden.’

After school, Wendy went to Tina’s house. The Garden Fairy went, too. They all played in the garden.
This is a pumpkin. It is round and it has a hard skin.

Pumpkins can be different colours. They are usually orange, but sometimes they are yellow, white, green or brown.

Pumpkins usually weigh between four and eight kilogrammes.

Sometimes pumpkins can be very big. The biggest pumpkin in the world weighed 342 kilogrammes!
Farmer Greenhand grows pumpkins.

He plants the seeds in a greenhouse in the spring. In the greenhouse the ground is dark and warm and wet.

Farmer Greenhand waits for three weeks.

The seeds grow into little plants. The plants have roots under the ground. They have leaves above the ground.

Farmer Greenhand takes the plants to his field. He puts them in the ground. He plants them in little hills.

He waters the pumpkin plants.
The plants grow bigger and bigger. The leaves are heart-shaped. Now yellow flowers grow on the plants. The flowers are bell-shaped.

The flowers grow into little pumpkins.

The pumpkin plants need water and sunlight. The pumpkins grow very quickly.

In the autumn the pumpkins are big enough. Farmer Greenhand picks them.

Farmer Greenhand sells the pumpkins at the market.
1. This is a pumpkin plant. Write the right names. Choose from:

leaf    flower    pumpkin    roots

a)  

b)  

c)  

d)  

2. How does Farmer Greenhand grow pumpkins? Put the sentences in the right order. The first sentence is right.

a) He plants the seeds in a greenhouse in the spring.

b) He puts them in the ground and waters them.

c) In the autumn the pumpkins are big enough and Farmer Greenhand picks them.

d) The seeds grow into little plants.

e) The pumpkins grow very quickly.

f) The flowers grow into little pumpkins.

g) The plants grow bigger and bigger. Now yellow flowers grow on the plants.
The evening of 31st October is Halloween. People say, ‘Ghosts come out at Halloween!’ People do not want ghosts in their houses, so they make a jack-o’-lantern and put it in front of the window.

This is how people make a jack-o’-lantern. They buy a pumpkin and cut the top off.

They cut a big hole in the middle of the pumpkin.

They cut a face in the side of the pumpkin.

They put a candle inside, and light it.
Some vegetables grow very quickly. You can grow mustard and cress in three weeks!

1. Put some soft, wet paper on a plate.

2. Put some mustard and cress seeds on the paper.

3. Water the seeds every day.

4. Wait for three days. What can you see? Little mustard and cress plants are growing on the paper!
5. Put the plate in front of the window. The plants need sunlight.

6. Water the plants every day. The plants need water.

7. Wait for three weeks.

8. Now you can pick the mustard and cress plants. You can eat them!
Puzzles

Find these words in the word square.
grow   plants   seeds   pot
flower pumpkin water leaves
farmer autumn spring

R A U T U M N M L
P L A N T S F S
U F L W R E T P
M L E A V E S R
P O T T S D R I
K W I E M S N N
I E G R O W W G
N R F A R M E R
Questions

Page 1  a) Then the teacher said the word ‘pumpkin’/ ‘prize’/ ‘student’.
   b) Wendy is / was / were happy.

Page 2  a) How many pumpkin seeds did the teacher give each student?
   b) Who laughed at Wendy?

Page 3  True or false?
   a) Wendy bought a small pot.
   b) Wendy went home by bus.

Page 5  a) Wendy planted the s _______ in a pot.
   b) A G _______ F _______ saw Wendy’s flowers.

Page 6  a) The children measured the pumpkins every day / week / year.
   b) Tina’s pumpkin is 30 centimetres high / tall / wide.

Page 7  a) When are the children going to weigh their pumpkins?
   b) Were the children sad?

Page 9  a) Who came to the balcony on Thursday evening?
   b) Is Wendy’s pumpkin the biggest?

Page 10 a) The pumpkin grow / grew / growing very quickly.
   b) Wendy went to school by bus / car / bicycle on Friday.
Page 11  a) Wendy's pumpkin was b______ than all the other children's pumpkins.
   b) Wendy said, 'My pumpkin is the b______!'  

Page 13  True or false?
   a) The students are going to weigh all the pumpkins at three o'clock.
   b) Wendy was bigger than her pumpkin.

Page 14  a) Who said, 'I'm sorry,' to Tina and John?
   b) Where did Wendy go after school?

Page 15  a) Pumpkins are usually o______.
   b) The biggest pumpkin in the world weighed ________________.

Page 16  True or false?
   a) Farmer Greenhand plants the seeds in the greenhouse in the autumn.
   b) The plants have roots above the ground.

Page 17  a) The pumpkin plants need _______ and _______.
   b) True or false? In the spring the pumpkins are big enough.

Page 19  a) When is Halloween? It is on the evening of ________________.
   b) Where do people put their jack-o'-lantern? They put it in front of the _______.

Page 20  a) Put some soft, wet paper on a table / cup / plate.
   b) Water the seeds every week / day / month.

Page 21  a) Put the plate in front of the table / television / window.
   b) Can you eat the mustard and cress plants?
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* The short e sound is previously introduced in Level 5 Mickey Monkey.
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Billy and Tom
At the Zoo

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I Can Swim
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Charlie
Lucky
Jojo

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The Space Museum
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The Circus

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The Biggest Dad
The Garden Fairy
Mrs Mott

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