

How to Carve a Pumpkin

by  
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For the One Week Challenge

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SUPER: How To Carve A Pumpkin with Stanley Jones

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Black and white 50s style, though it's present day.

STANLEY JONES stands in a kitchen with a cigar in hand. His hair is slicked back and he is dressed in a formal attire.

He stands behind a MOTHER and SON. The son works on carving a jack-o-lantern. He looks up at the camera.

STANLEY

Oh, hello. I'm Stanley Jones.  
You're probably here to learn how  
to carve a jack-o-lantern, hm?  
Well, it's as easy as 1, 2, 3.  
Let's get started.

Stanley walks off screen. BOBBY (12) walks into the kitchen.

STANLEY (V.O.)

This is Bobby. He's planning on  
buying a pumpkin today to later  
turn it into a jack-o-lantern.

BOBBY

I'm off to buy a pumpkin, Mom.

MOTHER

Be careful.

His mother kisses him on the cheek.

Bobby attempts to open the door, but it won't budge. He tugs on it, but the door refuses to open. He finally jerks the door open.

The door smacks him in the head. He stumbles back and lands on the table. The table collapses beneath him.

It launches a prop carving knife through the air. The knife lands in Bobby's neck and slices it open. The camera faces the mother and she screams.

CUT TO:

A new table has replaced the old one. The mother and son are in their same positions. KYLE (13) walks in.

STANLEY (V.O.)  
This is Kyle. He's planning on  
buying a pumpkin today to later  
turn it into a jack-o-lantern.

KYLE  
I'm off to buy a pumpkin, Mom.

MOTHER  
Be careful.

The mother kisses him on the cheek.

Kyle turns around to open the door, but accidentally knocks  
over a large glass of water. The glass shatters and water  
splashes all over the floor.

The water splashes on a power cord from one of the stage  
lights. The cord is partly cut open, and Kyle gets  
electrocuted. He sizzles as he falls to the floor.

CUT TO:

The mother and HENRY (12) face each other.

MOTHER  
Be careful.

The mother and Henry shake hands nervously. He walks through  
the door.

EXT. FARM - DAY

Henry walks through a field of pumpkins. Stanley stops him.

STANLEY (V.O.)  
Now it comes to picking out the  
perfect pumpkin. Remember to find  
one without bruises, one that's  
nice and round, and one that is the  
perfect size.

Henry searches for the perfect pumpkin.

STANLEY (V.O.)  
If you have trouble looking for  
one, always consider asking for  
help.

HENRY  
(To camera)  
Great idea!

Henry walks up to a Hispanic WORKER who plows the field.

HENRY

Excuse me sir. Do you know where I  
can find the perfect pumpkin?

WORKER

¿Qué?

STANLEY

(Chuckling)

Go back to college, Pablo.

(To Henry)

Henry, maybe you should ask a  
professional.

A FARMER walks up behind Henry.

FARMER

You here to purchase a pumpkin?

HENRY

Yes sir.

The farmer pulls out a nice, juicy, clean pumpkin.

HENRY

Gee wiz! It's perfect! I'll take  
it!

FARMER

Seven dollars.

Henry pulls out his money, but Stanley stops him.

STANLEY (V.O.)

Hold on there, Henry. Before you  
purchase that pumpkin, you should  
look around other places. There may  
be pumpkins just the same for a  
lower price.

HENRY

Golly, you may be right.

Henry walks off. The farmer glares at him.

FARMER

(To himself)

Get your ass back here.

EXT. GHETTO AREA - DAY

Henry walks into a rundown street. A black MAN hollers at him.

MAN

Hey! You looking for a pumpkin?

HENRY

(To camera)

Uh oh! A Negro! What should I do?

STANLEY (V.O.)

Who the hell cares! He has pumpkins!

Henry walks up to the man.

HENRY

One pumpkin, please.

MAN

Fifty bucks.

HENRY

Holy moly! I only have ten dollars!

MAN

You got a sister?

CUT TO:

The man stands on his porch with a young teenage girl. He slowly pulls her into his home. Henry walks off proudly with his pumpkin.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Henry now stands in his kitchen with the pumpkin on the table.

STANLEY (V.O.)

Congratulations, Henry! You now have your pumpkin. Now it's time to carve. First, you'll need newspaper...

Henry produces newspaper from underneath the table.

STANLEY (V.O.)

...a carving knife...

Henry produces a carving knife.

STANLEY (V.O.)  
...and a large spoon.

He produces a spoon.

Stanley walks into view and stands next to Henry.

STANLEY  
Alright, Henry! Are you ready to  
carve your jack-o-lantern?

HENRY  
Am I ever!

STANLEY  
Alright, first we need to spread  
out the newspaper.

They unfold the newspaper and set it on the table. Henry  
picks up a piece of newspaper off the floor and holds it up.  
A few rolls of dog poop splatter on the table.

HENRY  
Sparky!

CUT TO:

Stanley holds the carving knife. The mother and younger son  
stand behind them.

STANLEY  
Next, you want to cut open the top  
of the pumpkin, but be cautious to  
those around you. Now, who wants to  
cut the top open?

SON  
I do!

Stanley whips around, but accidentally stabs the son in the  
eye. He screams in pain.

CUT TO:

The son now has a bandage taped over his eye.

STANLEY  
Now, who wants to cut the top open?

HENRY  
I do!

Stanley carefully sets the knife on the table. Henry grabs it and begins to cut the top open. The others look on as he cuts it open. He finally finishes.

STANLEY

Now that he's finished, you use the large spoon to scoop out the pumpkin seeds.

Henry scoops out the seeds and sets them on the newspaper.

STANLEY

While Henry is cleaning out the inside of the pumpkin, here's a tip you mothers could use at home. Cook the pumpkin seeds to make a delicious meal everyone will enjoy.

MOTHER

I think I'll do that now!

While Henry scoops out the seeds, the mother scoops them into a small cooking tray. They both finish up. The mother sets the seeds in the oven and switches it on.

STANLEY

Now it's time for carving. To make it easier, first draw the face you want as your jack-o-lantern design.

Stanley turns the pumpkin towards the camera. A normal, smiling jack-o-lantern design has been drawn.

STANLEY

Remember, when you cut, you always make sure you do it nice and slow, so you don't hurt yourself or others. Henry, would you like to cut?

Henry takes the knife while Stanley holds it. The knife slides through the left eye of the jack-o-lantern design rather quickly.

Henry jerks the knife down which severs Stanley's thumb. Blood squirts out everywhere.

Stanley's hand retreats. Blood sprays on everyone in the face, and they all scream.

CUT TO:

Stanley holds on to the pumpkin with a bloody bandage around his hand. Henry slowly cuts through the jack-o-lantern design.

Henry pushes out the cut out pieces and sets them on the newspaper. He sets the mouth piece on the table on a piece of newspaper that hangs off the side of the table.

SPARKY, the dog, jumps up and chews on the paper. It falls off, and the mouth piece falls on the floor. Sparky jumps onto the table.

Henry picks up the pumpkin and looks at it.

HENRY

Finished!

The four look at it in awe.

Stanley wipes his hands off with a cloth and steps to the side. He slips on the mouth piece and lands on the table.

The table launches Sparky into the air. He yelps, but is cut off when he flies into the ceiling fan. Blood sprays and rains down on the four. They all scream in horror.

CUT TO:

Stanley smiles while he stares at the camera. The other three force a smile, but are obviously scared and grossed out. Blood decorates their surroundings.

The finished jack-o-lantern sits on the table, also covered in blood.

STANLEY

Well, we're finally finished carving our jack-o-lantern! How do you feel, Henry?

HENRY

(Uncomfortably)  
I...love...it...

STANLEY

What about you, Mom?

MOTHER

(Uncomfortably and monotonous)  
I'm so proud of my oldest son.

STANLEY

And what's a jack-o-lantern carving without celebrating with delicious cooked pumpkin seeds? Mom?

MOTHER

Right. Son, would you like to get the seeds?

The younger son walks over to the oven and opens it up. The seeds look as they were when they first put them in. A faded hissing sound emits from inside the oven.

SON

The seeds look the same.

Stanley stops smiling. He looks at the son and stomps his foot on the ground.

STANLEY

Just get the fucking seeds out!  
(Back at the camera)  
And last, but not least, brighten up your evening by having a lit candle bring your jack-o-lantern to life.

He pulls out a candle and sticks it in the jack-o-lantern. He pulls out a matchbox.

STANLEY

Harry, will you do the honor?

HENRY

It's Henry.

Stanley shoves the matchbox in Henry's face. Matches fall to the floor.

Henry pulls out a match. He takes a deep breath and slides the match across the box. It lights up.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

The house explodes into a gigantic fireball. Debris shoots through the air.

FADE OUT.