

The Halloween Costume Countdown

by Maggie Murphy 🐭 Art by Leslie Tryon



Cat and Mouse sat in Cat’s house talking about what costumes to make for Alligator’s Halloween party. They had a big pile of arts and crafts supplies . . . but no big ideas.

“We’ve got to decide soon, Mouse,” said Cat. “The party starts in two hours.” He shook out an old sheet. “I know. I’ll be a ghost!”

Ding-dong! The doorbell rang. The friends jumped up and hurried to answer it. As Cat opened the door, a ghost on the front steps yelled, “Boo!”

Cat glanced at the scaly feet peeking out from under the ghost’s flowing sheet. “Hello, Alligator,” he said.

“I couldn’t wait to show you what I’m wearing for my party,” said Alligator.

“It’s a great costume,” said Cat. “Come on in.”



“Thanks,” said Alligator, “but I’ve got to dip some candy apples. See you both soon. Whoooo!” And the green-footed ghost ran away.

Cat slowly shut the door. “I guess I won’t be a ghost,” he said to Mouse. “But what *will* I be?”

In a box of odds and ends, Mouse found a large silver button. “I’ll make a knight costume!” he said. “This button is the perfect size for my shield.”



The doorbell rang again. This time the visitor was Raccoon. He wore cardboard armor and carried a wooden shield.

“Hi, Cat and Mouse,” said Raccoon. “Alligator told me you were here. I stopped by so you could see my knight costume for the party.”

“It’s a great costume,”
said Mouse.

“Thanks,” said Raccoon.
“Well, I should go. I still
have to paint my shield
silver. See you later at
Alligator’s.”

Raccoon marched away,
holding his shield high. In
an even smaller voice than
usual, Mouse said to Cat, “I
guess I won’t be a knight.”

Cat twitched his ears
and whiskers, trying to cheer
his friend up with a funny
face. But Mouse just stared
at him.

“What is it?” said Cat.

Mouse’s little round eyes
grew rounder. He said, “Cat,
I have a *big* idea.”

After Mouse shared his
plan, Cat cried, “Hooray!
This is something completely
different.”



Soon they were hard at work. Cat snatched up the sheet, saying, “I’ll wrap a piece of this around my tail to hide the fur.”

Mouse grabbed a ruler and measured out a strip of fuzzy cloth. “And I’ll tie this to my tail to make it look furry.”



“Now for our ears,” said Cat. “Here’s orange paper for you, and gray paper for me.”

Cat traced big circles on his paper and cut them out. Mouse cut out small triangles.

They put on their costumes just in time and rushed off to Alligator's house. When they joined the party, everyone laughed.

"A tiny Cat and a giant Mouse have arrived," said Alligator.

"You really do look like each other," said Raccoon.

"Great costumes, Cat and Mouse!" 🐭

