

The Ugliest Pumpkin

UGLIEST
PUMPKIN

ORANGEST
PUMPKIN

CROW ONE



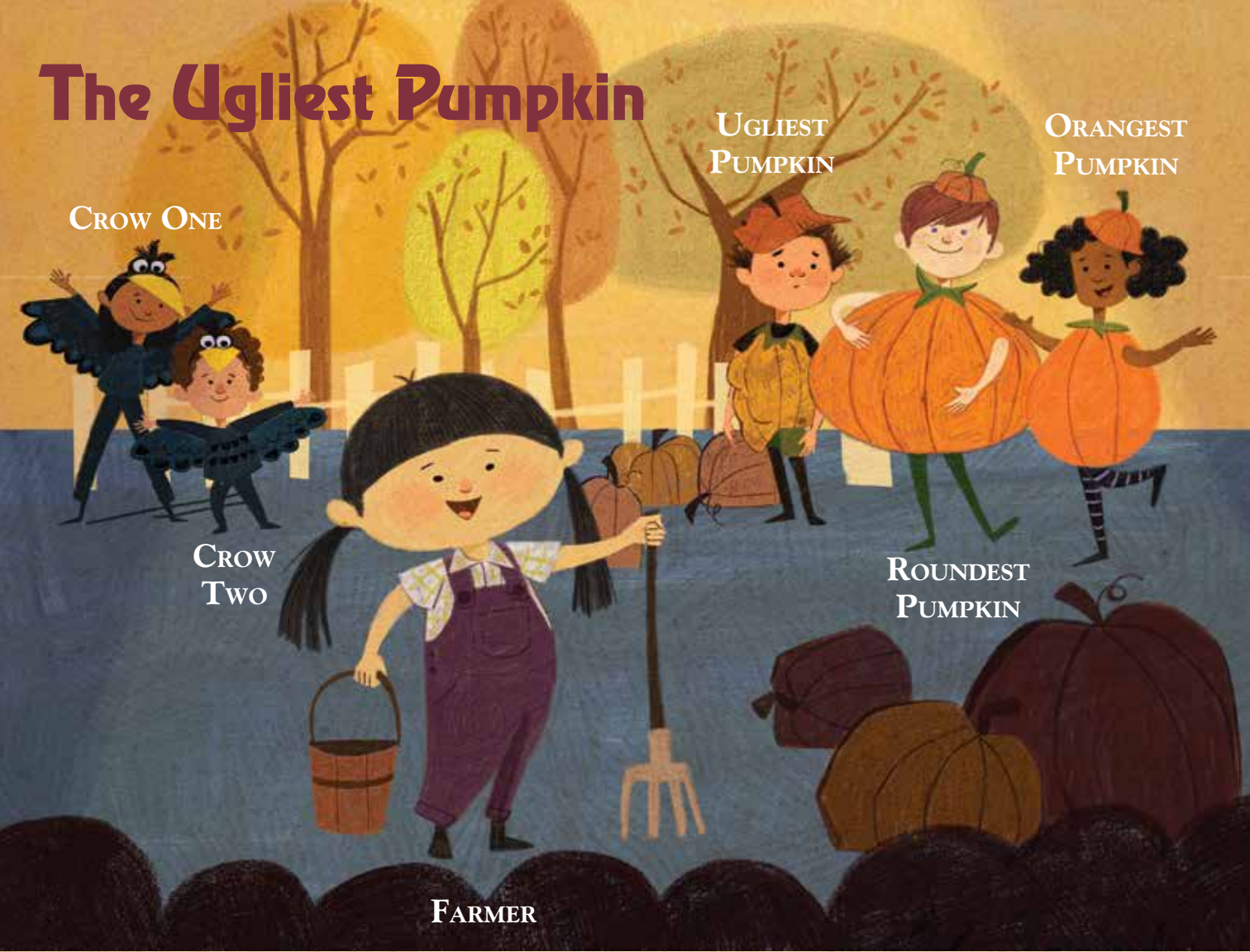
CROW
TWO



FARMER



ROUNDEST
PUMPKIN



(SETTING: A magical pumpkin patch.)

FARMER: There were once three pumpkins growing side by side in the same pumpkin patch. Each of the pumpkins was the best at something. I don't know how it happened or why. Maybe it was something in the soil. Maybe they got too much sunlight or too little water. Whatever the reason, these pumpkins were special.

Take the dough from the fridge.



Let it come to room temperature.



Press half into a fat pancake.



ROUNDEST: I'm the roundest pumpkin in the entire world.

My radius is radiant. My diameter is dynamic. I'm a perfect sphere!

ORANGEST: No other pumpkin in the world is as orange as me! A pumpkin is just not a pumpkin unless it's shiny and orange. Look at how I gleam in the sunlight.

ROUNDEST: You're crazy. Round is the only shape for a pumpkin.

ORANGEST: Round is the only shape for a pie! If you're not orange, you might as well be a cantaloupe.

FARMER: Pumpkins! You're all special. Each and every one.

UGLIEST: Even me?

FARMER: Even you.



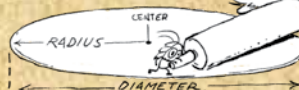
Roll out along the radius—the distance from the center of the circle to the outside.



Not too much!
Less rolling eez best.



Make its diameter—the distance across the middle of the dough circle—two inches wider than the pan.



ORANGEST & ROUNDEST: What makes him so special?

UGLIEST: I'm the ugliest pumpkin in the whole world.

ORANGEST & ROUNDEST: What in the world can you do with a very ugly pumpkin?

UGLIEST: I don't want to be ugly. Ugly isn't special.

FARMER: You're not ugly. You're different. And different is good, too.

UGLIEST: But I don't want to be different. I want to be shiny and orange! I want to glow like an orange harvest moon on a cloudless October night.

ORANGEST: Well, that's easy.

UGLIEST: It is?

ORANGEST: All you have to do is accentuate your orangeosity.

UGLIEST: Orangeosity?

ORANGEST: Your orangeness. Your hue. The color that makes you you.

UGLIEST: Me me? How how?

ORANGEST: You just find your orangeosity in the center of your belly and push it up, up, up—until you're glowing! Look out at the world, puff out your chest, and shine orange from blossom to vine. (*Ugliest tries, but can only make silly faces.*) No! No. I don't know what you just did, but stop it.

UGLIEST: I was just doing what you told me!



We need more apples to add to this one.



Cortlands for that sweet apple flavor!



Northern Spy are traditional.





ORANGEST: I did not tell you to do that. That face you made was terrifying!

UGLIEST: Let me try again. I think I know what I did wrong. (*Ugliest makes an even uglier face. Orangest runs off screaming.*) Like this? Does this look shiny? Do I look beautiful? Orange and shiny like the autumn moon? Hey! Where did she go?

ROUNDEST: Let's just say your "orange and shiny" needs work.

UGLIEST: I'll never be as orange as she is.

ROUNDEST: Well her name is "Orangest Pumpkin." You can't really out-orange that. Besides, nobody cares about orange pumpkins. People want round pumpkins. Round pumpkins are the best. Round pumpkins have all the fun. We're super huggable and extra loveable. We've got all the moves. (*Roundest does a round and rolling dance.*)

UGLIEST: I never really thought of it that way.

I would love to be a round pumpkin.

ROUNDEST: OK. Let's see your moves.

UGLIEST: My moves?

ROUNDEST: Yeah. If you want to be round, you've got to be ready to rock-'n'-roll.

UGLIEST: OK. (*Ugliest dances badly and falls.*) Ow!



Russets 'cause they don't get mushy!



Yum... mushy...



We will mix with zee green
Granny Smith apple to
accentuate zee tang—make
zee tartness stand out.





ROUNDEST: That's not rock-'n'-roll, that's hop-'n'-flop! You're the worst round pumpkin I have ever seen. I'm leaving before you accidentally smash me with all of that thumping and bumping.

(Roundest dances off stage.)

UGLIEST: Don't go! What am I going to do now? I'm not as round or as orange as a good pumpkin should be.

FARMER: Give it time, little pumpkin. Everything ripens in its season.

(Crow One and Crow Two enter.)

CROW ONE: Did someone say pumpkin? There's nothing we crows like more than pecking and munching on a nice, round chunk of pumpkin.

CROW TWO: Pumpkins! Pumpkins! There's nothing we crows enjoy more than hopping all over a shiny orange pumpkin and scuffing it up with our claws!

(Crows begin to search around for the pumpkins.)

Allez! Six apples,
peeled and sliced.



I'm a-peelin'!



I'm a-slicin'!

UGLIEST: Oh no! These guys want to hurt my pumpkin family. I can't let that happen. (*Stands.*) Here I am! I'm the roundest and orangest pumpkin in the patch. You can nibble and scratch on me all you want. Just don't hurt any other pumpkins.

CROW ONE: You're the roundest?!

CROW TWO: You're the orangest?!

(*Crows laugh. Orangest and Roundest Pumpkins enter.*)

ROUNDEST: Did someone ask for the roundest . . .

ORANGEST: . . . and the orangest pumpkins?

ORANGEST & ROUNDEST: Because here we are!

(*Orangest and Roundest Pumpkins realize what they've done. Crows chase and catch both Pumpkins.*)



Add a half cup of packed brown sugar to the sliced apples.

One tablespoon of cornstarch to thicken things . . .

One teaspoon vanilla, one quarter teaspoon cinnamon . . .

An eighth teaspoon nutmeg and a pinch of salt!





UGLIEST: I have to do something! I can't let them hurt my family! I know. I'll do what the pumpkins taught me. First, I'll puff out my chest and shine orange from blossom to vine. Next, I'll rock and roll around. (*Ugliest does both and looks horrifying.*) Let my family go!

(*Crows scream and run off.*)

ORANGEST & ROUNDEST: You saved us! Even after we were mean to you and called you the ugliest pumpkin.

UGLIEST: We're family. That's just what family does.

ORANGEST & ROUNDEST: But we should have been better to you. We're sorry.

ROUNDEST: You're not the ugliest pumpkin.

ORANGEST: You're the bravest pumpkin.

ORANGEST & ROUNDEST: You're the bravest pumpkin of us all!

FARMER: And from that day to this, every year around this time, pumpkins all over the world put on scary faces or silly faces and shine out into the night as jack-o'-lanterns in honor of the bravest pumpkin of them all. 🦋

NOW MIX THAT STUFF UP!



Gently!

Meanwhile, press the dough into the pan for the bottom crust.



All around so there's no bubbles.