

Colorful Fall Fun With Clifford

 [scholastic.com/teachers/lesson-plan/colorful-fall-fun-clifford](https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/lesson-plan/colorful-fall-fun-clifford)

In the first of two lessons, children learn through reading and language how friends work to solve challenges and unselfishly serve others. In the second lesson, children enjoy the color orange in a variety of fun ways.

The following activities nurture essential:

- language and literacy skills
- critical thinking and problem solving skills
- fine motor skills
- cognitive thinking skills
- science and discovery skills

Directions

Day 1: Too Small, Too Big!

Step 1: Read *Clifford's First Halloween* by Norman Bridwell aloud to the class. In the story, Clifford is a puppy, and he is too small to fit into any Halloween costumes.

Teaching Tip: Many children develop their own reading style by modeling how they have been read to during this early time of language development. When reading a story to children, turn the pages slowly and speak with distinct inflections in your voice to bring the text alive.

Step 2: After reading *Clifford's First Halloween*, have children identify what Clifford did to solve his problem.

Step 3: Now read aloud *Clifford's Halloween* by Norman Bridwell. In this story, Clifford is not a puppy anymore; he's grown too big to fit into any costumes.

Step 4: Have children identify what Clifford did to solve his new problem.

Step 5: Help children recall story details, compare the two stories, and lend suggestions about how they might have helped Clifford with his size challenge.

Lesson Extension

As we grow, we change, we learn, and we become the best we can be!

1. Help children compare how they have grown and changed since their own "puppy days." Ask children to bring a baby picture from home.
2. Make two displays: one with baby pictures and one with current school year pictures. Place a picture of Clifford as a puppy atop the baby display and Clifford grown up atop the current picture display.
3. Encourage children to express how everyone has changed throughout the years. Don't forget to add

your picture in there for children to see how you were once a "pup" yourself!

Day 2: "Orange" You Glad It's Autumn (or Fall)?

Step 1: Read [Clifford's First Autumn](#) by Norman Bridwell aloud to the class.

Step 2: Talk about how Autumn, or Fall, is one of the most anticipated, colorful seasons of the year. Use these fun ideas to celebrate one of Autumn's, or Fall's, most brilliant colors: orange!

Jack-o'-Lanterns

Divide the class into small groups. Help groups draw patterns and carve their pumpkins. Encourage children to use their senses to express smell, texture, color, shape, and sounds (thump before and after carving). Collect the pumpkin seeds. Season the seeds with salt and cinnamon. Toast seeds in the classroom or school over for children to enjoy while lights are dim and Jack-o'-lanterns are glowing.

Orange Box

Have children bring anything orange from home to put in an orange box or basket. Study, compare, and draw objects during language time.

Buckets of Colors

Ask children to help by filling small buckets with crayons or chalk for centers and sidewalk play.

Squeeze It!

Supervise children as they make their own orange juice with a juice squeezer. Use this opportunity to discuss the nutritional value of oranges. Invite a producer grocer to come and share about orange varieties, etc.

Clifford's Library

These books support Clifford's Big Ideas and reinforce early literacy skills.

- [Clifford the Small Red Puppy](#) by Norman Bridwell
- [Clifford's Good Deeds](#) by Norman Bridwell

Also check out the [Clifford the Big Red Dog Book List](#).