



# Pumpkin Circle: The Story of a Garden

*George Levenson*

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## **Pumpkin Circle: The Story of a Garden** George Levenson

We can be sure of this: It's a circle without end. It's pumpkin seeds to pumpkins To pumpkin seeds again! This treat of a picture book comes cloaked in the colors of fall. Bouncy verse and glowing photographs show a backyard pumpkin patch move through its natural cycle -- a bug's eye and a bird's high view of seeds sprouting, flowers blooming, bees buzzing, pumpkins growing . . .and then going back to earth. An author's note explains how to grow your own pumpkin. Educators, please visit our Resources section, above, for teaching guides and curricula. Awards 1999 *Parent's Guide Award* Reviews "If you weren't a pumpkin lover before, you will be after checking this neat book out." -*Fast Forward* magazine "Eye-catching full-color photography and rhyming text. . . . An excellent choice for fall pumpkin studies." -*Public Schools of North Carolina's Infotech* "Your books will help us put an emphasis on early reading and help improve the stereotypes and misconceptions surrounding farmers and agriculture." -*American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture*

*From the Hardcover edition.*

## **Pumpkin Circle: The Story of a Garden Details**

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Author : George Levenson

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## **From Reader Review Pumpkin Circle: The Story of a Garden for online ebook**

### **Krista Ginnis says**

This book is all about pumpkins. The pumpkin seed makes the pumpkin plant, and the pumpkin plant makes pumpkins. Every passing minute awakens each new plant, reaching down with silky roots, reaching up to dance. Huge green leaves grow toward the sky, prickly, lush, and wide. Next they are plants. Before you know it a hundred days of weather a hundred days of care and pumpkins are everywhere. Its important to help the pumpkins sit up straight so they grow up round and proud. Fall time brings the pumpkins you can carve into jack-o-lauterns. There is a life cycle of a pumpkin its seeds, to pumpkins to seeds again. This is a great book to use in the classroom in the fall months to teach the children the life cycle of a pumpkin.

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### **Angie says**

Great non-fiction book about pumpkins. All pictures are photographs! Fun way to learn about how pumpkins grow.

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### **Kellyanne says**

This is a straight-up fantastic read-aloud. It is so difficult to find great nonfiction read-alouds for storytime, but the rhyming and pictures were absolutely sublime. The preschool kids that I read this to were engaged and learned a lot about pumpkins (and their parents wanted to go home and plant some). Definitely recommend to storytime librarians and teachers to read aloud during the fall season and to parents looking for great informational texts to read to/with their kids.

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### **Melanie says**

Using interesting photography and clever rhyme, this book describes the "circle of life" of a pumpkin. Such a fun book to check-out from the library this time of year.

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### **Jean O'Shea says**

Vibrant color photos and delightfully musical text pepper this scientifically based lifecycle of pumpkins. A great disservice will be done to the effort of the author and photographer if one might only crack this book in autumn. A "great" pumpkin begins in the warm, loamy soil of spring. The intense photographic concentration on the specific elements of the lifecycle (seed leaves fat & green, twisty tendrils stretching out to cling, flower buds appear-brilliant sunlit bowls, finished fruit ripe & fully grown, sinking & shrinking back to the earth you go) lead the reader naturally along. By the end, the reader can almost taste the pungent fruit.

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## **Monster says**

Pumpkin Circle shows the life cycle of a pumpkin, from the time the seed is collected from a pumpkin in the fall, through its planting and growing, and finally to its harvesting, just in time to carve into Halloween jack-o-lanterns. Brief, simple text accompanies color photographs of children in the garden planting and taking care of the pumpkins as they grow. The candid photos will draw young readers into the story, and there are some good opportunities to talk about gardening, plants, and the life cycle- Pumpkin Circle is about much more than Halloween. Young readers may just love the pictures, though, especially in the last few pages, which show creatively carved jack-o-lanterns glowing in the darkness-a wonderful finish for the life of a pumpkin, as the cycle starts over again. This is a perfect preschool read aloud that can also be enjoyed independently by children in the early elementary grades. It's not frightening, which makes it a good choice for children who are easily frightened at a time of year where scary stories rule. Note: Since it focuses on the life cycle of plants, it might be shelved in nonfiction, so librarians should take note to seek it out and promote it with the Halloween books Highly recommended for public library children's collections and elementary school library media centers.

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## **Catherine says**

Beautiful photo essay on the life cycle of a pumpkin.

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## **Melki says**

Brilliant photos by Shmuel Taylor compliment this wonderful essay, told in rhyme, about the pumpkin's life cycle.

The pictures are gorgeous, and the rhyme reads well. We start with the seed being planted, and end with a rotting jack-o-lantern, which in turn, plants a seed.

This is a delightful book.

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## **Carol says**

Not the ordinary illustrated picture book, this nonfiction book uses photographs in a very unusual way to tell the story of how a pumpkin grows from seed to rotting jack-o-lantern. The text beginning with the book cover tells the story of germination where the title is a swirling tendril of words on an orange background. The photographs throughout are amazing from a mountain of pumpkins to a close-up of the guts embedded with seeds. More photos than text. Dramatic contrasts, both in color and size of photo. Almost poetic

language, very onomatopoeic in places and strategically placed on every page, the language is as stimulating as the pictures. The life cycle of a pumpkin is circular. This is a most extraordinary nonfiction picture book!

Seeing the connection between form and content

Agriculture studies/science

Wonder of nature

Onomatopoeia, alliteration and rhyme

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### **Jana says**

With large, colorful photographs and rollicking, rhyming text, this fun picture book helps young readers understand the process a seed grows into a pumpkin. This would also be a good book to share as part of a lesson on growing seeds or just a nice way to enjoy the fall season.

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### **Tom Ericksen says**

I don't really have much to say about this book about pumpkins. It is all about pumpkins, from the seed to the plant to the seed again. It would be good to use in the classroom during fall and harvest season.

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### **Carrie says**

I love this book! It's another one discovered while student teaching in kindergarten. It has real-life vivid photographs that are very well done. I absolutely enjoy reading it every year to my class after we do our pumpkin math carving activity so that my kids can see how pumpkins grow from the seed and how they change throughout the growing season...and then of course it dies and starts all over again.

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### **Nicole says**

Wonderful book for any teacher to use.

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### **Miriam says**

Poetry meets botany in this picture book.

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### **DB in Richmond says**

Terrific photos and alliterative phrasing explaining life cycle of pumpkins. Seed to plant to pumpkin to seed -

4 stars.

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