



PATCH THE PUMPKIN

CHALLENGE ACCEPTED

WORDS BY MAIRI NEEVES WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY ROBYN FRANCESCINI
FROM WORLD VISION UK



IT'S TIME FOR ANOTHER ADVENTURE!

Welcome to the world of World Vision's favourite superhero, Patch the Pumpkin. In this storybook, Patch and his friends are off on an adventure that will take them way beyond the field they know. As usual, things never seem to go quite to plan, and the friends must stick together to solve a problem or two. Together with their friends, Amira and the Wise-But-Grumpy Owl, this warm-hearted group of buddies learn a bit about how small, everyday acts of kindness and generosity can make a big difference in the world.

This book has been lovingly put together to help children learn about how they can share God's love with others. It can be used during a Pumpkin Heroes party, or anytime for a fun story with primary school-aged children. We hope you enjoy it!

Love, from World Vision

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World Vision
Hope and a future for all children

PRODUCED WITH PROSPECT ARTS

Patch the Pumpkin and his friends loved their little corner of the world with soft grass, and delicious vegetables growing for them to enjoy. What more could they possibly want?

Now, the day of our story was a beautiful one in the field, with just one single cloud in the sky. The air was fresh, and the birds were singing, and...

“I’m bored!” Patch burst out suddenly. “Let’s go on an adventure—” he announced, to no one in particular, “the kind we’ll be talking about for years to come!”

“That’s good,” boomed the Wise-But-Grumpy-Owl, arriving behind them, “because today, I have a mission for you all.”

He swooped down, landed on the grass



and continued. “I need someone who can gather these vegetables from our field and take them to the village. Delicious food, to help people in need. It’s an important challenge, Patch. Do you accept?”

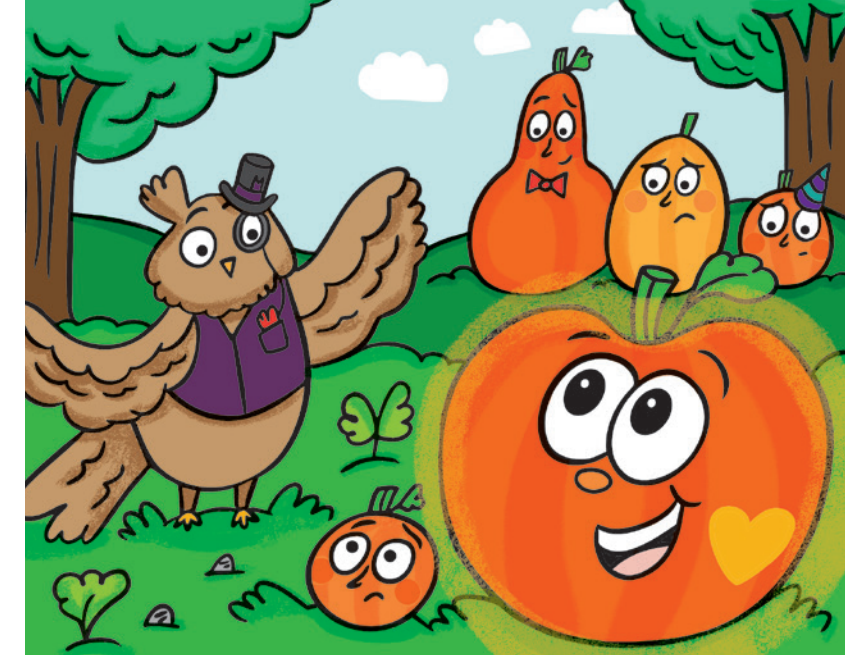
“Absolutely. Challenge accepted! You can count on us.”

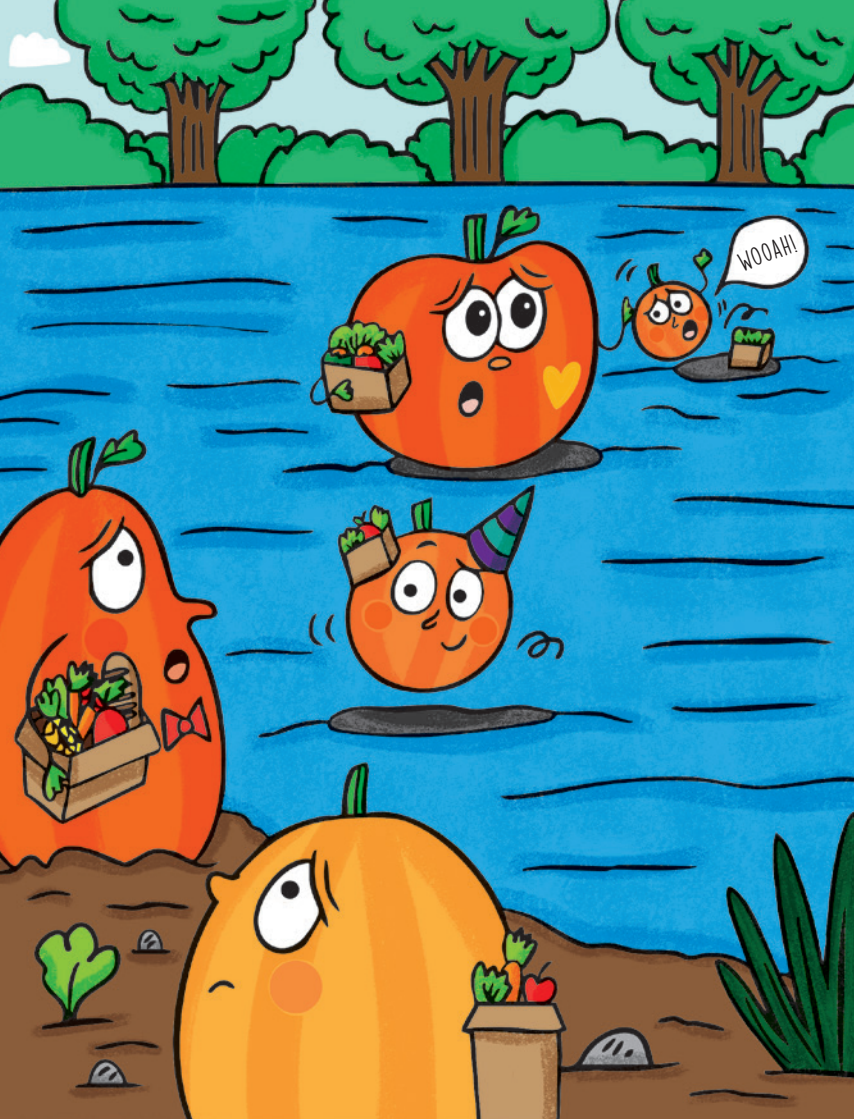
“I don’t want to go,” murmured Teeny. “It’s so warm and comfortable here.”

“And, we might get lost, and never get home!” agreed the Middle-Sized Pumpkin.

“There’s more to life than growing bigger you lot,” argued Patch. “Come on!”

It had been a long time since they’d ventured from the field, but in no time they were ready. Everyone was excited—even that single cloud in the sky brought a few extra clouds along.





They hadn't traveled far before they reached a river. With no bridge.

"Leave this to me!" said Patch, more confidently than he felt.

He looked up and then down the river. No bright ideas popped into his seed-filled head.

But the Biggest Pumpkin was on the case.

"We can use these rocks to step across," he assured them, "and bounce our way over." This was tricky enough for Patch and the bigger pumpkins, but when it was Teeny's turn, the teeniest pumpkin wobbled and toddled, and nearly fell in, taking a food parcel with him.

Wooah, Teeny—*watch out!* Thankfully, Patch caught him, and helped him to safety.

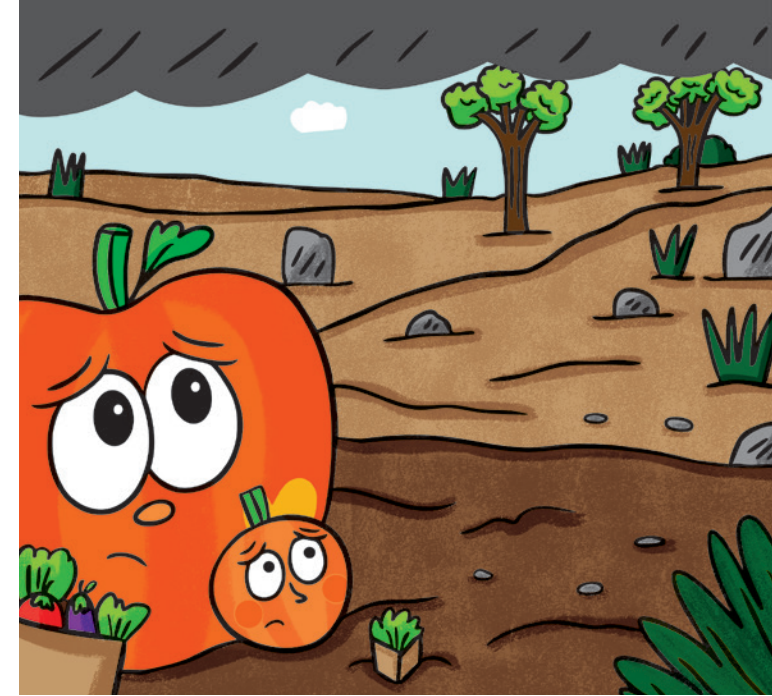
The ground on the other side of the river wasn't luscious and grassy like their field. It was thorny and stony, but they managed to find a way through.

The field they were in was much bigger than the one they were used to. Really not a field at all. On and on they went; even the clouds seemed to be getting darker, somehow.

"Where's the lush grass to play on?" wondered Patch to himself. "And where are the signposts?" He couldn't imagine delicious vegetables growing in that harsh soil.

"I'm scared," said Teeny.

"How much longer?" puffed the Middle-Sized Pumpkin as they stumbled up a hill.

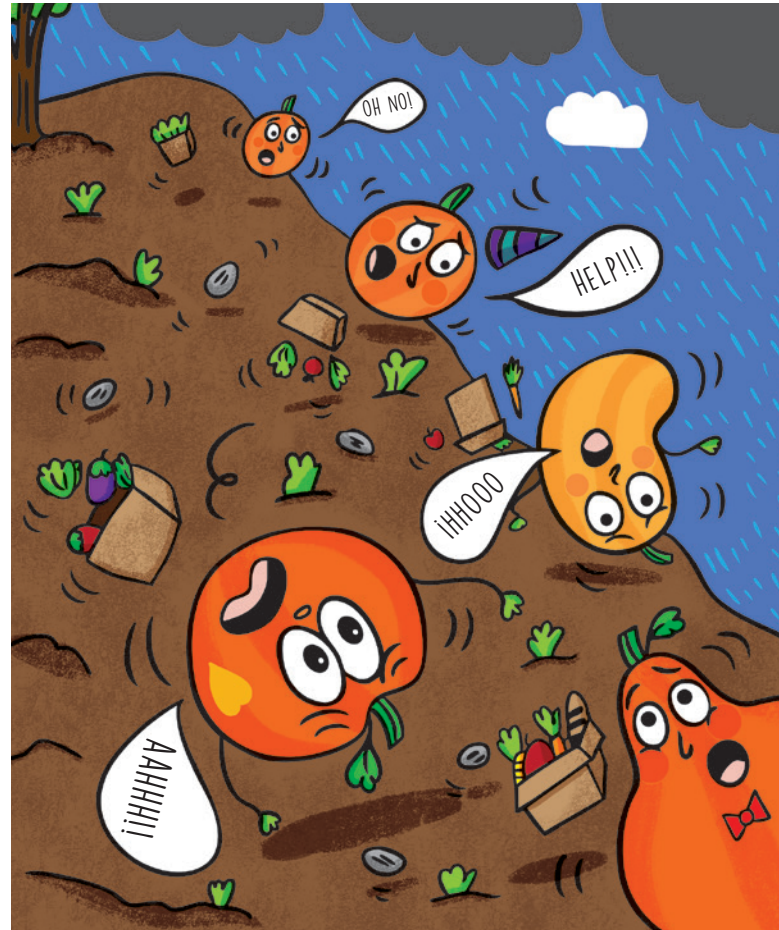


“Oh not long,” replied the Biggest Pumpkin, wondering himself where they were.

Unfortunately that was the moment, the very moment, it started to rain. Big fat drops of water came tumbling, then gushing down. Smushing the earth, muddying everything they could see.

They rounded the top of the hill, and suddenly the earth fell away beneath them. The hill was to be as steep down, as it had been uphill. Now they were slipping, sliding, and squelching in the mud. Faster and faster they went, until they were rolling down, down, DOWN.

They landed in a pile, all covered in mud. And now, let’s just say, these bright



orange pumpkins looked a little, ahem, less glorious...

Wet, cold, lost, bruised, and hungry—frustrations began to grumble between them. *Whose fault was it?* It was everyone’s fault, of course. And yet again, no one was to blame.

This would be a moment for an exciting solution, a quick rescue, and a joke that would make it all better. But life isn’t always like a storybook. Sometimes bad things are just ... bad. The truth is that the pumpkins were stuck for quite a long time. Sheltering from the rain. Lost in the woods. Unsure of the way. With hungry tummies.

Patch saw Teeny shivering uncontrollably, and an important thought came to him.



“We need to work together,” he said drawing Teeny in close. “Fighting won’t help.”

The Biggest Pumpkin spoke first, “I’m sorry,” he said. “I thought I knew where we were going, but I don’t.”

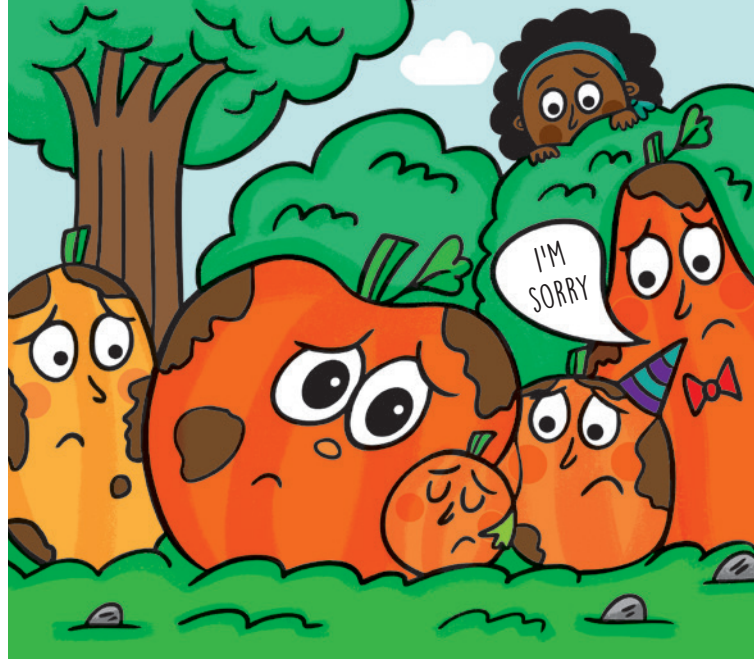
“It’s not your fault,” said Patch. “I’m the one who wanted an adventure.”

Just as they started to make a plan, they heard a rustling in the bushes.

It was their friend Amira, coming to find them.

“We’ve been waiting for you,” she said. “And I’ve been worrying that you might be lost. And here you are, and look! You are lost. And,” she added, “you look very odd.” With Amira in the lead, the crisis was over.

Finally, together, they made it to the community kitchen, and delivered their parcels.



Handing over the food gave Patch a warm, fuzzy feeling in his tummy. His heart always glowed when he showed kindness—now it was roaring like a warm fire.

The community kitchen was fun. There was a lot of laughter, and the smell of food was amazing! Everyone felt warm and better, once they’d had some delicious food to eat.

“We were in a real patch of trouble back there,” Patch said jokingly, “but now everything is gourd-geous again! I’m just so pump-ed we made it here safely!”

Everyone groaned, but Teeny giggled so Patch kept going.

“Have you ever thought that a pumpkin covered in mud looks just like a big p—...”



“OKAY PATCH!” the others interrupted, before he could finish. “There’s no need to make that joke.”

“Well, I must say,” Patch continued, “this has turned out to be a pretty big adventure. I wanted excitement and danger. But what I really discovered was something else.”

“What’s that?” asked Teeny.

“That adventures aren’t just about where you go,” Patch explained. “They’re about who you’re with and how you help each other.”

“And sometimes the best part is learning something new about your friends,” added the Middle-Sized Pumpkin.

“Like how Teeny is braver than he thinks,” added Patch.

”Or how Patch never gives up, even when things look bad,” said Teeny with admiration.

Amira joined them. “Even when things get in the way, the best adventures are about growing together.” Outside, the single cloud that had followed them all day finally drifted away, revealing a sky full of stars, and none other than the Wise-But-Usually-Grumpy Owl, smiling above them.



CHILDREN WHO INSPIRED THIS STORY

In this story, Patch learnt that sometimes things get in the way. He came across obstacles that made it difficult for the pumpkins to deliver food parcels to the village kitchen.

For you, watching TV or playing games might stop you from doing your homework. For the children World Vision helps, poverty gets in their way.



At rural schools in Bangladesh, clean water for drinking and handwashing keeps children healthy.



When they don't have enough food, or get sick and can't see a doctor, it stops them from sleeping, playing with their friends and going to school.

But when people help it ends poverty for children, for good.



In Kenya, where 15-year-old Faith lives, hunger stopped children going to school because they couldn't manage the long walk to get there. Now, school meals are helping feed children so they're able to keep learning.



In rural Bangladesh, Reception and Primary school children are being given the best start, as well as lessons, their parents also come and learn about healthy food and cook lunch for the children too.

PRAYER

Dear God,

Sometimes things are hard. When I'm sad or scared, or when I feel like I can't do something, please help me be strong and brave.

And where children around the world find life hard, I pray you love and guide them too.

Thank you for being with us all, always. Amen



"This is my command - be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."
Joshua 1:9 (NLT)



ENOUGH
END CHILD HUNGER NOW



With healthy food, clean water, doctors and nurses, children in Tanzania play with their friends and have a healthy and happy childhood free from poverty.

Find out how you can help the children who inspire us, and whose stories we share.

HOW TO
HELP



JOIN PATCH AS HE SAYS "CHALLENGE ACCEPTED!"



Patch is bored, but not for long. Sent on an important mission beyond the field, Patch and his friends find themselves way beyond the comforts of home. Ahead: a wild adventure, an uphill struggle, and rather a lot of mud. Will they complete their challenge? Or will they need rescuing themselves?

Patch

World Vision
Hope and a future for all children

worldvision.org.uk

At World Vision, our focus is on helping the world's most vulnerable children overcome poverty and experience fullness of life. For over 70 years, we have worked together with communities — of all faiths and none — even in the most dangerous places, inspired by our Christian faith.

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