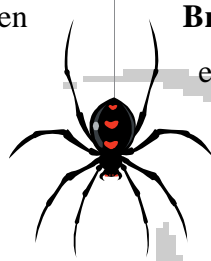


# Halloween Bulletin Boards: More Than Just Pumpkins and Bats

By: Bailey Waite

Pumpkins and bats are classic Halloween images, but if you are tired of the traditional, here are some new ideas for scary displays in your teen section.



**Phobia Board:** With a title like “What’s Really Got You Scared?” and informational blurbs about different common (and not so common) phobias with some pictures to match, this board could be just what your teens are looking for. Focusing on the fearful element of the holiday rather than the campy or the cartoony element will up your cool factor while actually conveying new information. Did you know that Kakorrhaphiophobia is the fear of failure or defeat? Don’t be scared, this board is a winner! Check out <http://psychology.about.com/od/phobias/a/phobialist.htm> for an extensive list of phobias! This board works well with a display of fiction and nonfiction titles about fears and phobias.



**Braaaains!:** Zombies continue to be everywhere these days, and as we know, they only want one thing: brains! This bulletin board could double as a passive program idea. Put a large title in the centre of the board (“Brains!”) and add some scary zombie hands and arms around the border of the space. Provide photocopied images of brains (e.g., enlarged clipart) and pens or markers near the board and ask teens to write what is on their minds and pin it to the board. Over time, the board will fill in with the consciousness of the library’s teen users, creating a cache of brains for the approaching zombies! This display pairs well with books and movies featuring zombies: don’t forget the graphic novels!

**A Grave Sense of Humour:** Some headstones are hilarious, and if you can’t appreciate a morbid sense of humour at Halloween, when can you? This bulletin board could be made up of imagined tombs, with silly names and rhymes, or you could draw on reality for some inspiration: for instance, Mel Blanc’s grave reads, “That’s all folks!” A little construction paper and a lot of imagination and you’re in business.

**Haunted Spaces:** Almost every city and town has some local spooky stories. If your



library is in one such place with a rich and scary heritage, this is the idea for you! Using a local map and pushpins, mark the locations of known

hauntings on the map. Then, using material like string, wool, or ribbon, connect the points on the map to summaries of the hauntings, including photos of the landmarks. This will give teens a chance to learn more about their hometown, while potentially scaring their socks off! If your town has a Ghost Walk or storyteller, this could be an excellent opportunity to team up for an event! Provide a selection on titles featuring haunted houses and ghost stories: bonus if you can include local works!