

Shadows Of Samhain Answer Key

1. They believed the boundary between the living and the dead became thin, allowing spirits to cross over.
2. They lit bonfires and wore animal skins or masks to confuse or scare away spirits.
3. The Church created All Saints' Day on November 1 to replace pagan festivals.
4. Over time, All Hallows' Eve became Halloween, blending Christian and Celtic customs.
5. Carving pumpkins, wearing costumes, and going door to door for treats all trace back to Samhain traditions.
6. The passage shows how ancient beliefs influenced today's Halloween customs.
7. "Barrier" means a boundary or something that separates two different worlds.

Teacher's Guide

- **Differentiation Tips:**
 - For struggling readers, preview key vocabulary (**Samhain**, **barrier**, **pagan**) before reading.
 - For advanced students, challenge them to compare Samhain traditions to other seasonal festivals worldwide.
- **Engagement Ideas:**
 - Play soft ambient "bonfire crackling" or Celtic music during reading to set the mood.
 - Have students create a visual timeline of how Samhain evolved into Halloween.
- **Extension Ideas:**
 - Assign a short creative paragraph imagining they lived during ancient Samhain.
 - Discuss how cultural blending transforms traditions over time, connecting history to modern celebrations.