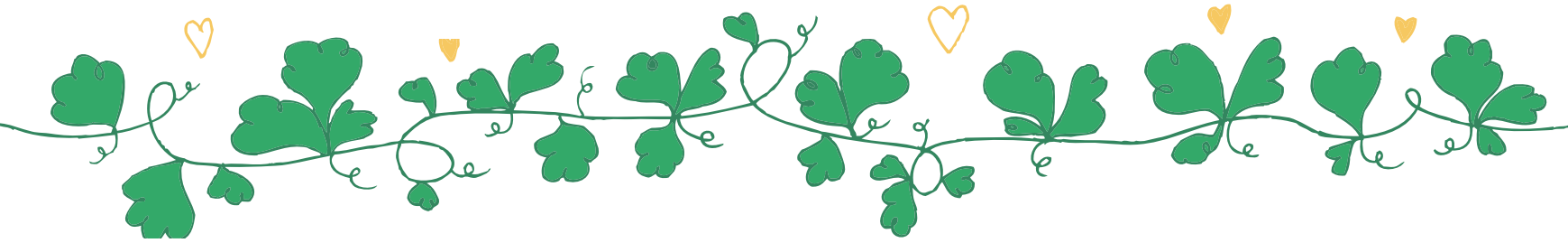


PATCH THE PUMPKIN

BEING SENSATIONAL!



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



PATCH IS BACK!

Patch is a pumpkin whose fun and madcap adventures mean life in the field is never boring. With a heart that glows whenever he shows kindness to others, Patch loves looking out for others and helping them if he can. But when Patch has an accident and temporarily loses his hearing, life becomes rather interesting indeed. Patch realises just how difficult it can be to understand others, and be a good friend. In this story, Patch learns how to use all his senses, and discovers that real listening is much more than hearing. Together with his friends, he learns to look out for others in new ways, and connect with them by learning empathy and understanding.

Through Patch, children learn about God's love for them in a fun way; they are reminded that they are special and of the importance of community. It's our desire to help children become great global citizens, connecting and helping each other—no matter where they live in the world.

This storybook is a great companion to a Pumpkin Heroes party or anytime for a fun story with little ones. We hope you enjoy this story as you share God's love in your church and community this year.

♥ Love from World Vision

© World Vision | Produced with Prospect Arts | Written by Mairi Neeves | Illustrated by Robyn Leavens



PATCH THE PUMPKIN[®] BEING SENSATIONAL!

WORDS BY MAIRI NEEVES WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY ROBYN LEAVENS



World Vision[®]
Hope and a future for all children

PRODUCED WITH PROSPECT ARTS

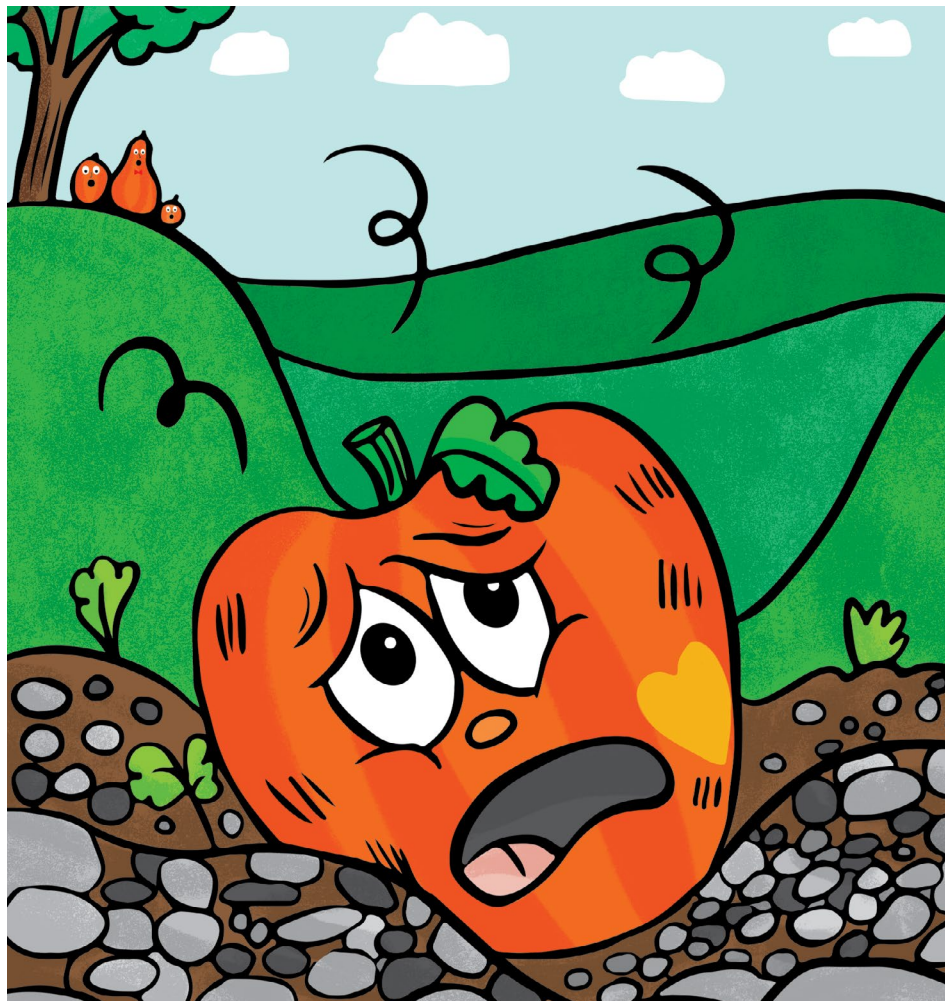
One day the sun was shining down on the little field where all the pumpkins grew. The sky was blue, the leaves were whispering in the trees, a bird was singing and....

OOOOOOOMMMMMPH!

Patch the Pumpkin woke himself, and all the other pumpkins, with a rather loud thud!

Patch had been having a wonderful dream about flying coconuts. Now he woke with a jolt in the stony ditch at the edge of the field.

“Oh Patch!” worried the Most Average-sized Pumpkin as he dabbed Patch’s cuts and scratches.

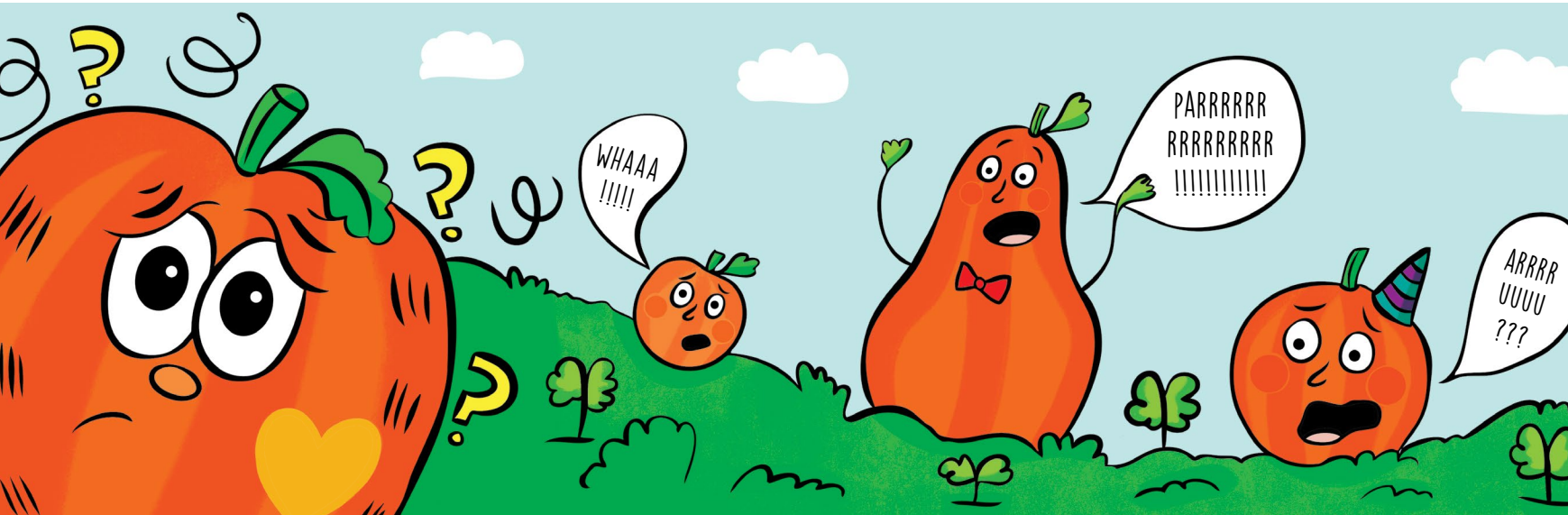


Sometimes Patch's round bounciness got him into all kinds of trouble.

Patch sat himself up and—OOOOOOEEEEERRRR! The world was spinning round and round.

“WHAT’S WRONG WITH EVERYTHING?” he asked the Biggest Pumpkin. His head hurt, his voice sounded echoey, and no-one was answering him.

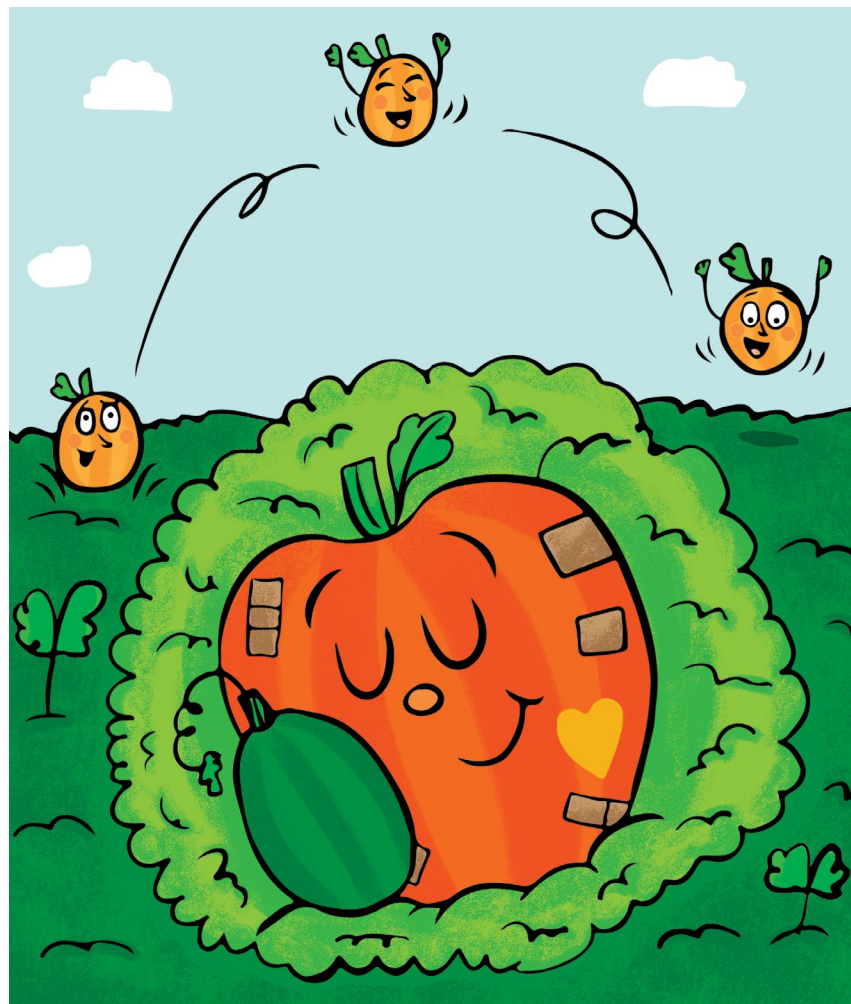
“WHAT’S WRONG WITH EVERYONE?” he asked the Most Average-sized Pumpkin, who was waving her arms around. Her mouth was moving yet no sounds were coming out.



“WHAT’S GOING ON?!” Patch cried out, but his voice sounded all muffled.

Patch didn’t seem right. He couldn’t even roll in a straight line, let alone bounce. For once in his life, Teeny, the Tiniest Pumpkin, could out-bounce Patch. It was an opportunity not to be missed by the little pumpkin, who was often mistaken for a satsuma.

Patch needed to rest, so he nestled back into his vine green bed with a hot watermelon. He began to feel better, but he still wasn’t right. Whenever he stood up, the world spun around him. And that wasn’t all—everyone kept saying the oddest things.



“Do you need sun cream?” the Biggest Pumpkin asked Patch.

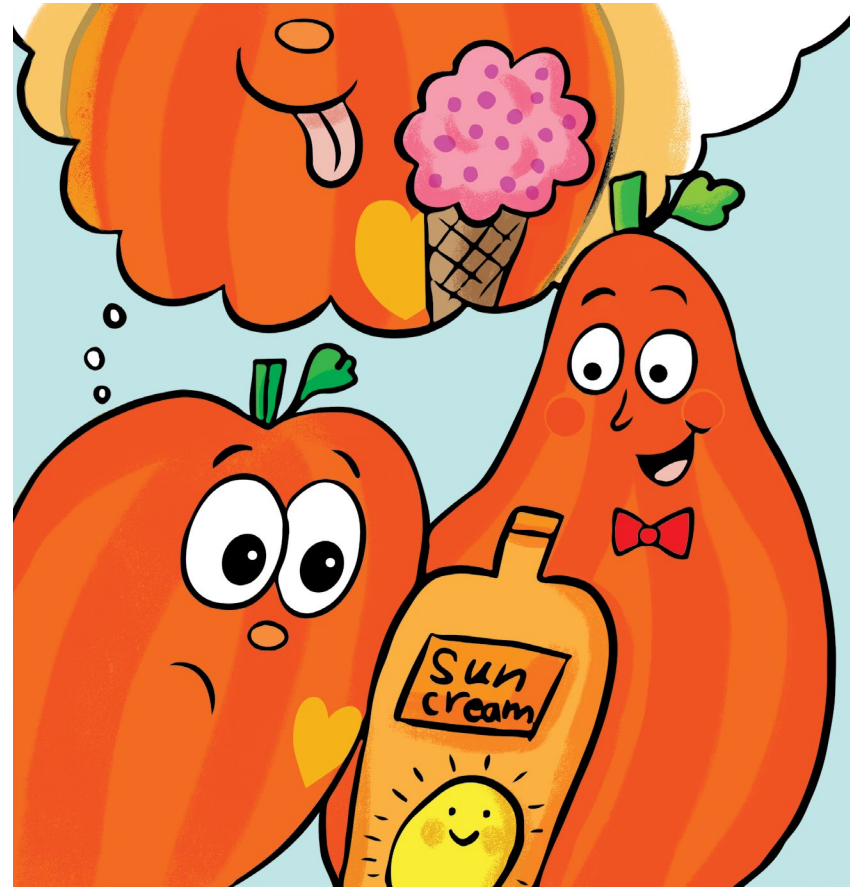
“Yes, I love ice cream! It’s my favourite breakfast food!” Patch replied, but was surprised when a bottle of lotion was passed his way instead.

“Sit by me!” offered the Average-sized Pumpkin that morning.

“I’m slimy? That’s not very nice!” Patch said, feeling hurt.

“Do you want some juice?” asked Teeny, the Tiniest Pumpkin, offering him the jug.

“Mousse? I can’t drink mousse!” said Patch, very confused.



Overhearing these conversations, the Wise-But-Grumpy Owl hooted at him rather loudly, “PATCH...I THINK YOUR EARS MIGHT BE BLOCKED!”

Suddenly everything made sense. His friends weren’t acting oddly, Patch just couldn’t hear them properly. But what could be done?

“Perhaps,” said the Owl, “you should learn some new ways to listen without using your ears.” And he covered his ears with his wings to make it clear what he meant. “But how? Isn’t that what ears do?” wondered Patch aloud. Really, the Owl said the most strange things.



“Try getting creative,” replied the Owl airily, before flapping off.

Patch did his best to think of ways to listen without using his ears. But it was very hard. And his ideas didn't quite work... He felt sad, too. Usually, his heart glowed whenever he showed kindness to others. But it hadn't glowed for ages. He realised that he'd been so caught up with his ears, he just hadn't done anything kind in a while.

Eventually, the pumpkins' friend, a young girl named Amira, came to the rescue, and took Patch to the doctor. On the way, Amira introduced Patch to her friends, Olena and Khalid. Patch couldn't help noticing that one of them looked sad.



Whilst waiting for the doctor, Patch watched Khalid carefully. He was very quiet, fidgeted with his hands a lot, and kept looking down. *When I feel sad, I think I look like that*, Patch thought.

“Khalid, are you alright?” he asked, and in order to hear the answer, he rolled a bit closer. Using hand gestures and facial expressions, Khalid explained that it was his mum’s birthday, but that he had no gift for her. Patch nodded and promised to himself that he would help Khalid out. Gently, quietly, Patch’s heart began to glow.



Sitting in the doctor’s room, Patch noticed a thoughtful look on the doctor’s face. *She looks like she is trying to solve a puzzle*, he thought.

“Hmmm,” she said, in the way doctors do. She had a good look inside his ears, and then, with a pair of tweezers, poked and prodded and wiggled around and—“Aha!” she announced. The tweezers now held a small stone. And, at that very moment, all his hearing problems cleared up. *Like magic!* Patch thought. *I must write a thank you note to this clever doctor when I get home,* he decided. And his heart glowed just a bit more.

Amira was excited to see Patch looking like his old self again.

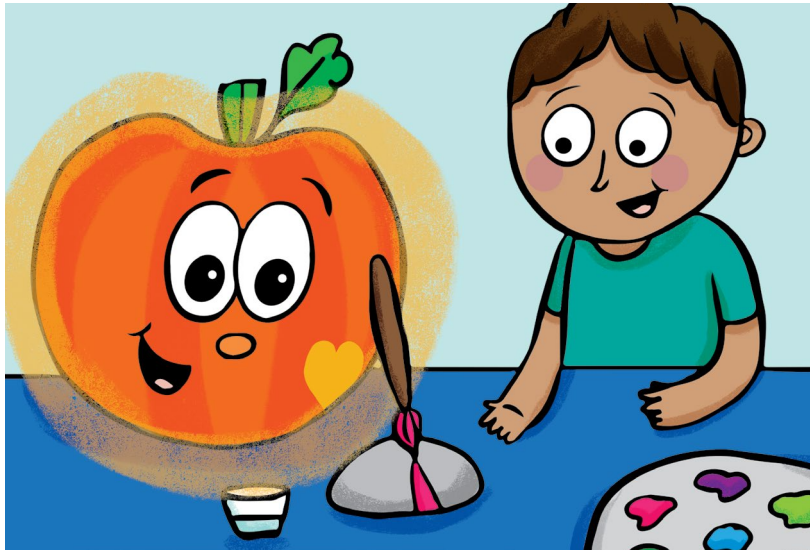
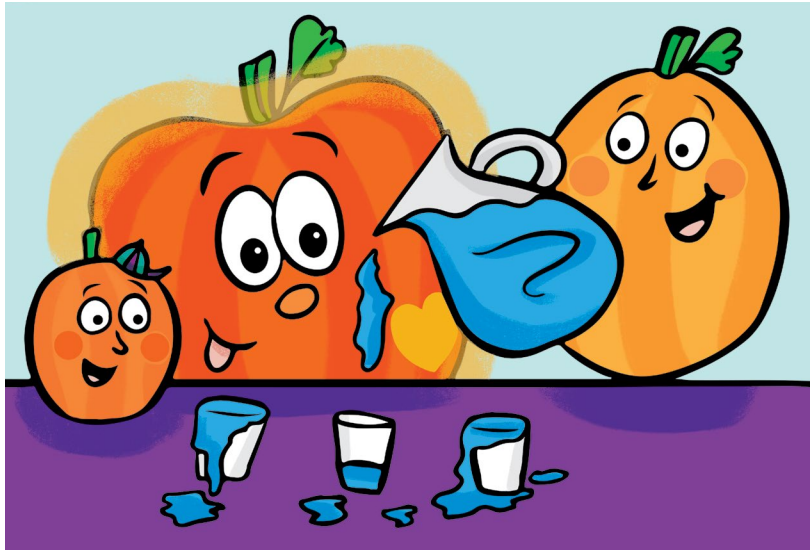


Especially because now he had a special power. Patch had discovered something amazing. You can listen to others using all of your senses. By paying close attention, Patch could sense how others were feeling. Whether they were happy, or sad—or even scared.

After that, Patch felt like a super-vegetable. He was the first to fill up empty cups so that no one got thirsty. He could sense when a rainstorm was on the way and helped everyone stay dry. More than once, he helped prevent the cooking from burning, which Olena was very happy about as she was learning her family's recipes. And he helped Khalid make his mum a gift of a painted stone. He was using all his senses to help everyone. His heart glowed so much he thought it might burst.

A few days later, they threw a birthday party for Khalid's mum. Noticing the smiles on all the faces around him, Patch was so happy and his heart was glowing steadily.

The Wise-But-Grumpy Owl was pleased with what Patch the Pumpkin had learnt. "Patch," he said, as they watched the party in full flow, "the time you had a stone in your ear wasn't all bad was it? After all, it's helped you discover that you can listen to others, and help them using all your senses. Now, you really are a SENSE-ational pumpkin!" And with a smile, and a wink, away he flew.



CHILDREN WHO INSPIRED THIS STORY

In the story, Patch learnt that listening to others means a lot more than hearing what they're saying. When he couldn't hear, Patch found he was still able to help his friends by using all his senses.

'We learn here to acknowledge our feelings. If I feel angry, I must let that emotion out,' says Victoria, 12, from Ukraine, now living in Moldova.



That's why every day, in communities all over the world, World Vision is supporting children to find their voice, make it heard and change their world.

Which one of you will be the next Greta Thunberg or Malala?



And here in Indonesia, Aprilla, who has vision and mobility challenges, - together with her friends - is learning how to speak up and make her voice heard.



Where Langan lives in South Sudan he says, 'Boys should not be trained as cattle keepers but be trained as champions and encourage the girls to go to school.' Langan wants girls and boys to be equal.

♥ BE CHOSEN



In Uganda, children haven't always had a voice. But now, the children here in Pajule are happy because at a very special party they get to choose a friend from the UK to be their sponsor.

PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for listening to me whenever I pray.

I know you speak in lots of ways,

Through people and the amazing world you created.

Help me listen to others and spend time listening to You too.

Amen

"My sheep listen to my voice;
I know them, and they
follow me." (John 10:27)
International Children's Bible

SCAN
ME



worldvision.org.uk/sponsor-a-child/chosen

JOIN PATCH ON A SENSATIONAL ADVENTURE!



Are you ready to join Patch and his friends? In this adventure, Patch loses his hearing, and discovers that there's more to listening than he thought.

Join him as he learns a big secret about being a good friend and helping others—becoming a truly SENSE-ational vegetable.

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.

World Vision UK is a registered charity no. 285908, a company limited by guarantee and registered in England no. 167552.