



HALLOWEEN CRYPTOGRAMS

100 JOKES & RIDDLES: HARD



SECRET MESSAGE PUZZLES

Secret Message Puzzles (or Cryptograms) are great for teaching problem solving that helps in math, science, and computer programming. And they're super fun, too! These 100 puzzles all have a single letter entered into the key to get new puzzlers started on this fun word game. They'll also be practicing letter recognition and early reading skills.

You can do these together as a class, use them as a bell ringer or down-time activity, or give them as homework or extra credit.

Halloween Jokes



Secret Message

Why was the skeleton afraid of the storm?

6 7 10 2 9 11

' A
3 5 3 8 11 6 4 12 7

A .
4 8 0 1 2 11 9

0= 1= 2= 3= 4= A

5= 6= 7= 8= 9=

10= 11= 12=

Letter combinations

Problem solving

Code breaking

Perseverance



Secret Message

How can you tell when a vampire has been in a bakery?

L L L L
6 12 12 0 13 15 1 15 12 12 3

13 6 7 11 15 15 9

7 14 16 5 15 10 8 14 0 8 2

L L
0 13 15 1 15 12 12 3

.
10 8 14 4 13 9 14 0 7

0= 1= 2= 3= 4= 5=

6= 7= 8= 9= 10= 11=

12= L 13= 14= 15= 16=

100 Hard Cryptograms



What's Included:

- 100 jokes in cryptogram form, each on a half sheet of paper
- Just 1 letter is filled in in the key at the bottom
- An answer key at the back
- Black and white and A4 (international) versions of all the pages

How to Play:

Kids can use their knowledge of common words and letter combinations to figure out the missing letters and enter them into the key at the bottom. Complete the key to reveal the answer to the riddle.

Secret Message

Why was the skeleton afraid of the storm?

□□ □□□□
6 7 10 2 9 11

□□□□ ' □ □□□
3 5 3 8 11 6 4 12 7

A□□ □□□□
4 8 0 1 2 11 9

0=□ 1=□ 2=□ 3=
5=□ 6=□ 7=□ 8=
10=□ 11=□ 12=□

Copyright 2009-2025 TheTripClip.com

Secret Message

How can you tell when a vampire has been in a bakery?

□LL □□□ □□LL□
6 12 12 0 13 15 1 15 12 12 3

□□□ □□□□
13 6 7 11 15 15 9

□□□□□□ □□□ □□
7 14 16 5 15 10 8 14 0 8 2

□□ □□LL□
□□□ □□□□

0=□ 1=□ 2=□ 3=
5=□ 6=□ 7=□ 8=
10=□ 11=□ 12=□

Copyright 2009-2025 TheTripClip.com

Secret Message

Why was the skeleton afraid of the storm?

□□ □□□□
6 7 10 2 9 11

□□□□ ' □ □□□
3 5 3 8 11 6 4 12 7

A□□ □□□□
4 8 0 1 2 11 9

0=□ 1=□ 2=□ 3=
5=□ 6=□ 7=□ 8=
10=□ 11=□ 12=□

Copyright 2009-2025 TheTripClip.com

Secret Message

Why was the skeleton afraid of the storm?

HE JUST
9 4 7 11 6 12

DIDN ' T HAVE
5 3 5 0 12 9 10 8 4

ANY GUTS .
10 0 1 2 11 12 6

0=D 1=E 2=N 3=L 4=U
5=H 6=M 7=O 8=R 9=A
10=T 11=I 12=G

Copyright 2009-2025 TheTripClip.com All rights reserved

Secret Message

How can you tell when a vampire has been in a bakery?

ALL THE JELLY
8 14 14 1 15 12 0 12 14 14 2

HAS BEEN
15 8 9 3 12 12 7

SUCKED OUT OF
9 10 11 16 12 6 4 10 1 4 5

THE JELLY
1 15 12 0 12 14 14 2

DOUGHNUTS .
6 4 10 13 15 7 10 1 9

0=D 1=E 2=N 3=L 4=U 5=H
6=M 7=O 8=R 9=A 10=T 11=I
12=G 13=F 14=T 15=S 16=B

Copyright 2009-2025 TheTripClip.com All rights reserved

MORE LEARNING

If these puzzles are too advanced for your kids, try the beginner ones first that have the full answer key filled in, or the medium hard ones with a few letters filled into the key.

Kids will need to use their knowledge of common words, letter combinations, and patterns to help them solve the riddle. They'll need to look for clues in the length of the words and in guesses about what the phrase is likely to be. It's a wonderful mix of pattern recognition, spelling, problem solving, and even computer science as they test out possible solutions to see if they work.

You can make even harder puzzles with no clues at all, or you can create your own, custom puzzles on any topic using [TheTripClip.com](https://www.thetripclip.com)