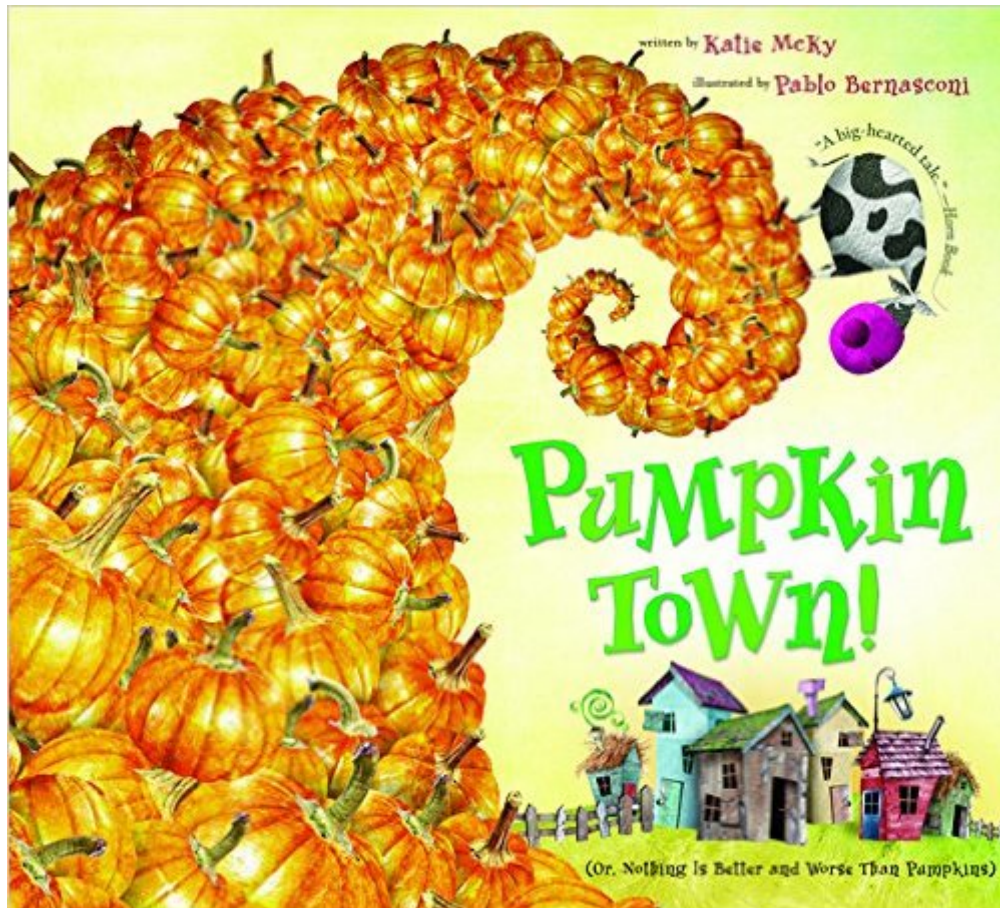


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# Pumpkin Town! Or, Nothing Is Better And Worse Than Pumpkins



## Synopsis

The perfect book for fall! What happens when a town has an accidental abundance of pumpkins? What do JosÃ© and his well-intentioned brothers do with a mountain of pumpkins? An EXPLOSION of pumpkins? Step into Pumpkin Town and see! As a teacher, Katie McKy saw many children make mistakes. She also saw many children want to make their wrongs right. As a gardener, Katie once planted too many pumpkin seeds. She was that a good thing can be a bad thing when the vines start to grow every which way.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 920 (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (August 25, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0547181930

ISBN-13: 978-0547181936

Product Dimensions: 10 x 0.2 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (32 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #4,926 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #6 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > Farm Life](#) #46 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Siblings](#) #56 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature](#)

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: [Preschool - 3](#)

## Customer Reviews

I love everything about this book - the enchanting, precise storytelling; the wacky, colorful art; and the gentle (i.e. NOT heavy-handed) message about conservation and actions equalling consequences. Katie McKy's story and Pablo Bernasconi's artwork were meant to storytell together. A fun romp from start to finish.

Let me list the things I love about it: the story; the illustrations; the way it reads aloud for pre-readers; its suitability for reading kids; and the rich possibilities for talking with more advanced kids about some Big Ideas sure to come out of this tale of delicious dilemmas.

Subtitled: Or, Nothing Is Better and Worse Than Pumpkins Pumpkin Town! is a lively tale of brothers who grow pumpkins for a living. They unknowingly scatter seeds on a neighboring town causing an avalanche of pumpkins to grow. Though their actions were unintentional, the brothers take responsibility for the mountain of pumpkins that has overrun the town. They harvest all the pumpkins and clean up the vines to bring in a tidy profit for the town. The townspeople are so overjoyed that they reward the brothers with large, sweet watermelons. The open ending encourages young readers to speculate on what will happen during the next growing season. Pumpkin Town! is a delightful story of values that honors the reader's ability to draw conclusions for themselves. While many children's books offer a "knock you over the head" moral, this story subtly guides the reader to discover the values of taking responsibility and having a strong work ethic. The lyrical language and bright pages keep even the most distractible children entertained. The illustrations, a colorful and creative mix of paste paper, photographs, fabrics, and computer imaging provide a rich visual texture to the story. Pumpkin Town! is recommended for ages 4-8. For the younger set, it is a funny tale to be enjoyed. For slightly older children, it can serve as a springboard to develop the logical skill of cause and effect as well as a fun creative writing "what happens next" project. Armchair Interviews says: Children can draw their own conclusions.

What a delightful story. The words flow from beginning to end. I was very impressed with the unusual visual ending. When you finish the story, not before, remove the book sleeve and the art on the cover produces a sense of de ja vous. A perfect story for young readers and for even younger listeners. Sylvia Mirisola

We love this book! After repeatedly checking it out from the library every fall, I finally decided it needed to be part of our family collection. My now 4 1/2 year old absolutely loves it and even my 15 month old has started to sit through it! Perfect fall/harvest story (especially for schools or families who might not emphasize Halloween as the holiday is never mentioned) for young readers and read-alouds!

Pumpkin Town! Or, Nothing Is Better and Worse Than Pumpkins Jose and his four brothers live on a farm with their father, where they grow pumpkins. After each harvest, they send most of their crop off to market but save the best pumpkins for their seeds. Among those, they choose only the best seeds for planting and toss the rest away. But one fall day a gusty wind carries those seeds onto a

nearby town, and come spring the entire town is overrun with pumpkins. When Jose and his brothers arrive in town, they realize that the bumper crop is their fault and they must do what they can to set things right. Pumpkin Town is a quirky and fun tale, made more so by Pablo Bernasconi's unusual illustrations. The collage style and distorted proportions add a fanciful touch to the story, and are sure to catch a child's interest. Despite the humorous storyline, Pumpkin Town incorporates lessons on taking responsibility for our errors, on the value of gratitude and gifts, and even on ecological responsibility. Children will read or listen to this story without even realizing the ethical lessons that it is imparting, which is one of the great accomplishments of children's literature.

**My Review:** Jose and his family grew pumpkins. And during fall season, Jose and his family would gather all the pumpkins for sale but saved the biggest and brightest seeds and the small and duller seeds are tossed at the edge of the field. But the discarded seeds were blown away by the wind in to the next town. The neighbors woke up to find out that the pumpkins have grown all over the town making it hard for the people to walk. When Jose and his brothers arrived at the town one day they saw that it was covered in pumpkins. They knew they were responsible and they set about to put things right. I love that the story teaches us about responsibilities and that when you know you are at fault for your action and do something to resolve the problem the reward is not only gratitude but there might be a gift. The distorted proportions of the illustration are sure to catch a child's interest in the book. I high recommend this book. **FTC Disclosure:** I received a review copy of this book from the author in exchange for a fair and honest review. I was not monetarily compensated for my opinion in any way.

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