Stumpkin by Lucy Ruth Cummings – Stumpkin is a very handsome pumpkin. He is bright orange, perfectly round, and is the perfect choice for a Halloween jack-o-lantern...EXCEPT that he has a stump and not a stem. Every day, Stumpkin waits in the store for someone to take him home and every day the pumpkin next to him, in front of him, or nearby is chosen. Will Stumpkin ever get his chance to shine? Ages 4-8.

OTHER BOOKS ABOUT PUMPKINS:

Goodbye Summer, Hello Autumn by Kenard Pak – A beautiful tribute to the changing of the seasons and that magical time between the end of summer and the beginning of autumn. Ages 4-7.

How BIG Could Your Pumpkin Grow? By Wendell Minor – Such a unique angle on pumpkins –combining them with famous national landmarks. This book teaches children the concepts of size, comparison, and geography as we go on a pumpkin-themed tour around the country. Ages 4-8.

The Itsy Bitsy Pumpkin by Sonali Fry – A sweet Halloween version to one of the most famous children’s songs – “The Itsy Bitsy Spider” – this is a board book you can sing along with. Ages 0-3.

Little Boo by Stephen Wunderli – A little pumpkin seed wants desperately to be scary. Although he is told to be patient, he has a hard time waiting for his time to scare! A great story about the rush to grow up that many children experience and the importance of taking things a bit slower. Ages 4-7.

Penguin and Pumpkin by Salina Yoon – Penguin goes on an adventure to faraway farm to discover the magic and beauty of the autumn time! Ages 4-7.

Pumpkin (See it Grow series) by Jackie Lee – A great introduction to pumpkins – what they are, how they grow, and their many different shapes, sizes, and colors. Ages 4-7.

Pumpkin Day! By Candice Ransom – A fun learn-to-read story about pumpkins, autumn, and fall traditions! Ages 3-6.

Pumpkin Jack by Will Hubbell – This book helps children understand about the process a pumpkin goes through after it has been a jack-o-lantern on Halloween. An entire year passes as the pumpkin undergoes many changes and its seeds eventually grow into a new pumpkin – the complete cycle! Ages 5-9.
Pumpkin Bracelets!
These are fantastic fall gifts that children can make for their friends, family, or themselves. Great for practicing fine motor skills and talking about different colors.

What you need:
- GREEN pipe cleaners
- Orange and yellow pony beads

Prep ahead:
Take each pipe cleaner, fold it in half, twist at the top to create a loop. Children will fill each side of the stem with orange beads, leaving a little green stem at each end. When they are done, twist the ends together and tuck them inside the beads. Shape the pipe cleaner to form a pumpkin shape. So cute!

Mr. Pumpkin
Round and fat.
Round and fat.
Harvest time is coming.
Harvest time is coming.
Yum, yum, yum.
That is that!

Pumpkin Pudding
Children love to cook and here is an easy and yummy pumpkin recipe to try for a snack.

Ingredients:
1 cup canned pumpkin
1 package (4 serving size) instant vanilla pudding mix
1 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice (a mixture of ground cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, and allspice)
1 and ¼ cups milk

In a small bowl, combine all ingredients and mix well. You can store in an airtight container in the refrigerator. Include children in this cooking activity by allowing them to take turns stirring the mixture and adding in all the ingredients. They can even make their own pumpkin pie spice. Just mix the four ingredients listed above together. Have fun!

You may register for FREE STARS classes by clicking on the date of the class on the CALENDAR of the Pierce County Library web site: www.piercecountylibrary.org. The next STARS Class will be Saturday, October 13th, and is on the topic of HUMOR AND LITERACY!