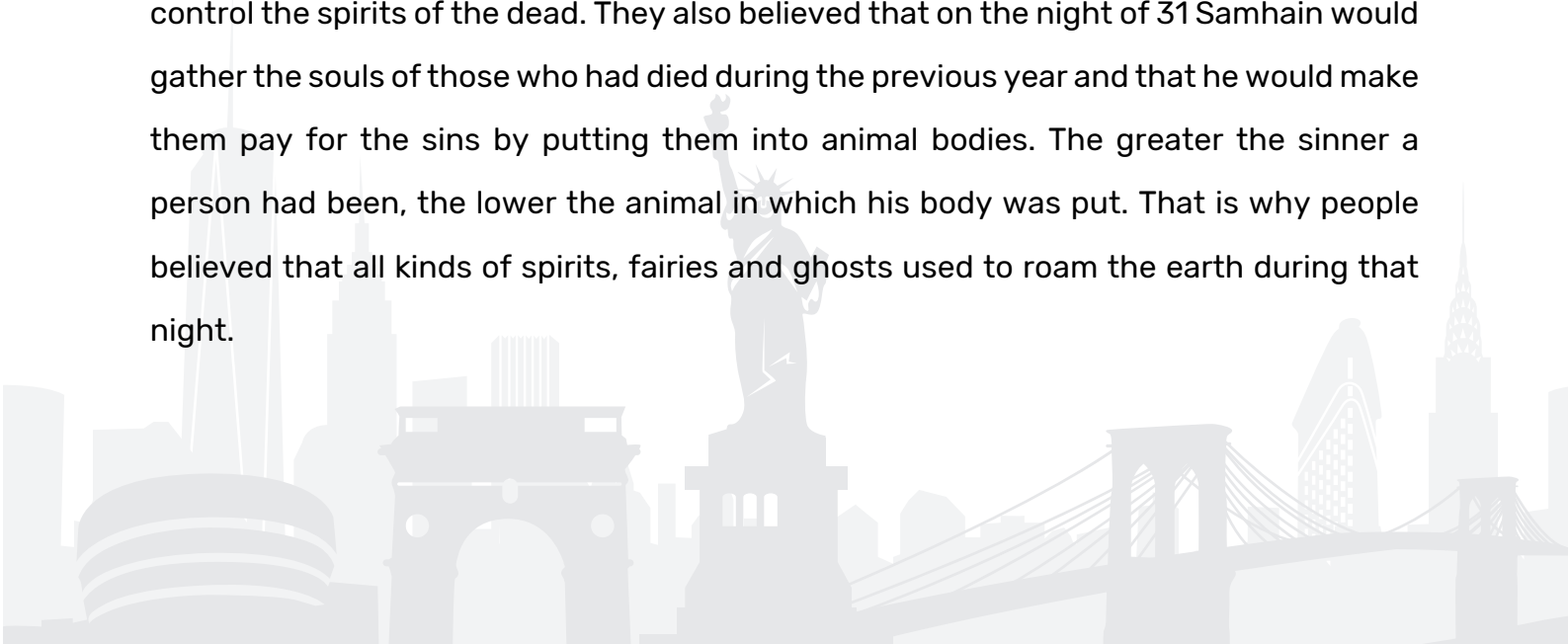


# Halloween

Today, also in Poland, we have started to celebrate Halloween widely. Children, just like in America, have started to collect sweets and it is really so much fun for them! They may have as many candies as they want that day and they may dress up as strange creatures and use their imagination in the dark afternoons. Isn't it great? I wish we had had such fun in our childhood.

So today we are going to talk about the origins and legends connected with this festival. Please note that in fact the whole Europe is divided in half into the origins of its festivals - the one which was influenced by the Roman culture - so the western part with Germany and England because these are the regions where the Romans got the furthest and the eastern part with Slavic countries - the culture of which stems from their pre catholic traditions.

More than 2000 years ago in what is now England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales there lived tribes of people called Celts. The druids, the Celtic priests honored, among others, the god of the dead called Samhain. They celebrated Samhain's festival between the evening of October 31 and November 1. The Celts used to believe that this god could control the spirits of the dead. They also believed that on the night of 31 Samhain would gather the souls of those who had died during the previous year and that he would make them pay for the sins by putting them into animal bodies. The greater the sinner a person had been, the lower the animal in which his body was put. That is why people believed that all kinds of spirits, fairies and ghosts used to roam the earth during that night.



What is more, the Samhain's festival marked the end of the summer and the beginning of the winter darkness. Due to that the arrival of witches and demons was absolutely justified. To frighten and scare away those evil spirits the Celts used to light huge bonfires on hills. The bonfires however, also meant to honor the divinity of the Sun, which helped the farmers to crop the land. They worshipped the Sun and were worried about its fading away in autumn, hoping it would return. They used to sit by the bonfires asking for the return of the Sun in spring. The next morning, on November 1 they would return homes with chunks of still glowing wood from the bonfires to use it with cooking fires and prepare huge feasts. In this way the Celts wanted to help the Sun strengthen before the battle with winter. They also would dress up in animal skins which was supposed to serve as protection against bad luck. This custom survived until recent years.

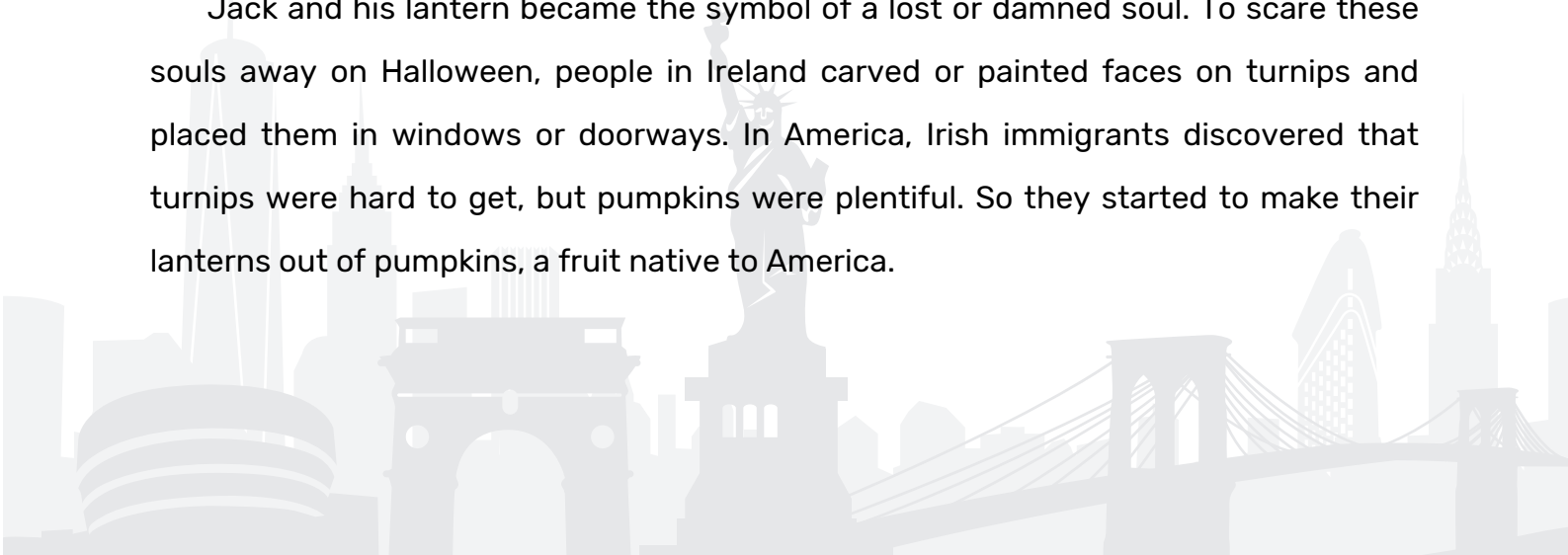
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In the 9th century the Roman Catholic Church established All Hallows or All Saints' Day on November 1 to honor all the saints who had no separate day of their own. Also, the Church hoped to replace in this way all the pagan ceremonies. But in opposition to the Roman Catholic Church there emerged a cult of the Witches with its followers called Hallowe'en - the Night of the Witches. They believed that on that night the Devil and his court would come and perform some wicked acts. So, despite the Church's attempt to convert the day of November 1 into a religious holiday, the Night of the Witch has survived over centuries until now. People all over the world continue those pagan celebrations on the evening before All Hallows and in this way October 31 became known as All Hallows Even, in short Hallowe'en.

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Jack and his lantern became the symbol of a lost or damned soul. To scare these souls away on Halloween, people in Ireland carved or painted faces on turnips and placed them in windows or doorways. In America, Irish immigrants discovered that turnips were hard to get, but pumpkins were plentiful. So they started to make their lanterns out of pumpkins, a fruit native to America.



The custom of collecting sweets with the words „trick or treat” in fact was used by children and people to save themselves from ghosts. It was believed that the real ghosts wandering on the night of Halloween think of those disguised people as one of their own and stay away from them. Most probably ancient Ireland is the source of the trick-or-treating custom. The tradition of dressing up has its origin not only in the pagan times. The Roman Catholic Church of Ireland organized performances on November 1, on the day of All Hallows. Actors dressed up either as the saints or as devils. After the dressing up the peculiar procession marched from the church out to the churchyard. There the play continued for hours, until late evening. Time passed and people in Ireland started thinking of Hallowe'en as a night for putting on costumes. Gradually costumes varied from those of a horse, saints or a devil to ghosts, witches and goblins. People believed that in this way the demons would take them for the own, as was mentioned earlier here, and would leave them alone. Finally, with time the custom of dressing up and trick-or-treating were combined. Young people would travel from house to house shouting „Trick or treat!”. When they were given a treat they thanked and merrily went to the next door. If they received nothing, they performed a trick.

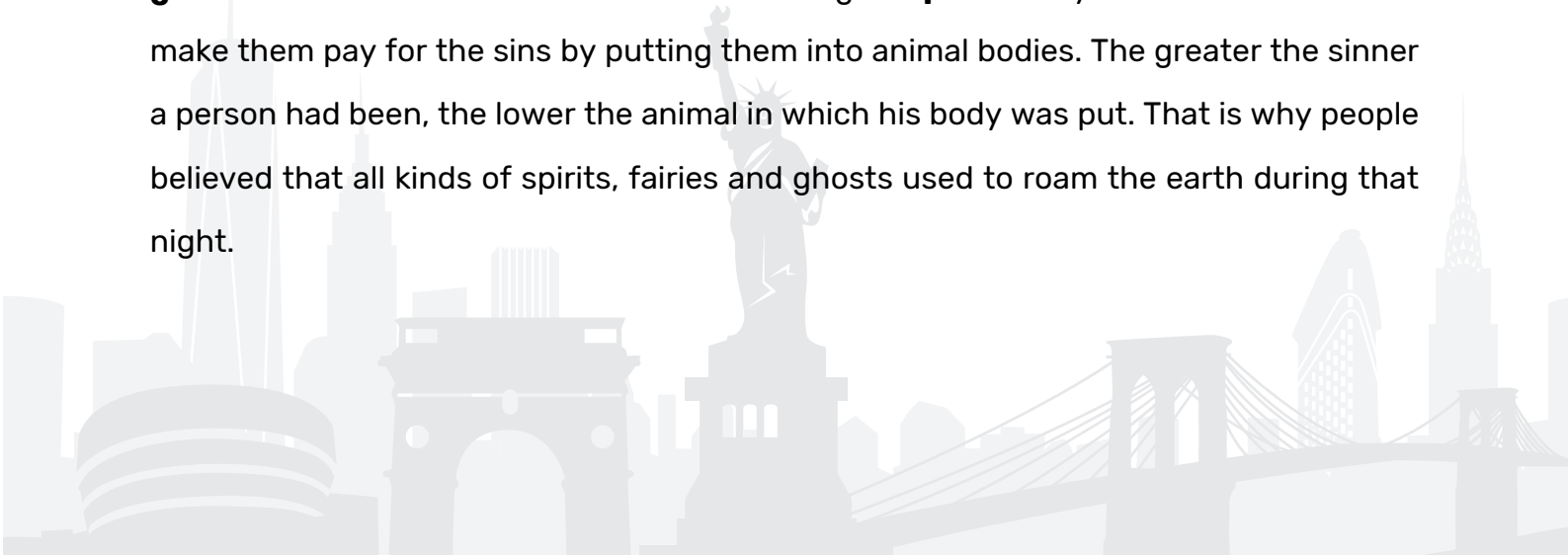


## Halloween - vocabulary

Today, also in Poland, we have started to **celebrate** Halloween widely. Children, just like in America, have started to collect sweets and it is really so much fun for them! They may have as many candies as they want that day and they may **dress up** as strange creatures and use their imagination in the dark afternoons. Isn't it great?

So today we are going to talk about the **origins** and legends connected with this festival. Please note that we can say that the whole Europe is divided in half into the origins of its festivals - the one which was influenced by the Roman culture - so the western part with Germany and England because these are the regions where the Romans got the furthest and the eastern part with Slavic countries the culture of which **stems from** their pre catholic traditions.

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What is more, the Samhain's festival marked the end of the summer and the beginning of the winter darkness. Due to that the arrival of witches and demons was absolutely justified. To frighten and **scare away** those evil spirits the Celts used to light huge bonfires on hills. The bonfires however, also meant to honor the **divinity** of the Sun, which helped the farmers to **crop** the land. They worshipped the Sun and were worried about its **fading away** in autumn, hoping it would return. They used to sit by the bonfires asking for the return of the Sun in spring. The next morning, on November 1 they would return homes with **chunks** of still glowing wood from the bonfires to use it with cooking fires and prepare huge feasts. In this way the Celts wanted to help the Sun strengthen before the battle with winter. They also would dress up in animal skins which was supposed to serve as protection against bad luck. This custom survived until recent years.

On the other hand the ancient Romans used to hold the festival of Pomona, the **goddess** of fruit, garden and apples. The Romans would thank the goddess for good **harvest** with fruit sacrifices and merry games. When they **conquered** the Celts in Europe, they also brought the Celtic customs with them and as the result were holding a great autumn festival.

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Jack and his lantern became the symbol of a lost or damned soul. To scare these souls away on Halloween, people in Ireland carved or painted faces on turnips and placed them in windows or doorways. In America, Irish immigrants discovered that turnips were hard to get, but pumpkins were **plentiful**. So they started to make their lanterns out of pumpkins, a fruit native to America.

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## Vocabulary list:

Celebrate - świętować

Dress up - przebierać się

Origins - pochodzenie

Stem from - wywodzić się, wynikać

Tribes - plemiona

Priest - ksiądz

Celebrate - świętować

Gather - zbierać, gromadzić

Previous - poprzedni

Scare away - odstraszyć

Divinity - boskość

Crop - uprawiać

Fade away - gasnąć, znikać

Chunks - kawałki

Goddess - bogini

Harvest - plony, zbiory

Conquer - podbić

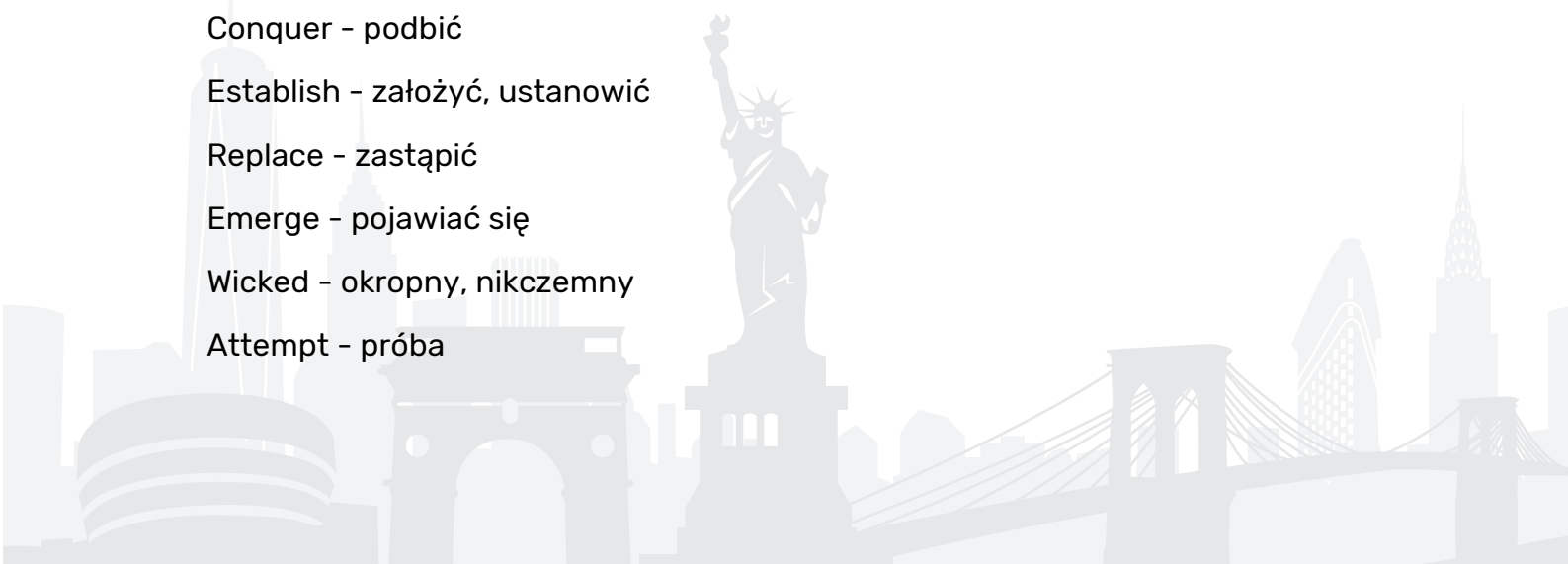
Establish - założyć, ustanowić

Replace - zastąpić

Emerge - pojawiać się

Wicked - okropny, nikczemny

Attempt - próba



Convince - przekonać

Eventually - w końcu

Bother - dręczyć, przeszkadzać

Tree trunk - pień drzewa

Carve - drążyć, ryc

Refuse - odmawiać

Furnace - piec

Curve out - wydrążyć

Turnip - rzepa

Roam - włóczyć się, błąkać się

Plentiful - obfity, liczny

Wander - wędrować, włóczyć się

Disguised - przebrani

Gradually - stopniowo

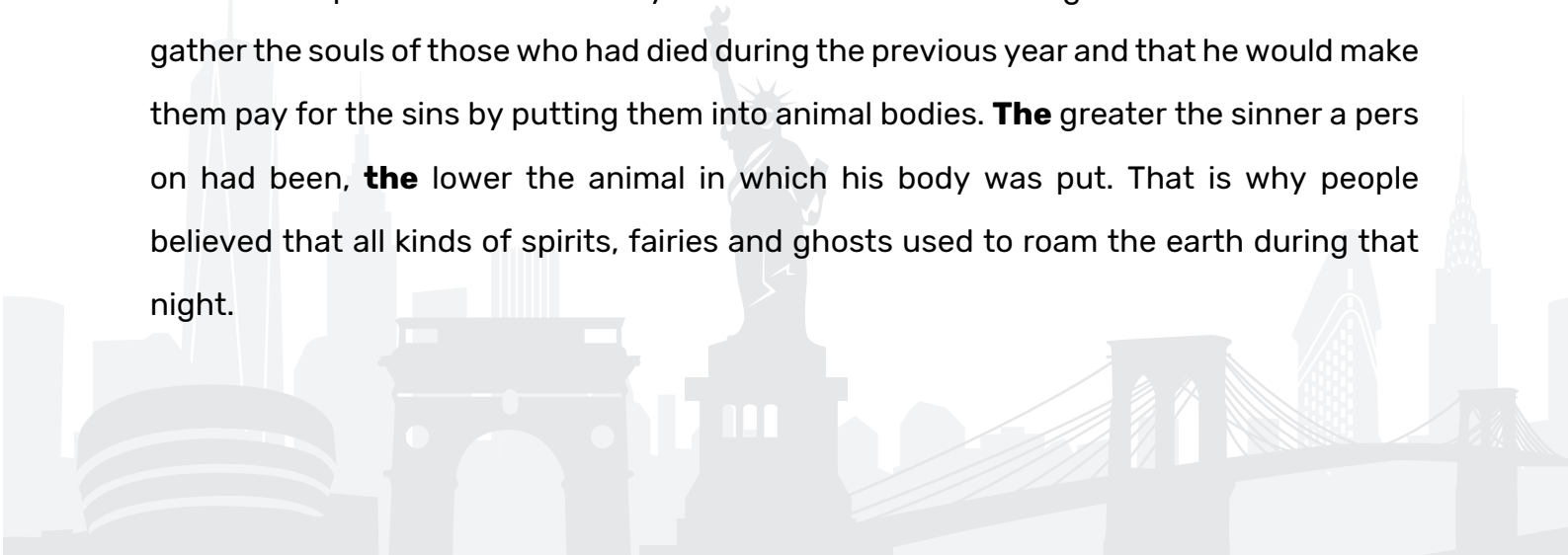


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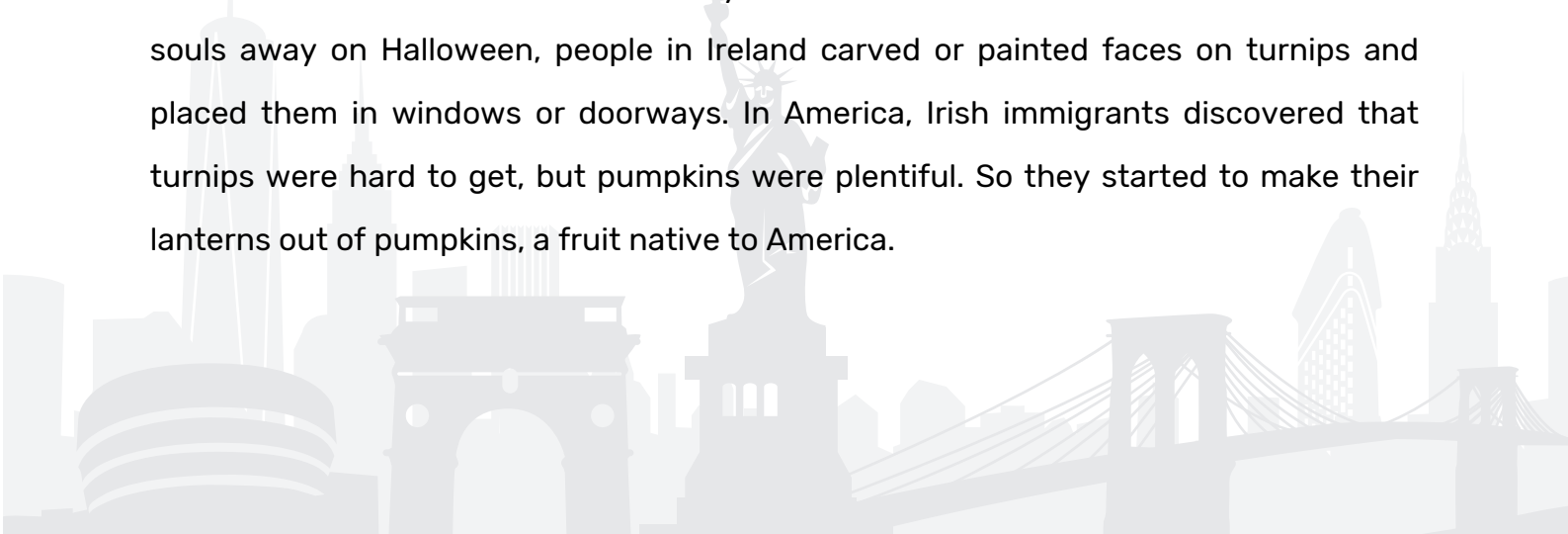
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## Grammar:

Have started - zaczęły, present perfect

I wish we had had - chciałem mieć taką frajdę w naszym dzieciństwie, konstrukcja po I wish

Used to believe - wierzyli, konstrukcja used to

The.. the.. - im.. tym...

Would - dziękowali (w sposób powtarzający się)

Conquered - podbili, czas past simple

Was taking - brał, znajdował, czas past continuous

Was used - był używany, strona bierna w czasie past simple

Either ... or .... - albo.. albo...

Comprehension questions:

1. When was the festival the god of the dead celebrated?
2. What did the Celts use to do to scare the evil spirits away?
3. What kind of festival did the Romans hold?
4. Why did the Roman Catholic Church establish All Saints' Day on November 1?
5. Try to tell the legend of Stingy Jack.

Comprehension question with answers:

1. When was the festival the god of the dead celebrated by the Celts?

It was celebrated between the evening of October 31 and November 1.

2. What did the Celts use to do to scare the evil spirits away?

They used to light huge bonfires on hills.

3. What kind of festival did the Romans hold?

They held the festival of Pomona, the goddess of fruit, garden and apples.

4. Why did the Roman Catholic Church establish All Saints' Day on November 1?

To honor all the saints who had no separate day of their own and wanted to replace all the pagan ceremonies.

5. Try to tell the legend of Stingy Jack.

