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The Fierce Yellow Pumpkin

Margaret Manchak

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Reviewer: Margaret Manchak
Reading Level: Toddler; Preschool; Primary;
Rating: Outstanding;
Genre: Fantasy fiction;
Subject: Pumpkin--Juvenile fiction; Halloween--Juvenile fiction; Jack-o-lanterns--Juvenile fiction;

A "fat little, round little, yellow little pumpkin in a great big field" dreams of making a fierce and ferocious face to scare away the field mice just like the scarecrow does. As the weather turns, the little pumpkin feels a "crisp tingle that tickle[s]," and he grows and turns orange, but try as he might, he can't make a terrible face. His dreams come true when three children take him home and use a saw knife to make his mouth "zigzag up and zigzag down." The pumpkin repeats his refrain: "Ho, ho, ho!/He, he, he!/Mice will run/when they see me." The youngsters dance around him singing a song to the "terrific, terrible pumpkin."

Egielski's illustrations are wonderfully fun and moody and Margaret Brown's prose is more like poetry. It's rhythmic and repetitive in just the right way for a great bedtime read. Overall *The Fierce Yellow Pumpkin* is a Halloween treat.