



The Nightmare before Christmas.

Next week, we will watch this movie in class. It will have English subtitles. Before class, please read this story. It will help you understand and enjoy the film.

Here are the main characters:



Jack Skellington
The hero. He leads the Halloween festival.



Santa Claus



Oogie Boogie
The bad guy



Dr. Finklestein
The mad (crazy) scientist. He made Sally.



Sally
A rag doll. She falls in love with Jack



Lock, Shock & Barrel
The naughty (bad) boys.

The story:

Halloween Town is a dream world filled with creatures such as ugly monsters, ghosts, vampires and witches. Jack Skellington ("The Pumpkin King") leads them in a scary celebration every Halloween. But he has gotten tired of doing the same thing every year.

Walking in the forest outside the cemetery (*cemetery = a place to put bodies after people die*), he accidentally opens a magic path to "Christmas Town". Jack is impressed by the feeling and style of Christmas. He presents what he learned about Christmas to the people of Halloween Town. Some of what he "understands" is wrong. The Halloween Town people don't understand Jack's ideas. They compare everything he says to their idea of Halloween. He announces that they will take over Christmas.

Jack's passion for Christmas makes him want to be Santa Claus. Every towns person is given a task to do. Sally is a rag doll woman. The town's mad scientist created her. She begins to fall in love with Jack. However, she is the only one worried that his plans will not work.



Jack assigns Lock, Shock and Barrel, three naughty children, to catch Santa. They are supposed to kidnap him and bring him back to Halloween Town. Against Jack's wishes, they deliver Santa to Oogie Boogie. Oogie is a bad guy who is always gambling. He wants to gamble with Santa's life.



Christmas Eve arrives. Sally tries to stop Jack with fog. He goes into the sky with a sleigh (*sled*). He begins to deliver presents to children around the world. The gifts are not like anything Santa would give. They are snakes, small human heads, etc. The children who get the gifts are afraid.

People know Jack can't be the real Santa. The army tries to shoot him down. They shoot his sleigh. It lands in a cemetery. People think he is dead but he isn't.

Jack is sad that his plan failed. But he soon comes up with new ideas for the next Halloween. Then he decides to save Santa. He wants to make everything all right again.

Meanwhile, Sally tries to free Santa, but is captured by Oogie. Jack goes to Oogie's place and frees them. Jack and Oogie argue. Oogie tries to catch Jack with some metal playing cards. The Kings of Hearts, Diamonds, Spades and Clubs all have swords. They try to cut Jack and Oogie. Oogie runs away. Jack tries to dance around the swords.

Next robot cowboys try to kill Jack. Then a giant saw tries to cut Jack. During the fight, Jack pulls on Oogie's clothing. We find out what Oogie is full of.

Santa is angry with Jack. But he must go on his way to deliver presents to children all over the world. He forgives Jack. As a gift to Halloween Town, he makes it snow. The people are surprised but soon learn to play in the snow.

Finally, Jack and Sally notice – they really... (you'll find out next class).

