



## Sparkenthusiasm Newsletter October Edition

The holidays are just around the corner, so this newsletter includes several ideas for teaching about Halloween, Day of the Dead, and Thanksgiving. Here is the link for where to find wonderful resources to use to teach these holidays as well as others like Christmas, Three King's Day, etc.

[http://www.sparkenthusiasm.com/holiday\\_resources.html](http://www.sparkenthusiasm.com/holiday_resources.html)



For Halloween, our students learn vocabulary expressions like to trick-or-treat, witch, pumpkin, etc. Then, the students answer questions about what costumes they plan to wear, how their families celebrate, and fun memories they have from childhood Halloween celebrations. We also sing a funny song that goes to the melody from the Addam's Family. Here is the link for the song word document, the video of our students singing the song, and the book that contains tons of Halloween and Day of the Dead craft projects, recipes, crossword puzzles, vocabulary, and more.



[http://www.sparkenthusiasm.com/day\\_of\\_the\\_dead\\_resources.html](http://www.sparkenthusiasm.com/day_of_the_dead_resources.html)



For intermediate through advanced Spanish classes, we show a video called *La Leyenda del Espantapájaros*. This video has tons of examples for reinforcing the preterit versus the imperfect verb tenses. There is also a listening activity that goes along with the video on our site and we have both versions of the video (with and without subtitles).



[http://www.sparkenthusiasm.com/la\\_leyenda\\_del\\_espantapajaros.html](http://www.sparkenthusiasm.com/la_leyenda_del_espantapajaros.html)



For the Day of the Dead, our students read articles that include cultural information and then they write about and discuss the similarities and differences between the Day of the Dead and Halloween. Here is a link for an excellent article in Spanish. This article is geared for Spanish 2, 3, 4, or 5 students. [http://www.sparkenthusiasm.com/compare\\_day\\_of\\_the\\_dead\\_with\\_halloween.pdf](http://www.sparkenthusiasm.com/compare_day_of_the_dead_with_halloween.pdf)



For Thanksgiving, we have our students learn pertinent Thanksgiving vocabulary and they practice their writing skills with essays about reasons they are thankful. They prepare their essays using guided questions, and then they share what they wrote in small groups during class. After a 5-10 minute small group discussion, we have one student from each group share what his/her group discussed.



[http://www.sparkenthusiasm.com/thanksgiving\\_resources.html](http://www.sparkenthusiasm.com/thanksgiving_resources.html)

As high school teachers, this seems to be the busy season for writing letters of recommendation for our outstanding students. Here is a link for a time-saving guide to give students that will give you much needed detailed information about your students so you can write them excellent letters.

<http://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Teacher-Letter-of-Recommendation-Time-Saving-Guide-English-and-Spanish#>

\*\*\*Here is the link to view all of our products: <http://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Sparkenthusiasm>

All the best to you in your teaching endeavors!



Amy Haney and Kathleen Acosta

[www.sparkenthusiasm.com](http://www.sparkenthusiasm.com)