



Feeling chilly lately?

It could be the cooler autumn weather.

Or maybe it's the spooky Halloween season sneaking up on us!

***sneak up (on someone):** If an event or day sneaks up on you, it arrives before you are ready for it.

OBON AND HALLOWEEN SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

Obon has come and gone, but Halloween is still on its way. Let's explore what these two significant holidays have in common and how they differ.

SIMILARITIES

- Both Obon and Halloween have ties to the spirit world.
- Light plays an important role in both celebrations (Obon: bonfires, lanterns; Halloween: jack-o'-lanterns)
- Both holidays involve communal gatherings and celebrations. Families come together and there are community events. Both carve seasonal vegetables to welcome ancestors

DIFFERENCES

- Obon is celebrated in August, while Halloween is on October 31.
- Obon focuses on honoring deceased ancestors, while Halloween originally aimed to ward off evil spirits.
- Obon activities include visiting graves and offering prayers. Halloween activities include trick-or-treating, costume parties, and carving pumpkins.

RIDDLE ??? TIME

You spell ghost, G-H-O-S-T. Can you spell that without using a "g"?

The person who made me doesn't want me. The person who bought me doesn't need me. The person who uses me will never know. What am I?

ANSWERS: T-H-A-T.

A coffin. 寝棺(ねかん)

HALLOWEEN IDIOMS

Skeleton in the/your closet: an embarrassing secret

"Most families have one or two skeletons in the closet."

Ghost town: a place/town that is empty or abandoned

"The mall was a ghost town after the shops closed down."

Dig one's own grave: to do something that causes harm to oneself or one's own problems

"She dug her own grave when she made fun of the boss."

EVENT ALERT

Open Class

Day for

Parents

On the last Tuesday of this month, October 29, from the first to the fourth period, parents are welcome to sit in on your classes to see how they usually are conducted. And maybe to check up on you! Just kidding. . . Or not. Make sure to remind you parents of this great opportunity to see you in class. Mark your calendar!