## Halloween may not be everything you think it is

love and others dread, while kids may look forward to it all year. How much do you know about it? Is it an important date for children, and if

Here's a chance to find out.

1. Halloween began in early Christian times and has always had a kind of innocence that's appealing to children.

TRUE()FALSE()

2. Regrettably, the main appeal of trick-or-treating to children is the candies and what's going to be

TRUE()FALSE()

3. Parents should not always have the final say on what young children wear on this holiday.

TRUE()FALSE()

4. Monsters, witches and devils are appealing just because it's fun, and that's the primary reason.

TRUE()FALSE()

5. Parents shouldn't worry about 10-year-old and younger trick-ortreaters as long as they have a teenage sister or brother along.

TRUE() FALSE()

6. Because adults of all ages are

Halloween is a time some people terrorist attacks in this country, parents don't need to be as scared as they were in previous years about the safety of their little goblins and monsters.

TRUE()FALSE()

7. Collecting for a cause like UNICEF on this holiday tends to make children more cautious and have less fun.

TRUE()FALSE()

8. Masks contribute to misbehav-

TRUE()FALSE() ANSWERS:

1. FALSE. Some think this holiday goes back to Baal, the Phoenician fertility god, while others think it started with the druids; but in its early days, it was not a holiday that would appeal to most today because of its extreme brutality, including animal and human sacrifices.

2. FALSE. It's scaring others, including their parents, and turning the tables on them, but also dealing with their own fears.

3. TRUE. This is a time when children's creativity and imagination can be allowed to run free, so aware of and concerned about and parents should try to let them Ask Dr.

Dr. Joyce **Brothers** 

Brothers

choose their own costume and determine who they want to be that special night, as long as it is not

dangerous. 4. FALSE. The costume they select is not only fun, it also can be enlightening for their parents. It can represent a rebellion from the roles their parents want them to play. It's an expression of independence — daring to try out new

5. FALSE. First, teens should not be burdened with the task on this particular night. They don't make responsible chaperones. An adult should generally accompany all children until they're

6. FALSE. Dangers for children still increase on this holiday, not only in terms of what's given

is needed to watch when crossing that looks like a cross between a streets. Children get overexcited and can easily be distracted by strangers or speeding cars.

7. FALSE. Trick-or-treating for a purpose such as UNICEF to help needy children throughout the world is a great addition to this holiday. It doesn't diminish the fun, but helps make children aware of others who are less privileged.

8. TRUE. Studies have shown this to be true partly because it increases a person's anonymity, and this reduces restraints on behavior. Children can get away with things they might not otherwise do. The danger for young children is that masks tend to hinder vision. If you answered six of these

eight questions correctly, you're better informed than most on this subject. Dear Dr. Brothers: After working

to make a beautiful pink princess costume for my 5-year-old daughter, she went out for some routine shopping with her dad and came home with a frightening monster to them as a treat but also an adult mask and a ghastly, ugly costume

dragon and an ape.

She's crazy about it and insists on wearing it on Halloween for trickor-treating and also to a party for kids on our block.

I'm furious with my husband and secretly wonder if he showed this to

her deliberately.

Why, why would a pretty little girl choose this thing?

her wear it?

Dear D.F.: By all means, let her enjoy and wear this scary costume. Part of the fun of Halloween is frightening and shocking

It's a time when fantasy comes alive, when imagination can run wild and kids can express their originality without fear of being reprimanded or being told to behave like nice, polite little girls or

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It's a time when children can get even with adults and also deal with their fears by pretending to be what they may fear, taking on their fears or laughing at them. This is a time when kids can feel as if they have more power.

It's good for children to have a Should I put my foot down, or let choice regarding the costume

> Maybe your little girl is trying to rebel against the role that the pretty pink costume represents.

> This might not be the case, and tomorrow she might like the pink dress you made so much that she wants to wear it to school, but she should be given an option. Make certain the mask doesn't block her vision, as this can be a danger. Make sure she can see properly, and enjoy the dragon.

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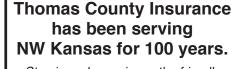
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