

## Animated Halloween Storybook — Group Coding Challenge #1 (V.4)

Fun stylesheet name: **spooktacular.css**

Due: **10/01/2025 — 4:30 PM**

Teams: **2 students per group (GitHub collaboration required)**

Prizes will be awarded for top tier groups -limited on to the crème de le crème

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### Objective

The primary objective of this challenge is to design, build, and deploy a **CSS-only, highly interactive, and multi-page Halloween storybook experience**.

This project demands mastery of **modern CSS techniques** to solve complex user experience (UX) and navigation problems typically managed by JavaScript. Your team must harness the power of semantic HTML5 and advanced CSS features including **Flexbox, Grid, Custom Properties, Transitions, and Keyframe Animations** - to create a fully functional, compelling, and spooky narrative that feels alive.

The final version should serve as a high-fidelity demonstration of your team's ability to craft a seamless, production-quality user experience *without writing a single line of JavaScript*.

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### Technical Requirements (The CSS-Only Mandate)

Requirement	Details
Core Technology	100% CSS-Only. All visual effects, interactivity, layout changes, and multi-page navigation <i>must</i> be achieved exclusively using semantic HTML5 and CSS3/CSS4.
Stylesheet Name	All custom styles must be contained within a single external file named: <b>spooktacular.css</b>
Interactivity	Must utilize advanced CSS techniques for interaction, such as the <code>:target</code> pseudo-class (for page transitions), <code>:checked</code> for state changes (e.g., hidden navigation/modals), and <code>:hover/:focus</code> for micro-interactions.
Multi-Page Structure	The storybook must contain a minimum of 3 distinct narrative "pages" or "chapters" that users navigate between using CSS-driven links/buttons.

Accessibility      Must utilize proper semantic HTML5 structure (<header>, <main>, <section>, <footer>, etc.) and ensure adequate color contrast, font legibility, and proper focus states for keyboard navigation.

## Creative & Design Goals

1. Responsiveness (Mobile-First): The layout must be fully functional and aesthetically pleasing on all screen sizes (mobile, tablet, and desktop). Use CSS Media Queries extensively.
2. Spooky Narrative: Create a clear, engaging, and atmospheric Halloween-themed narrative. The design choices (color palette, typography, custom cursors/scrollbars, etc.) must enhance the "spooky" tone.
3. Advanced Animation: Incorporate sophisticated, smooth, and non-distracting CSS animations and transitions (using @keyframes) to bring the story elements to life. Examples include:
  - Customized page-flip transitions.
  - Parallax scrolling backgrounds or elements.
  - Object movement (e.g., ghosts floating, bats flying) or character reactions.
4. Creative Layout: Use CSS Grid and/or Flexbox for complex, non-standard page layouts that enhance the visual storytelling rather than relying on simple stacking.

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## Halloween Specifications

- **Color palette (use CSS variables):** #FF7518 (*pumpkin*), #4B0082 (*witch purple*), #228B22 (*monster green*), #000000 (*black*), #FFFFFF (*ghost white*)
- **Typography:** spooky display fonts from Google Fonts (e.g., **Creepster**, **Eater**) paired with a readable body font
- **Imagery:** bats, ghosts, pumpkins, witches, cobwebs, moons, candles, fog, stars

## Required Page Architecture

- **Create at least 2 pages** — page 1 will display a creative soft introduction to the Big Splash page 2.
- **Header & Navigation** — Create a **sticky header** with a **spooky logo** and **animated nav links**
- **Hero Section** — An eye-catching banner with **animated headline text** and decorative **pseudo-elements**
- **Interactive Elements** — Hover/focus animations (e.g., **flying bats**, **appearing ghosts**)
- **Content Sections** — Themed **content cards** with hover effects; layered backgrounds; subtle **CSS-only parallax**
- **Footer** credits, and a your own (custom) short **catchy statement**

## Story & Navigation System

- **Story Structure** — For Page 2 we can have multi-panel layout using semantic sections
- **Page Designs** — Each page has a unique micro-theme (e.g., graveyard, haunted library, pumpkin patch, moonlit forest)
- **Navigation System** — Implement **CSS-only page turning/flipping** using `:target` or **checkbox/radio** toggles.

## Sample Character Ideas (with CSS behaviors)

- **Vampire** — fangs **appear on hover**
- **Werewolf** — **transform** animation sequence
- **Ghost** — **fade in/out** effect
- **Witch** — **broom fly-by** animation
- **Zombie** — shambling **keyframe** walk cycle

## More Sample Ideas

- **Haunted Town Square** — animated street lamps, drifting fog
- **Pumpkin Patch Gallery** — hover-reveal character cards
- **Moonlit Forest Path** — `:target` chapters that “turn the page”

### Sample Atmospheric & Background Effects

- **Fog drift** using layered semi-transparent gradients
- **Twinkling stars** via @keyframes opacity shifts
- **Moon glow** and cobweb corners using ::before/::after
- **Reduced motion** variants using @media (prefers-reduced-motion: reduce)

### CSS Techniques to Utilize - Recommendations

- **Grid/Flexbox** for responsive layouts
- **CSS Animations** with @keyframes
- **Transitions & Transforms** for smooth state changes
- **CSS Variables** for theming (colors/spacing)
- **Pseudo-elements** (::before, ::after) for decorative details
- **Advanced selectors**: :hover, :focus, :active, :target, :checked

### Additional Instructions

- **Responsiveness**
- **Visible focus styles**

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### Expectations

You are responsible for devising **unique** designs and choices of color/typography/assets. Your grade reflects how well you meet the requirements **and** how **inventive** and **original** your solutions are (beyond my class explanation).

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### Deliverables

- index.html (semantic, accessible markup)
- spooktacular.css (organized, commented, variables for palette)
- assets/ (images/SVGs/clean fonts that will render nicely) \*\*remember to use transparent images
- **GitHub repo URL** (both members must commit) + **screenshot** of commit history
- **(Use the provided index.html as a submission template)**

## Grading Rubric (100 pts)

1. **Layout & Responsiveness (20)** — Grid/Flex; works at all breakpoints
  2. **Accessibility (15)** — contrast, focus management, motion animation in sync
  3. **Visual Design & Theming (15)** — palette, typography, imagery cohesion
  4. **Interactivity (20)** — CSS-only navigation/state via advanced selectors
  5. **Animation Quality (15)** — smooth, purposeful, performance-friendly animations
  6. **Code Organization (10)** — clean, commented CSS; semantic HTML structure
  7. **Collaboration & Submission (5)** — visible contributions from both members; complete deliverables
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## Awards

Three groups will be recognized for outstanding work: **Top graduate group** and **Top two undergraduate** groups.

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## Collaboration & Submission Instructions

- This is a **two-person GitHub** collaboration; **both teammates must contribute**.
  - Include a sample **screenshot of commit history** with both contributors.
  - Submit the **GitHub repository URL** and all **deliverables** listed above using the template provide.
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## Helpful CSS Starter Snippets

### Palette & reduced-motion

```
:root{  
  
  --pumpkin:#FF7518;  
  
  --witch-purple:#4B0082;  
  
  --monster-green:#228B22;  
  
  --black:#000;
```

```
--ghost:#FFF;

--space-1:0.25rem; --space-2:0.5rem; --space-3:1rem; --space-4:2rem;
}

html { scroll-behavior: smooth; }

@media (prefers-reduced-motion: reduce){
  * { animation-duration:0.01ms !important;
      animation-iteration-count:1 !important;
      transition:none !important; }
}
```

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### **Sticky header + animated navigation**

```
header { position: sticky; top: 0; background: var(--black); color: var(--ghost); }

nav a {
  display:inline-block; padding: var(--space-2) var(--space-3);
  transition: transform .2s, color .2s;
}

nav a:focus, nav a:hover { color: var(--pumpkin); transform: translateY(-2px); }
```

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### **CSS-only page “flip” with :target**

```
/* Each story page is a section with an id; only the :target is visible */

.page { display: none; }

.page:target { display: block; }

.pager a {
  color: var(--ghost);
  background: var(--witch-purple);
  padding: .5rem 1rem; border-radius: .5rem;
```

```
}
```

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### Hover-revealed ghost (example component)

```
.ghost {  
  opacity: 0; transform: translateY(10px);  
  transition: opacity .3s ease, transform .3s ease;  
}  
  
.card:where(:hover, :focus-within) .ghost {  
  opacity: 1; transform: translateY(0);
```

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### Character transform (werewolf)

```
@keyframes morph {  
  0% { filter: hue-rotate(0); transform: scale(1); }  
  50%{ filter: hue-rotate(45deg); transform: scale(1.05); }  
  100%{ filter: hue-rotate(0); transform: scale(1); }  
}  
  
.werewolf:hover { animation: morph 1.6s ease-in-out infinite; }
```

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### Suggested Folder Structure

```
/ (repo root)  
  
index.html  
  
spooktacular.css  
  
/assets  
  
/images  
  
/fonts
```