EL PASO-TELLER COUNTY
9-1-1 AUTHORITY
POLICE · FIRE · CO · EMS · DISPATCH

Title	Date
Pumpkin Hollow Protocol 119	10/01/2026
Discipline/Version	**CDE Credit Hours**
EPD 7.3	.5

I verify that I read and am familiar with the contents of this document.

- [x] PDF Attached
- [ ] YouTube Link:
- [ ] Other:

Please return this to your agency's training coordinator for CDE credit. If you have any questions, please contact us at 911training@elpasoteller911.org

X _____ _____

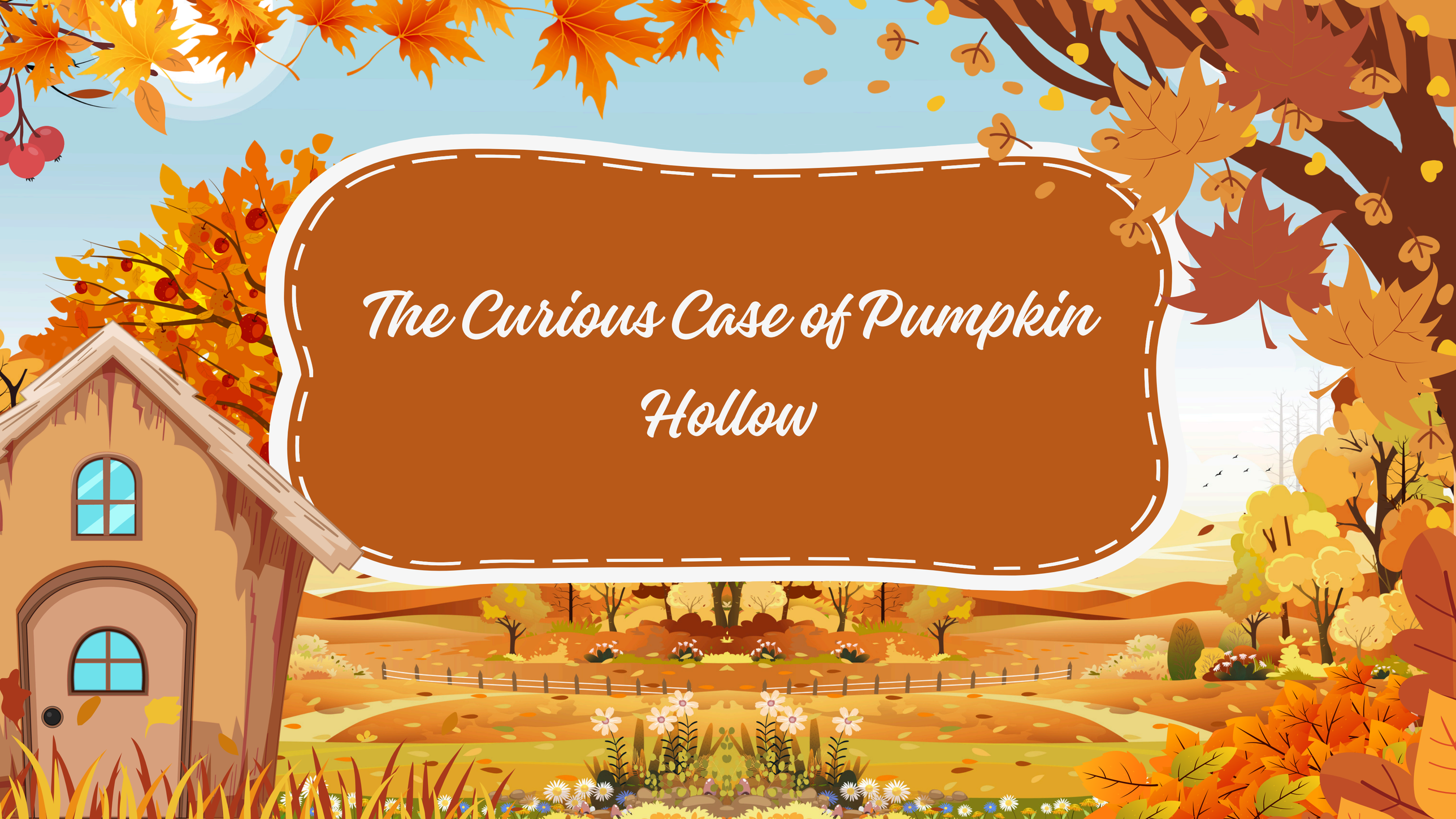
Signature **Date**

X _____

Printed Name

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Agency


The Curious Case of Pumpkin Hollow



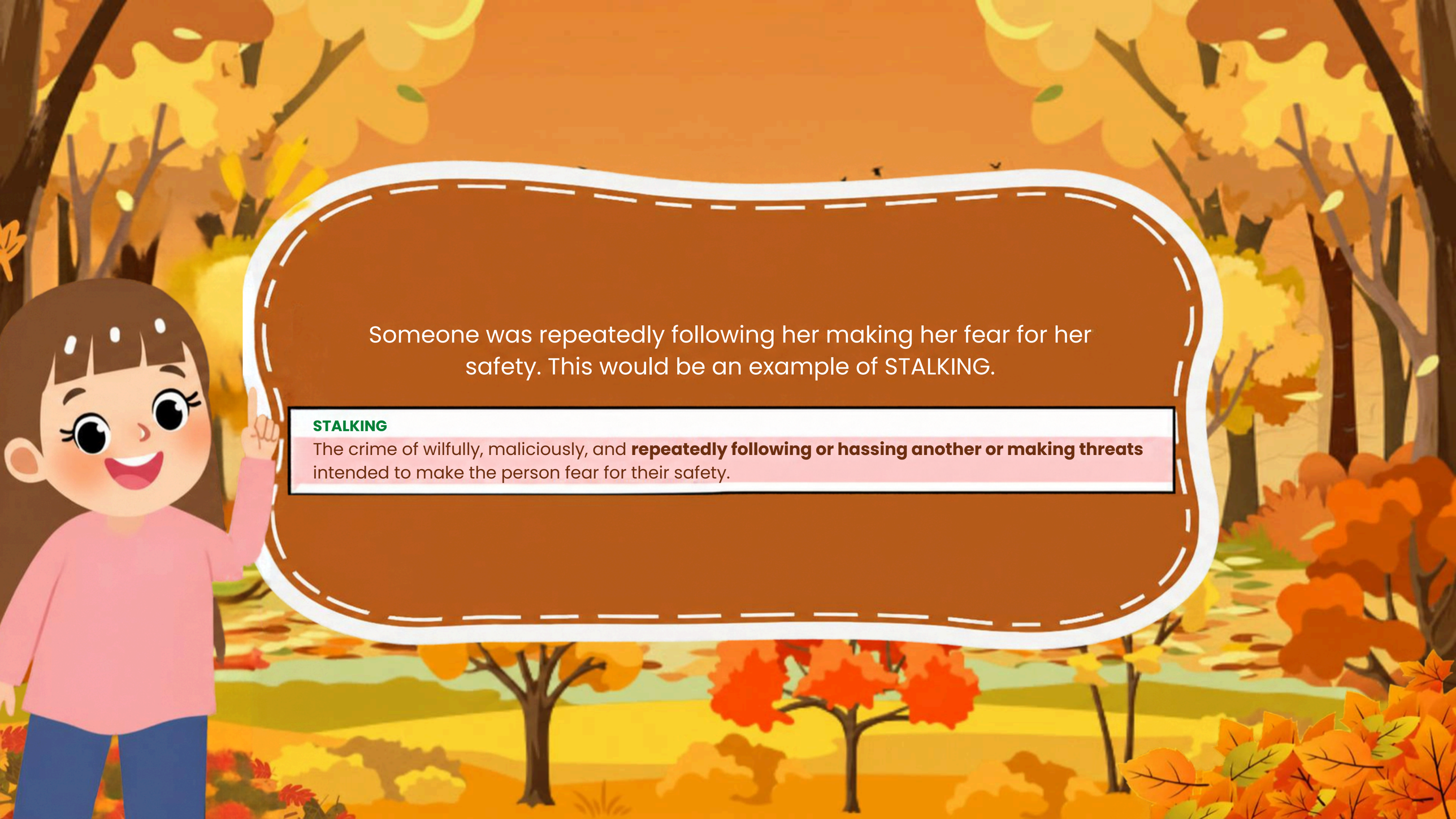
Welcome to Pumpkin Hollow!

It's the kind of town where porches glow with jack-o'-lanterns, leaves crunch under your boots, and everyone takes Halloween very seriously.

Our story follows Polly Pumpkin, who is getting ready for Pumpkin Hollow’s annual Halloween Festival.

Unfortunately, Polly’s night is about to get a little more spooky than she planned.


Polly leaves work and starts walking toward the festival. As she turns onto Maple Street, she notices someone behind her.
She turns again.
They turn too.
She crosses the street.
So do they.
Polly recognizes the person as someone who has repeatedly shown up outside her work, near her home, and at places she visits.
Tonight they appear to be following her again and she is terrified.
What are we dealing with here?

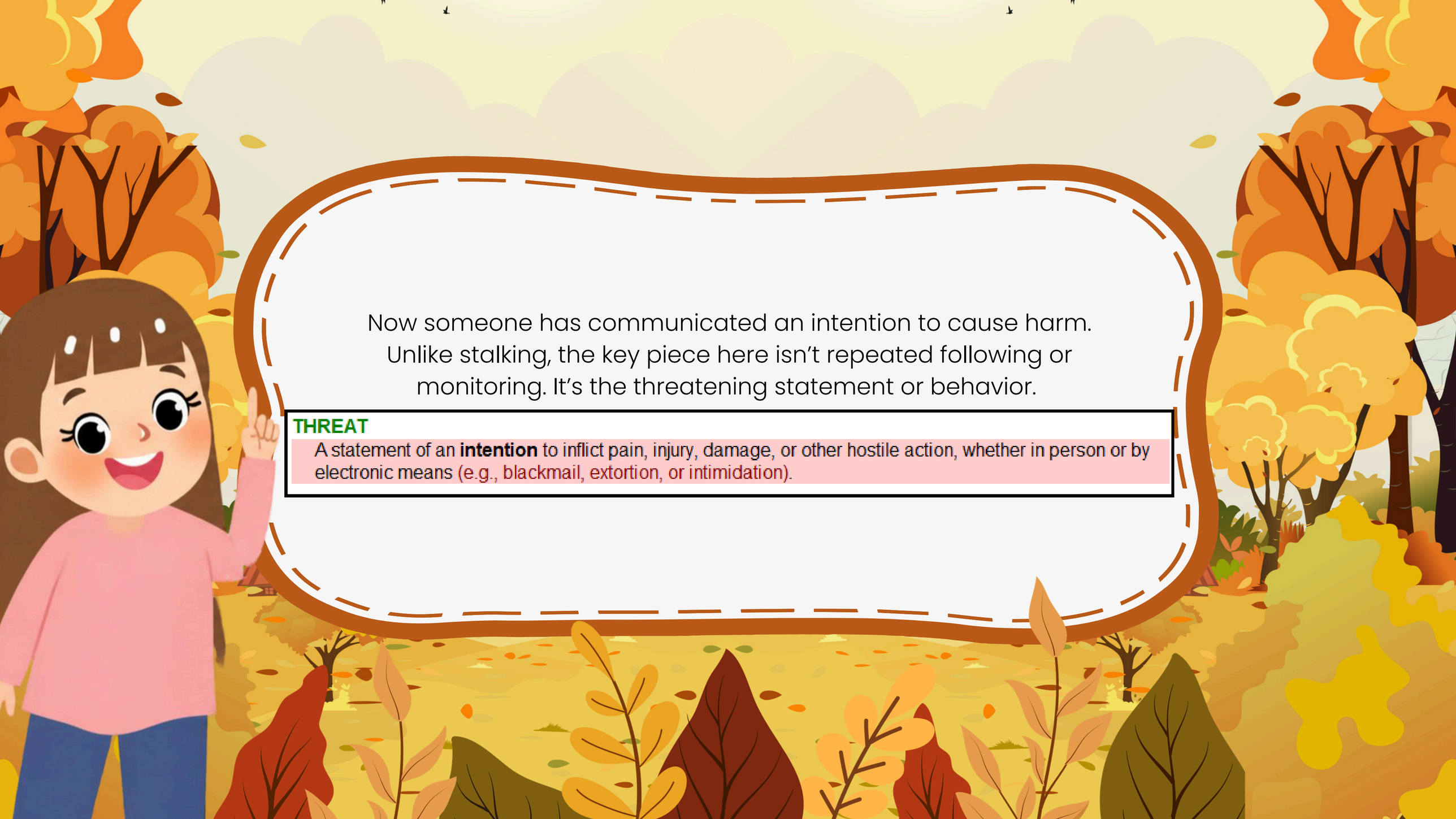


Someone was repeatedly following her making her fear for her safety. This would be an example of STALKING.

STALKING

The crime of wilfully, maliciously, and **repeatedly following or hassing another or making threats** intended to make the person fear for their safety.

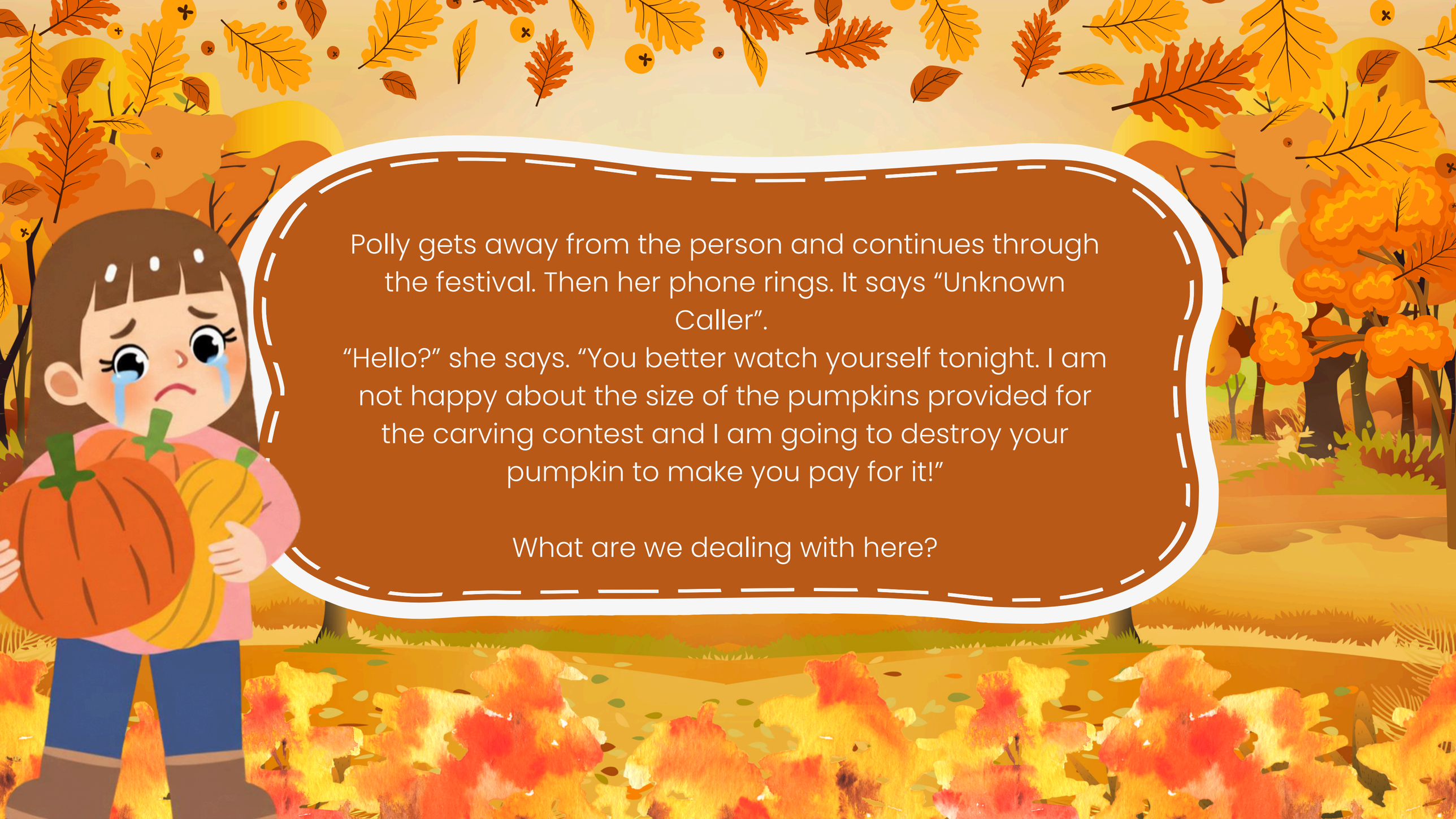

But the night isn't over...
Polly makes it safely to the Halloween Festival.“Whew,” she says.
“Maybe now I can finally enjoy my caramel apple.”
Then someone approaches her. They’re angry. Very Angry.“When you leave, I am going to hurt you for taking the last caramel apple!”
What are we dealing with here?



Now someone has communicated an intention to cause harm. Unlike stalking, the key piece here isn't repeated following or monitoring. It's the threatening statement or behavior.

THREAT

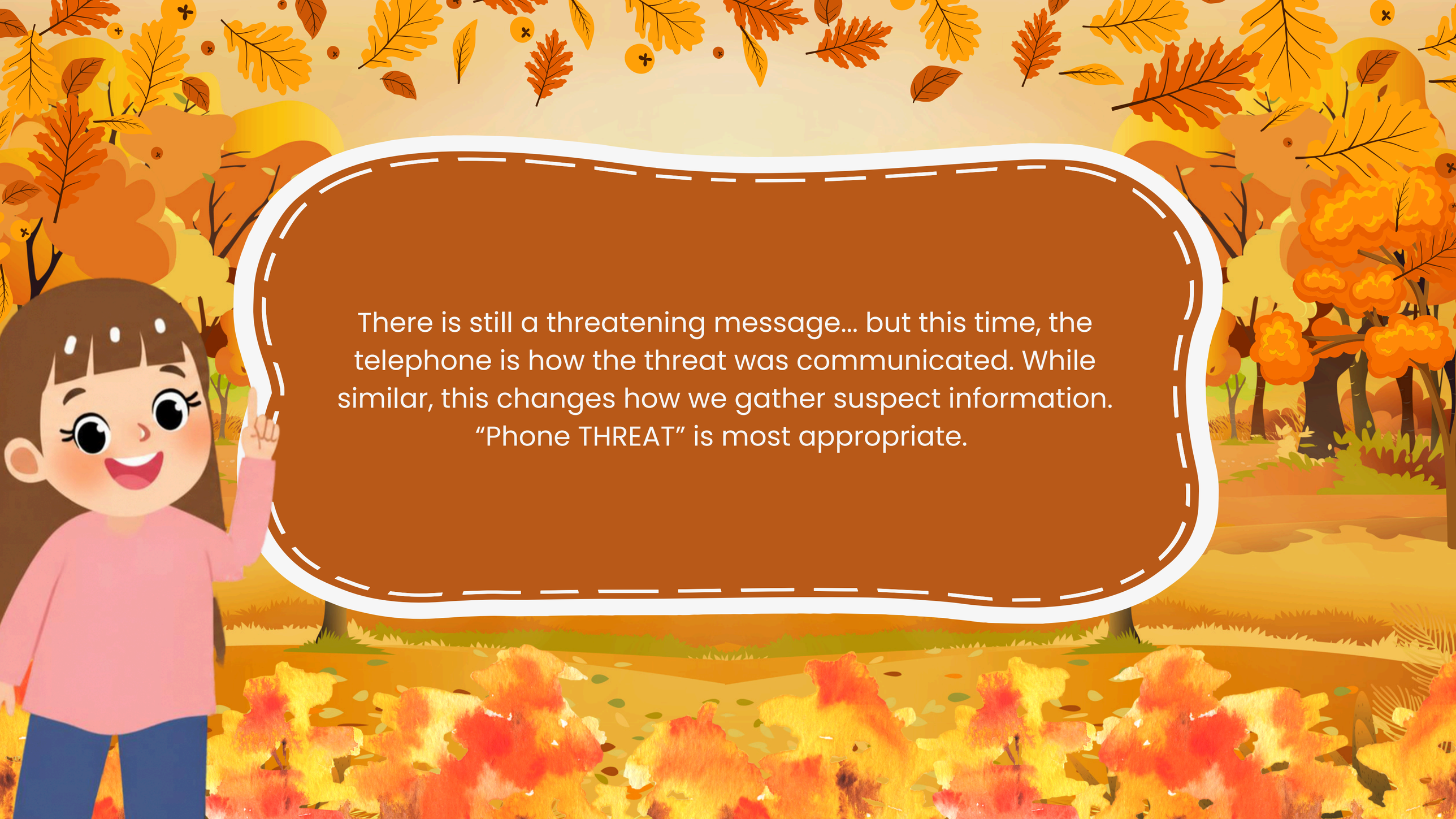
A statement of an **intention** to inflict pain, injury, damage, or other hostile action, whether in person or by electronic means (e.g., blackmail, extortion, or intimidation).



Polly gets away from the person and continues through the festival. Then her phone rings. It says “Unknown Caller”.

“Hello?” she says. “You better watch yourself tonight. I am not happy about the size of the pumpkins provided for the carving contest and I am going to destroy your pumpkin to make you pay for it!”

What are we dealing with here?


There is still a threatening message... but this time, the telephone is how the threat was communicated. While similar, this changes how we gather suspect information. “Phone THREAT” is most appropriate.



DING!

Polly's phone makes another noise. This time, it isn't a call. It's a notification. Someone has sent her a direct message. “I'm coming to your house tonight, and you're going to regret what you did. I'll hurt you for giving me a small pumpkin.”

Polly stares at the screen in disbelief. “Okay... this Halloween officially stinks.”

What are we dealing with here?

This message contains a threat, but it was communicated through a social media platform. Pay attention to both sides here. What happened? A threat. How did it happen? Through social media.





Next morning, Polly is cleaning up after the Halloween Festival. Many people volunteer to help pack away the decorations, sweep up the leaves, and rescue a few sad pumpkins that didn't survive the night. But one of the other festival volunteers won't leave her alone.
She keeps approaching Polly, making unwanted comments, and bothering her while she's trying to help with clean up. They are insulting and make her so mad she might throw her pumpkin right at them!

So, what are we dealing with?

This falls under harassment. Keep in mind, like with threats, harassment can happen in person, over the phone, or through social media.

HARASSMENT

- **Insulting**, **taunting**, or **challenging** another in a manner likely to provoke a violent or disorderly response, whether in person or by electronic means.
- Making a phone call/text **without the purpose of legitimate communication** or making repeated calls/texts **anonymously**, at extremely **inconvenient** hours, or in offensively **coarse language**.

The End

Polly finally made it home. She locked the door, turned off her phone, grabbed her caramel apple, and curled up under a blanket.

Then....

DING!

Polly stared at her phone anxiously.

It was a coupon for 50% off Christmas decorations.

“Now THAT is a message I can handle!”

Happy Halloween from Pumpkin Hollow!