

# **Gilly The Gharial And The Haunted Riverbank**

Once upon a time, deep in the rivers of India, lived a young gharial named Gilly. Gilly was a curious creature with a long, thin snout and rows of sharp teeth. Unlike the other animals in the river, Gilly loved spooky stories, especially about Halloween. He had heard tales of glowing pumpkins, spooky ghosts, and how children dressed up in all sorts of costumes to go trick-or-treating.

One crisp October evening, as the sun dipped below the horizon, Gilly decided to explore beyond the river's edge. He had heard that on Halloween night, magical things could happen, and he was eager to see them for himself.

As Gilly swam closer to the riverbank, he noticed something unusual—a glowing light flickering among the trees. Curiosity got the better of him, and he slowly made his way out of the water and followed the light. The closer he got, the brighter the light became, until he finally found himself in a small clearing where a large, glowing pumpkin sat in the middle.

Gilly had never seen anything like it before. The pumpkin had a face carved into it—a big, toothy grin with triangle eyes that sparkled in the moonlight. Gilly felt a shiver of excitement run down his scaly back. "Is this the magic of Halloween?" he wondered.

Just then, Gilly heard a rustling sound. He turned around and saw a group of forest animals—rabbits, deer, and even a small owl—gathering around the pumpkin. They all looked at Gilly with wide eyes, clearly frightened by his sharp teeth and long snout.

"Who are you?" asked a brave little rabbit, stepping forward.

"I'm Gilly the Gharial," Gilly replied, trying to sound as friendly as possible. "I just wanted to see the magic of Halloween."

The animals relaxed a little, but they still kept their distance. "We were just about to have a Halloween party," the owl explained. "But we've never had a gharial join us before."

Gilly felt a bit sad. He realized that his appearance might be scaring them. "I promise I'm not scary," Gilly said gently. "I just want to be friends and enjoy Halloween with you."

The animals looked at each other, and after a moment, the deer stepped forward. "Halloween is about having fun together, no matter how different we are," she said. "Why don't you join us, Gilly?"

Gilly's heart swelled with happiness. "Thank you!" he exclaimed.

And so, the animals and Gilly celebrated Halloween together. They played games, shared stories, and even had a costume contest. Gilly made a costume out of leaves and twigs, and everyone agreed he looked like a magical river monster—a friendly one, of course!

As the night drew to a close, Gilly realized something important: It didn't matter what he looked like or where he came from. What mattered was that he had friends who accepted him for who he was. And that was the true magic of Halloween.

From that night on, Gilly knew that being different wasn't something to be afraid of. It was something to celebrate.