

# Kid's KOrner

## Kandi's Chilling Tales

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— Kandi Mullin sneers defiantly and tilts her nose in scorn. Through clenched lips, she threatens harm and warns of danger if you don't watch out.

If you listen to her witch's tales, chills run up and down your spine.

She warns, "The goblins will gets you, if you don't watch out."

Kandi really isn't a vicious witch or even a nasty person. She makes poetry come alive with her expressive recitations. The poem, called Little Orphan Annie by James Whitcomb Riley, has won her much applause. She has won talent contests and been asked to recite it for entertainment at many gatherings.

Her favorite poem is Casey at the Bat by Ernest Thayer. With that poem she won another talent contest. As Kandi recites the five-minute poem, she squints her eyes, stamps her foot, and hangs her head in shame.

Those who listen to Kandi, feel like they are in the crowd watching Casey come to bat. Although the umpire pronounces strike one and strike two, you know Casey's final swing will be a grand slam.

Until...alas, Casey strikes out.

"There is no joy in Mudville. The mighty Casey has struck out."

The pain, the disappointment is just as great as if you've been there cheering for Casey.

So, all you girls and boys who claim you don't like poetry — wait

until you hear Kandi recite it. She can make it as exciting as a TV program.

Her talent was uncovered when she enrolled in a 4-H public speaking class several years ago. The first time that she needed to write a speech and recite it, she had no idea what to do.

Kandi said, "I decided to speak about growing strawberries." Growing strawberries is another of her 4-H projects.

Her speech went so well that she won and went on to county competition and then to regional competition.

In this year's competition, she told about "Pleasant Grove — not just another pretty place."

Kandi chose that topic because she loves American history. Pleasant Grove is a small village where her mom and uncle grew up. Kandi researched the area and told her audience about it. They must have loved it because she won again. This year, Kandi will go to state competition.

Kandi's mother believes that Kandi inherited her grandmother's talent for reciting poems.

Although she died before Kandi had a chance to know her, the grandmother was known for her natural ability to insert expression in the right spots, through motions and word emphasis.

She likes 4-H speech classes because she gets helpful criticism such as, "Slow down, you're going too fast."

Sometimes the club does

impromptu speeches. Kandi said she does better with planned speeches.

Kandi is a member of the debate club at school where she gets more opportunity to develop speaking skills.

Kandi doesn't only repeat her poems to an audience. She repeats it to herself while timing her runs during hockey practice. According to Kandi, "Casey At The Bat" takes five minutes to recite, the same amount of time her coach makes the team run around the track. "It's a good way to time myself," Kandi said.

Kandi wants to be an American history teacher or an elementary teacher. Her mother is a preschool teacher.

But for now Kandi has plenty to do. In the Rural Youth competition at the Solanco Fair she won a steer named Bullwinkle. She hopes she won't become so attached to it that she won't want to sell it.

Last year she won two pigs during Rural Youth competition at the Solanco Fair.

Kandi said, "I wanted them so badly, but after I got them, I knew it wasn't my thing. I don't feel in control of them."

Fortunately Kandi has a brother Jimmy who tends them for her.

Jimmy is nine. He likes 4-H as much as Kandi does. He is in archery, foods, swine, strawberry, and handyman clubs.

Kandi said, "Four-H is my big summer thing." She'd rather go to 4-H activities than go swimming.



Kandi doesn't need a stage to recite her poems. Wherever she is, she can make a poem come alive.

## Treat Tricksters

Treat your neighborhood Halloween ghosts and goblins to nutritious homemade treats you have made.

Here are some recipes that are easy to make if your mom or dad help you.

### Banana Date Chews

2 very ripe bananas, mashed  
½ cup corn oil margarine, softened  
¼ cup finely chopped dates  
½ tsp. vanilla  
2 Tbsp. whole wheat  
2 Tbsp. wheat germ  
1 tsp. baking powder  
2 cups quick oats

Cream bananas and margarine together. Stir in dates and vanilla. Mix flour, wheat germ, baking powder and oats, then stir into creamed mixture. Drop by tablespoon onto lightly greased cookie sheet and bake at 325 degrees for 25 minutes. Makes three dozen.

### Trail Mix

¼ cup margarine  
1 tsp. seasoned salt  
2 cups corn cereal  
4 tsp. Worcestershire sauce  
2 cups mini-wheat cereal  
2 cups rice cereal  
1½ cups unsalted mixed nuts

Melt margarine in shallow bak-

ing pan over low heat. Stir in seasoned salt and Worcestershire sauce. Add cereals and mixed nuts. Mix until all pieces are coated. Heat in 250 to 300 degree oven for 30 minutes, stirring often. Spread out on absorbent paper to cool. Scoop individual portions in plastic bags and tie. Use within three months.

### Goblin' Good Oatmeal Spices

¼ cup margarine  
½ cup sugar  
1 egg  
2 cups sifted all-purpose flour  
1 tsp. soda  
½ tsp. salt  
1 tsp. cinnamon  
¼ tsp. nutmeg  
¼ tsp. ginger  
½ cup light molasses  
1 cup quick or old-fashioned oats, uncooked

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Soften margarine; beat together margarine and sugar. Add egg. Sift together flour, soda, salt, cinnamon, nutmeg and ginger. Stir in oats and molasses. Drop dough by teaspoonsful onto lightly greased cookie sheet. Bake in preheated oven about 10 minutes. Sprinkle with sugar and cool.



Kandi and Jimmy show off their pumpkins that won second and fourth prizes at the Solanco Fair. "All you do is grow the pumpkins in the garden. You don't need to plant them," Kandi said.