

International Conversation Cafe

Lifestyle Topic: Halloween Themes: Fear and Death

The topic of fear tends to go along with some Halloween themes. Read through the following list and then the questions. Invite each other by name to choose a question they would like to answer.

Americans' Top 10 Fears, 2021

1. Loved ones dying.
2. Loved ones becoming seriously ill
3. Mass shootings
4. Not having enough money for retirement
5. Terrorism
6. Government corruption
7. Becoming terminally ill
8. Hate crimes
9. High medical bills
10. Widespread civil unrest

American Fear Index: [America's Top 10 Fears: The 2021 American Fear Index \(safehome.org\)](https://safehome.org/2021-american-fear-index/)

From this list, name your top three fears.

Are there different fears you experience when in another country?

What keeps you awake or concerned enough to make you lose sleep?

People have different strategies to manage fear.

How do you get past this concern or fear? (Or how do you manage this concern or fear?)

Share about a time you were very frightened or fearful? What did you do?

Horror movies make a lot of money in the U.S. They are especially popular around Halloween. Read through the questions and invite one another to pick a question they would like to answer.

What is a movie that frightens you? (or frightened you?)

Do you like or enjoy horror movies, like movies about ghosts and lot of killing and blood? Why or why not?

Have you seen a ghost or spirit? (if you care to share about it, please do).

Death is another common theme of Halloween. Ghosts, cemeteries, and skeletons appear in decorations and stories. People everywhere, whether they observe Halloween or not have different traditions and beliefs when it comes to the afterlife.

Read all the following questions at once. Then invite each other to pick a question they would like to answer.

Do you believe in ghosts or spirits? What is a ghost or spirit?

What do you believe happens to someone after they die? (not just the physical, but also the spiritual or supernatural or immaterial part)

Are your grandparent's ideas about the after-life different from your generation? If so, how?

How does one's belief about an after-life influence how they live life?

People seem to love celebrating Halloween. Besides fear and death, people love dressing up in costumes, going to parties, and eating candy.

Do you like Halloween? What parts are your favorite?

Are there Halloween type holidays in your country? How are they celebrated?