
Crochet Halloween Appliqués with Twinkie Chan

Chapter 1 - Crochet Halloween Appliqués

Overview

(lively spooky music) - Celebrate spooky season and unlock your inner crochet wizardry with seven Halloween-inspired appliques: a ghost, a pumpkin, a spider, and a bat, a skull, a potion bottle and a witch's hat. I'm Twinkie Chan. I'm a crochet designer and author and believer in the crafter life. In this class, we'll cover a bewitching array of crochet skills and techniques from single crochet to treble crochet, working in the round, as well as working in rows, the invisible join or shall we call it the phantom join? And an other-worldly way to change yarn colors. You can use your appliques for an infinite number of fun projects, like enchanting garlands, spine-tingling party invitations and the most haunting Halloween trick or treat bags. Whether you're an intrepid beginner or an experienced crocheter, these adorable shapes will inspire you to conjure up the most ghoulishly charming decorations that will leave everyone spellbound. (lively spooky music) (witch cackling)

Materials

- Appliques are always a fantastic stash buster, so when it comes to collecting materials, you might already have them in your home, but let's go over the yarns and tools that I'll be using for this class. I suggest using a medium weight or worsted weight yarn. I'm using Big Twist Value, it's 100% acrylic. The colors I'm using are black, ivory, medium rose, jade green, coral, camel, and varsity gold, but, of course, you can use whatever spooky palette you would like, I'm kind of going for like a pastel-oween situation. The hook I'm using is an H or five millimeter but you can use whatever hook you feel most comfortable with, with the yarn that you've chosen. A pair of scissors, a tapestry needle, which just means it has a blunt tip. You'll only need a stitch marker for one of the appliques, so I'd either grab one stitch marker or a piece of contrasting colored yarn. And if you are not comfortable with embroidering embellishments, you can also use felt. So I would grab some black felt and glue, you can use either a tacky glue or fabric glue, like my favorite, Fabri-Tac, and also a tiny pair of scissors are great for cutting out small felt shapes, and don't forget to print out your PDF pattern.

Ghost

- We're gonna start with an adorable little ghost. Not only is it super spooky and cute, but it's gonna provide you a lot of practice to do a bunch of different stitches from slip stitch all the way up to treble crochet. Grab the main color of your ghost. I'm using ivory. I'm gonna pull out some of this yarn and then your crochet hook. And we're gonna start with a chain eight. So yarn over and pull through one to make your first chain and then two, three, four, five, six, seven, and eight. For round one, you're gonna work four half double crochets in the third chain from your hook. So count three chains away from your hook, one, two, and three. I usually hold it with my left hand just to mark that third chain and to work one half double crochet, yarn over. Insert your hook into the desired stitch, which is this chain. I'm gonna go through two loops of the chain just for more security here. Yarn over and pull through one, yarn over and pull through all three loops on the hook. And that's one half double crochet. So we're gonna work three more in that exact same space. Yarn over, yarn over and pull through one, yarn over and pull through all three. That's two half double crochets. Gonna work three and then four. And then we'll work along the foundation chain with one half double

crochet in the next four chains. It's one, two, three, and then four. You should have one chain left and that chain you're gonna work five half double crochets or kinda like whip around to get to the other side of the foundation chain. And again, for more security, I'm gonna go through two loops of that last chain. That one can be a little fussy to get your hook through. I think it's worth the effort. It prevents a big hole from being created when you work so many stitches in one area. So five half crochets here, it's one. And then the second one here Two, three, four, coming around the bend, so I'm just gonna go ahead and let the project start turning. That's five. And we're gonna be working here on the other side of the foundation chain. One half double crochet and the next four stitches. So one, two, three, and four, and then the last space, which is basically the same space as the very first chain of the round, work one more half double crochet. And then we're gonna join with a slip stitch at the top of the first half double crochet. So slip stitch is just inserting your hook into that stitch, joining over and pulling all the way through. And that's the end of round one. You should have 18 stitches all the way around. For round two, we're gonna begin with chain two. We are not turning our work. You're going to two half double crochet into this same stitch. So one, two, two half double crochets in the next three stitches. The first set, second set, and the third set. And then five half double crochets evenly. And when I say evenly, that just means one stitch in each stitch. So one, two, three, four, and then five. We'll do a bunch of increases again. So two half double crochets in the next four stitches to come around the corner again or I guess come around the curve. It's one set. That's one increase, two, oops, three, and four. And we'll finish up this round with another five half double crochets evenly. And join with a slip stitch at the top of the first half double crochet. At the end of round two, you should have 26 stitches all the way around and you have this little oval shape. Round three is where all that ghostly shaping is gonna happen. We're gonna give them a little tail. I guess it's a tail. I don't know what part of the ghost you'd call that. Okay, round three does not begin with a chain. You're going to keep slip stitching 'cause we wanna get our hook to the right spot on the ghost to start making its tail when we're three slip stitches evenly. So one slip stitch in the next stitch. Do that again, a slip stitch in the next stitch. And then a third time slip stitch in the next stitch. After three slip stitches you'll be at the top of the oval and then we're gonna start working on the tail. In the next stitch, you'll work two single crochets. Insert your hook into that stitch, yarn over and pull through one, yarn over and pull through two. That's a single crochet, work one more in the same stitch. Now we're moving to the next stitch. We're gonna work one half double crochet as well as a double crochet in the same spot. So half double, yarn over, insert, yarn over, pull through one, yarn over, pull through three just like we've been doing. And for the double crochet, yarn over, insert your hook into the same stitch, yarn over and pull through one, yarn over and pull through two, yarn over and pull through the last two. In the next stitch, we're gonna do even taller stitches. We're gonna do half treble crochet as well as a full treble crochet. So for the half you'll yarn over two times, insert your hook into that stitch, yarn over and pull through one, yarn over and pull through the first two, yarn over and pull through the remaining three. That's half treble. For the treble crochet, yarn over twice, insert your hook into that same stitch, yarn over and pull through one, yarn over and pull through the first two, yarn over and pull through the first two again. And then finally, yarn over and pull through the last two. You can sort of see the bottom of the ghost starting to take shape. We're gonna add even more of a tip to the tail. So chain four from this point, one, two, three, four. Now you're gonna skip the first chain from your hook, slip stitch into the next chain. And then single crochet, one each in the last two chains. There's one single and then another single. Here's something you might not normally do, we're going to connect this little tip to that treble crochet we worked. So you're gonna slip stitch into the side of it. So we pick a place

somewhere in the middle of this tall stitch. I'm gonna go here and work a slip stitch. So yarn over and pull through both loops, and that sort of secures it back onto that stitch. And then we're gonna slip stitch to the base of that treble crochet. You can see a little tail. Very cute. We'll continue working on the body of the ghost. We're going to work two slip stitches evenly. So on the next stitch, slip stitch, and then the following stitch, slip stitch again, and we'll continue with two single crochet evenly. So one in the next stitch, second single crochet in the next stitch. And then a half double crochet, and then a double crochet. And now we're gonna start a sequence of increases. This sequence will be two double crochet in the next stitch, two double crochet in the following. One double crochet in the third. And we're gonna do that three times all the way around. So here's two double crochet, two double crochet, and then just one double crochet in the next. We're gonna do that two more times. Two double crochet. Two double crochet. And then in the third stitch, one double crochet. One more time. Two double crochet. Two double crochet. And then one double crochet. That completes the sequence that's in the brackets for the repeat of three times. In the next stitch, two double crochet, one, two, then one more, just one double crochet. And we're gonna start shrinking our stitches back down a half double crochet in the next stitch, single crochet in the next, and one more single crochet in at the next. This is where we're gonna learn something you might not have seen before. Don't slip stitch and join to the next stitch. We're gonna create a super smooth transition for the end of this round by doing an invisible join. So leave your single crochet stitch live on your hook. Break off some of this tail. And what you're gonna do is instead of yarning over and pulling through, like I normally finish off the end of a round, just pull through the yarn like this so you can still really see your single crochet standing off of your project. For invisible join, you will grab your tapestry needle. And I really like this because finishing off sometimes leaves a visible little knot. And since this is, you know, on the body of our applique, I want it to look as smooth as possible. So invisible join really gets you to that sort of invisible smooth place. Skip this next stitch. And in the following stitch you're gonna insert your tapestry needle from back to front. The direction of that is important, back to front. And don't pull this too tightly. Again, you're trying to recreate what this middle stitch looks like. You don't wanna pull it too tight or your stitch will just disappear. And you're gonna insert your tapestry needle, see where this yarn looks like it's coming out of, you're kind of going back into that same spot into the center of your very last single crochet. And you wanna come out the back of your project. I'm gonna pull that through. Right now, this stitch looks really big, right, compared to the ones beside it. So we can tighten that up a little bit. You can kind of play with it, kind of tighten it a little, smush the material around a bit. And that stitch you put on top is really seamlessly connecting the edge of your piece. And I think it's a little bit more effort, but it can be really worth it. And for this particular project, I like the invisible join a lot. So we'll flip this over and tie a little knot to secure our invisible join. And then you can go ahead and weave in your ends, just going inside the stitches and you can make sure that it's inside the stitches by flipping the piece over. You can't see very much of the tapestry needle, you're in a good spot. Pull that through. Don't pull through too tightly, you don't wanna warp the piece. Then I always like going through to the next row or round over and switching directions. That helps to lock that yarn tail in place. And again, don't pull too tightly and you can trim. I'm working on the back of the ghost applique here. And then you can just weave in this second yarn tail. Probably no one's gonna see the back of this, so you don't have to be super particular about how you're weaving this in. Okay, just a couple stitches in one direction and a couple stitches in the other direction. That's what the body should look like. And then we're gonna attach some arms. I'm gonna start on the left side and you get to decide where to put the arms. You can have them really high up, you can have

them lower. I like to go somewhere in the middle, I use, if this is helpful to you, there's a last double crochet increase here, the two double crochets in the same stitch. And I like to start my arm in the top of that second double crochet of the increase. So we'll come back with our yarn and join, putting my slip knot on here. And for the arm you'll chain five, one, two, three, four, five. Skip the first chain from your hook, slip stitch in the next chain, slip stitch in the following chain, then single crochet and half double crochet in that last chain. Skip the next stitch on the body and then slip stitch into the following stitch. And I can just finish this off regularly. I don't do the invisible join here, like so, let me pull that tight. It says hi. Okay, let's do the other arm. It's the exact same pattern. And again, you get to decide where to put this on the body. I usually try to find a spot that's the same on either side, sort of a mirror reflection. And we start at the bottom of the arm. So just imagine where you want the bottom of the right arm. And I'm feeling like I'm gonna start here and you can eyeball it. And if it doesn't look like it's in the right spot to you, you can always pull it out and start over. Rejoining my yarn with a slip knot. And again, chain five. It's the exact same as the first arm. Skip the first chain from your hook, slip stitch into the next, slip stitch into the next, single crochet, half double crochet. Skip one, stitch on the body. Slip stitch into the next stitch. Break that off. It's looking pretty cute. You can see I'm like flying through the air. Okay, go ahead and weave in all those ends. I've cut and threaded a piece of yarn onto my tapestry needle. And we're just gonna do like two or three tiny stitches for each eye. And you can again, decide where on the face you want them. You can have them like really high and close together or like lower and farther apart. I'm just gonna randomly start here. I kind of wanna find a space where my stitch can be vertical. And sometimes that can be a little difficult sort of navigating between the gaps and the stitches in the fabric here. And I usually like to not stick the needle through an actual gap 'cause that just makes the gap bigger once I start pulling a stitch through it. So I try to find places where I'm like working inside stitches, essentially just where the fabric is more dense. So I'm gonna try this. And again, if it doesn't look right, you can always pull it out. That looks all right to me. So I'll do two stitches. Sometimes I do three. It just sort of depends. Each time it's a little different. So we'll come back up through the same spot, come back down through the same spot, not pulling too tightly. I might do three this time. If it's looking too much like a line and not really like an oval, that's when I decide to to put in another stitch to see if I can kind of round out and bulk out that little eye a little bit. So we'll give it a third stitch. I think that looks good. I'm gonna turn this over and tie a knot. I usually tie and clip off each eye. I don't travel the yarn through the project just because the contrast between the black yarn and the white fabric is very stark. And I just, I don't wanna be able to see that yarn traveling through. So I break it off and I start over. Again, that's a decision that you can make. You might prefer to have the yarn travel. Oops, that's a little long. Okay, again, we'll just do the second eye in the exact same way. So since I did three stitches for the first eye, I will do three stitches for the second eye. It's looking a little wonky, I think I'll start that one over again. Come a little closer to this gap here and try to get that more vertical. So see you have to play with these a little bit because the crochet fabric can be a little unpredictable. Let's keep going with that. Let's see what that looks like after we build it up with a couple stitches. It's going to be very difficult to get the eyes on these appliques symmetrical so I wouldn't stress about it too much. I think that's just the nature of the medium we're working with. And I don't know, a little handmade wonkiness is always fun. So you can see because this eye is peeking through the kind of two sides of this stitch, it's kind of making this weird angle up at the top. But I'm not gonna worry about it. It's gonna give him a little character. He looks a little angry, but that's okay. He's a ghost. I'm gonna turn this over and tie a knot. And as far as weaving these ends in, I wouldn't travel through too much of the fabric again,

'cause this is black and white and it can be hard to hide it. So I would maybe just tuck this in like one or two pieces of this white yarn here. You just wanna give that little tail a place to go. But I wouldn't really worry about weaving it in like you usually do for a project. Just gonna just tuck this in a little bit and then do the same for the other side. Through the tying and the weaving you might have put some tension on your stitches. It looks like this kind of sank into the fabric a little bit. So you can use your tapestry needle to sort of loosen it up. And that may or may not help sometimes this is just how that cookie crumbles. But you can sort of play with the stitches as well after you've woven in your ends. Here's your very cute tiny ghost ready to do some spooky business.

Pumpkin or Jack o' Lantern

- Nothing says Halloween like pumpkins and jack-o'-lanterns, and I'm gonna show you a few options for how you can crochet yours. Start with the main color of your pumpkin. I'm using coral. Grab your crochet hook, and we'll be working in the round, and starting with a magic circle. Or if you're like me, and you don't love working in the magic circle, I kind of do a cheat, which some of my crochet friends get angry with me about, but I do not care. Instead of a magic circle, I'm going to chain three. One, two, three. I'm going to make my own loop by slip stitching to the first chain. And I kind of hold onto the little circle that I made, or this little center of the circle with my thumb and my third finger. For round one, we'll begin with chain two. And you're just working 10 half-double crochets into your magic ring or into this loop. It's one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, and 10. And we will slip stitch to the top of the first half-double crochet to join. You should have 10 stitches all the way around. For round two, we'll chain two again. And this time, you'll work two half-double crochets in each stitch. So we're doubling the stitch count. One and two, one and two, just two half-double crochets until you get back to the beginning. Just starting off by making a circle as the base of our pumpkin shape. I'm just gonna count my stitches before joining. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20. Looks good. And then you can finish the round by slip stitching to the top of that first half-double crochet again. Continuing the circle for round three, chain two, and you'll work two half-double crochets in the first stitch. One half-double crochet in the next, two half-double crochets in the next, one in the next. We're gonna do one increase and then one regular half-double crochet all the way around. So there's two in the first, one in the next. Another two and then one. Two and one, all the way around. At the end of round three, you should have 30 stitches, and then you'll slip stitch to the top of the first stitch to join. Don't pull this slip stitch too tight. It should just lay right on top of that first half-double crochet. Round four is where we're gonna start shaping the pumpkin. So we're gonna use a variety of stitches here. You're gonna start round four with one slip stitch in the next stitch and then a single crochet in the following stitch. And then an increase, a two double crochet increase. So two double crochets in the next stitch. And then one double crochet in the next. And then you're gonna repeat the following sequence two times, two half-double crochets in the next stitch. And then one double crochet each in the next two. So an increase here, two double crochets in one stitch, and then two double crochets evenly, one and then two. Do that one more time. Two double crochets in this next stitch. And then one double crochet each in the next two stitches. At the end of that repeated sequence, which is in brackets in the pattern, we're gonna work one more double crochet increase, two double crochets in the next stitch. And then one double crochet in the following. One more double crochet increase. So it's two double crochet in one stitch. And then we're gonna bring the shape back down. The next stitch will be a single crochet and the next stitch will be slip stitch. I'm kind of making like a one half of the pumpkin here where it kind of comes out a little bit, comes back in. And for the

second half of the circle, we're gonna be doing the mirror image of this. So we'll start this side with slip stitch and then a single crochet in the next stitch. And then our two double crochets in the next. And then one double crochet in the following. One more increase, two double crochets in this next stitch. And we're back in this bracketed sequence here. So we're going to work two double crochets evenly, one, two, and then an increase, two double crochets in the same and then one more time, one double crochet and then one double crochet in the next. And then your increase, two double crochets same stitch. We're out of that bracketed sequence. Work one double crochet in the next. One more increase, two double crochets same stitch. Bringing the shape back down with single crochet in the next stitch. And then closing it off with a slip stitch in the last stitch. Here's where you can make some choices. You can break this off, continue with the stem and have a completed pumpkin. If you wanna create more texture, kinda like the indentations, the lines in the squash, we can do this with a technique called surface slip stitch. There's a diagram in your pattern, it's to mimic what's happening on this applique. So the dotted brown line represents the rounds here. So you can see sort of the circles that the rounds make on your applique. And the yellow lines represent where we wanna add those sort of stripey, stripey lines with surface slip stitch. So if this visual helps you, you can follow this, because I know that it can be difficult, especially for a more beginner crocheter to sort of understand where these rounds are. So I thought that maybe a graphic would help, but if this is not helping, you don't need this. This is just sort of an extra that I created just in case. And I might keep it next to me as a visual guide and you can kind of start wherever you want. You can do the two center stripes and work your way out. You can do one half of the pumpkin and then the other half of the pumpkin. It's up to you. And again, you don't even have to do this part at all, but if you want to, don't break off your yarn yet. And for surface slip stitch, your hand is always going to be feeding the yarn from the bottom as you're crocheting from the top and you'll see what I mean by that. But you also need to begin by figuring out where you wanna put your hook and where you wanna put these stripes. So I'm gonna start on the outside here and basically follow the gaps that are in between round three and round four, because those are pretty easy guides. So this is looking a little murky in the beginning, but you can just go ahead and insert your hook in a place nearby, and you're yarning over underneath the applique. Yarn over and pulling through to complete the slip stitch. And that's gonna just sit on top of your work. I'm gonna go to the next spot here, yarn over from the bottom, and bring that stitch up, completing the surface slip stitch. And now I can sort of see the gaps that are at the base of round four basically. I'm just working into them, pulling up my yarn from the bottom. And don't pull too tightly, 'cause then your slip stitches will get very tiny and you'll also start warping the shape of your fabric a little bit. So keep these pretty relaxed and try to keep them as uniform as possible. And you can basically put any design you want on anything with surface slip stitch, you can do lettering, shapes. It's a really fun technique. At the bottom here in the center, I might slip stitch through one of these actual stitches here. And when you reach the bottom, you wanna give this stitch kind of a tug, 'cause it tends to stick up as you change direction. I'm going to switch back here and start this middle line, which is on the diagram. It's this middle line here. And you can see for some parts, you can follow the gaps between the rounds, but toward the ends of the pumpkin, you're gonna have to go off course a little bit. So just kind of use your eye and your own aesthetics to sort of judge where you wanna put your hook. So I'm gonna turn back around pretty close to the slip stitch that I just made and kind of make my way upward. My goal is to get back into the groove here between rounds two and three. So this is kind of a lot of extra work, but I do think it's a really nice finish to the pumpkin. So you get to decide whether or not you wanna go forward with this step. But I think it's definitely worth playing with the

surface slip stitch technique. So I'm gonna kind of angle back upward toward the center and top of the pumpkin. Pull this last stitch tight. Now flip around, now do this inner curve. And you can check your work. If things look like they're not going in the right direction, it's very easy to pull it out and adjust. Redo some of the stitches. I do that quite a bit. I'm going back toward the center here. And anchor into the actual top of round four. Looks pretty cool. I like that. And you can keep going and complete the other three stripes in the same way. And the last slip stitch here. It's getting a little bunched at the top, 'cause I've put a lot of slip stitches up here. Just wiggle your hook around and it should be fine. Then we'll break this off and if I yarn over here and pull through and finish off as usual, I will get an extra line at the top, which I don't prefer. So I'm just gonna pull through and not do that last yarn over. And then you can weave in those ends. And recall how I mentioned sometimes when you change directions, the stitch can kind of loop up a little bit. It looks like I did not snug that up quite enough. But since it happens in the direction change, which is always at the end of the pumpkin or I guess the top edge or bottom edge, you can kind of tack that down as you're weaving in the end. So it is not the end of the world. I'm gonna weave through, get to that little stitch that's popping up. Don't pull too tightly. Pack it down. Look, no one would ever know. And I'm gonna flip over to the back and finish weaving this end in. And then you can also weave in this other tail as well. Since I didn't do the magic ring, if there seems to be a big gap in the center, the weaving in is also an opportunity to close that gap. But this is actually looking pretty good to me right now. So not an issue for this project, but something you can keep in mind for other ones. Okay. Very cute. Let's give this pumpkin a stem. I'll be using a tan color. This is camel. Pull some yarn out. And you get to decide which is the top and which is the bottom. This looks like the top to me. So we're gonna join the tan at the top, kind of one stitch right of center. It's gonna look a little busy up top here. Just do your best. If you're not inserting your hook into an actual stitch from round four, that is no a big deal, just kind of find a spot right of center at the top here and try to get your hook through. It is very busy up here. There's a lot of slip stitching. Sometimes it'll be that way, sometimes it won't. It just depends. Okay, there we go. Joining with a slip knot. The stem is very quick. We're going to chain four. One, two, three, four. Skip the first two chains from the hook, one, two, and then we're going to half-double crochet into the remaining two chains. So one half-double crochet in that chain, one half-double crochet in the last chain. And then you can connect this by slip stitching into the next stitch. Again, if this is not an actual stitch, no big deal. Just try to move over about a stitch length and get your slip stitch in there to connect the stem. I'm gonna break this off. And you can weave in those ends. Kind of just looking to see if I wanna insert my needle from front to back here or just go ahead and weave in the back. And I think I'm just going to go ahead and weave in the back. It just sort of depends on how it might affect how this sticks up. And you can weave into the actual stem portion and/or the pumpkin portion. Doesn't really matter either way. It will get very, very even more dense, 'cause you're weaving all these ends in the same spot. But there shouldn't be a problem. Just giving you a heads up. All right. Okay, at this point, you could also call this done, but if you wanna make this a jack-o'-lantern, I'm gonna show you how to give him some eyes and a mouth. For the eyes, I'm using black yarn. And you could do circles, triangles. I'm going to do triangles. I'm gonna start with a slip knot on my hook. We're gonna chain two, one, two, and for row one, we're gonna skip the first chain and work one single crochet into that second chain, a very tiny row. And for row two, we're gonna chain one, turn, and you're gonna work two single crochets in that stitch. And that's basically our little triangle. There's a tip I'm going to give you. I feel like you can see it. There's a little bit of an indentation, like a gap between row one and row two, which sometimes bothers me. So my tip for that is to work the second single crochet not

in the same stitch, but in this loop hanging out here. This is the turning chain from row one. And I think it just, it makes that straighter. It's a different look. You can play with that and decide what you prefer. But for a tiny little triangle like this, I think it keeps the edge looking a little bit more even, like a little bit more straight. And break off giving yourself maybe like eight to 10 inches for sewing and you can finish off. So keep this long tail, weave in this short tail. Actually, you don't have to weave in any of the tails yet as long as you remember which is which. Your long tail is coming off the end of row two. Because sometimes if you weave in an end on a very tiny object like this, you'll warp the shape, like the tip of the triangle might get smushed down. So if you wait until after you sew, then you can weave this into the back of the project and you can kind of preserve that little pointy top a little bit better. So forget what I said about weaving this end in. Leave it and go ahead and make another triangle for the second eye. Because your triangle has three sides, you can kind of decide which way is up and which way is down, if you have a preference. I would just keep it consistent between the two. Okay, so I have the long sewing tail at the top of the eye and I have the short tail shooting off the left here. And you can pin these if you want. I normally just don't, because I don't feel like it's necessary. But if it helps you feel more secure with the placement, go ahead and pop some pins in there. I'm threading the long tail through and I'll just take that off for a second and just use my fingers to hold this in place. I'm really just using, you could use a whip stitch. I prefer to use, I don't know what the word, it's like a stab stitch or just a straight stitch. I feel like it preserves the shape of the triangle more. So I'm gonna insert right near the tip of the triangle here through the fabric of the pumpkin. And I'll come back up, I don't know, maybe like an eighth of an inch away within the fabric of the triangle. And then come back down maybe about an eighth of an inch away. Just keep stitching along the edge here. Sometimes in the corners, I might whip stitch. Instead of coming back down the fabric of the triangle, I'll whip around here and insert my needle into the fabric of the pumpkin, so that my yarn is wrapping around that corner. Kind of tacks it down there so it doesn't flip up and sort of turn that into a curve. I wanna maintain the point if possible, and I'll come back up in a different spot. Oops. Watch these yarn tails. Back through the eye and then keep stitching along the edge. So I kind of do a straight stab stitch along the edges of the triangle and then maybe a whip stitch in the corner to tack it down. It just kind of depends on what everything is looking like to you. I guess the point is, there's not one way to do this. You can sort of do whatever feels good and whatever's working. You can't really see these stitches, so they're really more utilitarian than decorative. I'm gonna go ahead and flip this over and tie a knot and weave this in. Just gonna go in one direction. All the stitching is feeling quite dense in here, so I think it's gonna hold my tail down pretty well without having to weave through back in another direction. And now you can weave in this short end and not worry about distorting the triangle. And then sew on your other eye. I am imagining my mouth will zigzag kind of like this. And I'm usually comfortable with just freehanding this, but I know it can be sort of daunting to just embroider onto a blank canvas with no guidance. So you can try using one of these disappearing ink fabric pens. It has mixed results on yarn, because it's so textured. Luckily this is sort of a lighter color, so the ink may show up. So you can definitely experiment with this, but I wouldn't rely on it necessarily. So let's give this a go and see. I'm gonna start at the center, kind of make a triangular, like the top of a triangle here. It's looking pretty good. And zigzag up this way, back down this way. Then the other side, this way. So yeah, depending on your yarn color, depending on what kind of pen you grabbed, that actually looks like it's pretty helpful in this moment. I have some black yarn on my tapestry needle. I'm gonna start from the left here. Just come up from the back. I'm gonna work my way across. I'm just gonna use a running stitch. If I used a back stitch, it would create really big yarn loops in the back here. So

I'm gonna go to the top point here, really big stitches. And then back to the bottom at the next point. Up top and center. Back down to this bottom point here. Back up. The last one will be here. And zag all the zigs, come back the other way. If it's not perfectly symmetrical, I would not stress about it. It'll just make 'em look extra spooky. And then we can go ahead and flip this over. Tie a knot to secure and weave in this end. Weave just a little. Again, this is a black, very contrasty yarn to this coral. And I don't want any of that woven yarn to peek through any of the stitches. And with this other yarn tail, don't forget to tie a knot here as well. And a tiny bit of weaving through. Kind of love it. Kinda leave a comment about what expression you would call this, what emotion this is. And for comparison, here's a pumpkin without a face. And this one doesn't have a stem yet, but here's the first version without any lines. So you have a lot of options here to make your perfect personalized pumpkin or jack-o'-lantern.

Spider

- We're going to start our spider applique in the round much like the pumpkin and I cannot wait to show you how we shape its spindly legs. I usually make my spiders with black yarn but so it's easier for you to see, I'll be crocheting with some gray yarn. So grab whatever color yarn you would like to use for the spider. Get your hook and you can start with the magic circle or again, I'm going to do my little sneaky cheat way of chaining three and then slip stitching to the first chain to make a tiny circle. Round one is the same round one as the pumpkin. So chain two and then work 10 half double crochets into your magic circle or the little loop that you just made with slip stitches. And to join, you're going to slip stitch at the top of the first half double crochet. For round two, we're going to make this circle into more of an oval shape for the body of the spider. So we'll begin with chain one and then two single crochets in the first stitch. One single crochet, two single crochets in the same spot and then two half double crochets in the next stitch. There's one, two, and then two double crochets in the next stitch, there's one, two doubles. So the stitches were getting increasingly taller and now we're going to make them shorter again. So two half double crochets in the next and then two single crochets. We're halfway around. You can see the double crochets kind of make this side stick out a little bit more. And for the second half, we're going to do the mirror image of the first half. Two single crochets in the next. two half double crochets in the next, two double crochets, same stitch, two half double crochets, in the last stitch of the round, two single crochets. And then slip stitch to the top of the first single crochet to join. You've worked two stitches in every stitch around. So after round two you should have 20 stitches and it should look something like this, where it's wider here and a little shorter on the top and bottom. Round three is where the action really happens. We're going to start making the legs. And if you're looking at the paper pattern, I put what's actually the leg inside brackets just to help you visually. But that's all they really indicate is just separating the leg parts from the other parts. You'll see. We're going to start with two slip stitches to get us to the right spot on the body to start the first leg. So slip stitch in the next stitch and then slip stitch in the following stitch. We're at that first bracketed area that starts with the chain 10 on the pattern. So chain 10 right here off the body, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10. You're going to skip the first chain and then work four slip stitches evenly down the chain. So 1, 2, 3, 4. And to create sort of an elbow or a knee or whatever body part of this spider this is, we're essentially making an increase in this next stitch. But it's a little weird to do it with a slip stitch, so I'm going to work one slip stitch in this stitch then chain one and then slip stitch in the same stitch. And that chain helps this increase to really pop out and make a little point. And then four slip stitches evenly in the remaining chains. 1, 2, 3, and four. You can see how it makes a bend in the leg. For the other

few legs, we're going to switch up the pattern a little bit so that instead of angling out, the legs will angle in. So you want to join with the slip stitch to the next stitch on the body. And then we're going to chain 12, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12. It begins the same way. Skip the first chain, slip stitch four times. 1, 2, 3, 4. And now we're going to make a decrease but using three chains. So pick up a loop from the next chain, skip the next chain and then pick up a loop from the following chain. Yarn over and pull through all three loops on your hook. And then one slip stitch each in the remaining four chains, 1, 2, 3, 4. And see how doing the decrease instead of the increase changes the angle of the legs. I'm going to work two more legs using the decrease. Slip stitch to the next stitch to join the leg. And then start the third one with chain 12, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12. Skip the first chain, four slip stitches, 1, 2, 3, then four. Then we'll work our three chain slip stitch decrease. Pick up one loop from the next chain, skip the next chain. Pick up a loop from that third chain, yarn over and pull through all three loops and then slip stitch in the remaining four chains. Slip stitch to the next stitch on the body to join. And then chain 12 to start the fourth leg. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, skip. And then four slip stitches, 2, 3, 4. The decrease, pick up a loop, skip one, pick up a loop, yarn over, pull through all three loops and then four slip stitches evenly. We are going to finish this leg by joining with a slip stitch on the next stitch on the body. Let's take a look. It's already looking pretty spidery. We're going to travel across and kind of do the mirror image of this side. So seven more slip stitches, evenly here. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. And we will continue making three legs, except since it's the mirror image, we're going to use the increase pattern instead of the decreased pattern. So we'll start with chain 10, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. Skip the first, four slip stitches evenly. 1, 2, 3, and then four. And the next stitch, we'll do one slip stitch, chain one, slip stitch in the same and then four slip stitches in the remaining chains. And then slip stitch to the next stitch to join it. And the next two legs are exactly the same. And then my last leg is going to be a decreased leg. Start with chain 12, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12. Skip the first, oops. Then four slip stitches, 2, 3, 4, and then the decrease. So pick up a loop of the next chain, skip one, pick up a loop of the next chain, yarn over and pull through all three loops and then continue your slip stitches evenly down the next four chains. Slip stitch to join on the next stitch on the body. And then to get ourselves back to the beginning, we're going to work three slip stitches evenly, one, two, then three. You could use invisible join here or you can simply break your yarn. Don't do a final yarn over and just pull through here. Since we ended on a slip stitch, I think it looks pretty smooth. I'm just going to weave this in. I'll probably put a knot on the back of the spider so don't pull on this last slip stitch too hard. Then you can anchor the tail like so, kind of play with it, smoosh it around, and then tie a knot on the back. I'm just going to weave this in just a little bit, trim. Then we can take a look at the center of our starting ring. I mean, there's a little bit of a gap here. If it bothers you, you can just use this tail to tighten that up. Let's see. You might need to sculpt and kind of adjust the legs a little bit. And also, after resting for a day, the yarn will relax more, the stitches will relax more and this will hold its spidery leg shape a little bit better. But like fresh off the hook, they look kind of crinkly, kind of in a weird direction. So kind of shape them and kind of let this rest somewhere. And if you want to add eyes, I embroider them the same way as the ghost. You could also use felt. This is what my finished spider in black with yellow eyes would end up looking like. It's pretty creepy crawley if you ask me.

Witch's hat

- Let's bring some magic into our crochet class and make a witch's hat. Start with whatever main color of the hat you wanna use. I'm gonna have a pink hat. I'm gonna grab some of my pink yarn. and we'll begin with chain 14. Get my slipknot on the hook. And chain 14 is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11,

12, 13, 14. Whoops. Time that new yarn is tough to pull out. Okay, for round or row one we are gonna go all the way around the foundation chain. We're gonna skip the first two chains from the hook and then work 11 half double crochets evenly down the line. So that's 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, oops, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11. And you should have one chain remaining. And this last chain, we're gonna work five half double crochets. And again, since I'm putting so many stitches into one chain, I try to grab two loops of that chain instead of just one. There's one half double crochet, which is my second. There's 3, 4, oops, 4 and 5. Now we're working on the other side of the foundation chain. We're gonna work 10 half double crochets across. And in the last spot we're going to work four half double crochets, 1, 2, 3, 4. And then slip stitch to the top of the first half double crochet to join. And just made this long oval. For row two we're gonna start building the triangle part of the hat. We need to get our hook to the right spot. So we're going to work one slip stitch evenly in the next two stitches. Slip stitch in the next and then slip stitch in the next. You're going to chain two. This will not count as a stitch in the stitch count. This is just getting our hook to the right spot to travel on top of the next row of half double crochets. So you're gonna work a half double crochet in the next stitch, not the same stitch, and then seven more half double crochets evenly. That is the end of the row. Leave the rest unworked. And you should have a total of eight half double crochets for row two. For row three, chain two and turn, you're gonna skip one stitch, and then seven half double crochets evenly. So we're gonna start decreasing by one stitch in every row until the top of the hat. Okay, so rows four through eight. You're gonna chain two, turn, skip the first stitch, and then have to pull crochet evenly. At the end of row eight you should have two stitches left. To start the last row, which is row nine, we'll just chain one, and then again skip the first stitch, half double crochet in the very last stitch, and then you can break off. You can weave in the ends now or wait, I might just wait and weave in all the ends after I finish the hat. For the ribbon you could use actual ribbon. You could have also worked row two and all black. But I like the dimension of having an additional piece popping off the hat. So I'm going to use black yarn to make what would be the hat ribbon. Just gonna make a little strip to sew on top. With black chain 12, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12. Skip the first two chains from your hook and then just one half a little crochet evenly in the remaining chains. Then I'm gonna chain one and slip stitch into that same chain. It just sort of rounds off this end of the ribbon to match how this end is a little bit rounded as well. Break off leaving enough yarn for you to sew. I usually give myself about 12 inches. And you can yarn over and pull through. Bring our hat back. You can see my ribbon is slightly wider than the area of the hat I wanna sew it to, but I prefer that than having it too short. Like I kind of wanna cover all of the pink underneath. This is up to you. If you feel like it's too long, you can always start with one less chain and then make one less half double crochet. I'm gonna weave in the end on the back before I sew this on. Just gonna go through a couple stitches in one direction. Since this is gonna be underneath of the applique, I am not too concerned about it popping out. Okay. Then, you can sew this on whatever method you prefer, whether it's whip stitch or just like a stab stitch, straight stitch going up and down through both layers. I might do a combination of both. Sometimes it's just what mood I'm in. Doesn't matter. You won't be able to see it. So, you can pin this if you feel more comfortable. I usually just hold it with my other hand as I sew. And secure with a knot on the back. Can kind of smush this around also. Get it into position as the stitches relax. For the buckle of the hat you could cut out a little felt square. I'm going to use some gold yarn an embroider in my buckle on. And I use kind of two stitches per side of the square or rectangle. But I like to do one at a time for these vertical ones just to see if I like the placement and if it's centered later. Seems like it might be okay. Let's go down, and try the one on the other side. Sometimes I have to redo these if I feel like it's off center. So I

kind of go one at a time so I'm not picking out that many stitches in the same area. I feel like that looks pretty good. I give this one a second stitch. You can just do one stitch if you want, but I kind of like how it gets a little bolder with two. And I'll finish the first one. Tighten up the other tail a little bit. You can adjust these with your needle as well. And then the lines for the top and bottom of the buckle. Just really big easy stitches. I am not pulling too tightly just kind of having it sit on top of the fabric. Oops, I kind of pulled that one a little tight. There we go. You can flip this over and tie both ends and weave them in. You can also weave in the pink ends over your yarn. Ready to cast some spells!

Skull

- Our next Halloween applique is going to be a bone-chilling skull. Get whatever main color you want for the skull. I'm using ivory, and this pattern is almost the same as the first three rounds of the pumpkin. However, we will not be joining our rounds. So, start with a magic circle, or I'm going to chain three and slip stitch to the first chain to join. In round one, since we're working in a spiral, I like to start with a short stitch. So, chain one, and single crochet into the ring, and then work nine half-double crochets into the ring for a total of 10 stitches. I'm just gonna gonna count to make sure. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten. Remember, don't join. We're not going to work that many rounds, but if it's easier for you to keep the rounds organized, you can use a stitch marker. This is a little long. I'm just gonna use an extra piece of yarn. So I'll put this in front of my stitch to mark my place, and for round two, you're gonna work two half-double crochets in each stitch all the way around. Two in the same stitch. When you're back at your stitch marker, you should have 20 stitches all the way around. I'm gonna flip this up to mark the beginning of my next round. Round three, you're gonna work two half-double crochets in the first stitch, one half-double crochet in the next, and then repeat that. Two in the next, one in the next, two in the next, one in the next, all the way around. There's two and then one. Two in the next and then one, and at the end of round three, you should have 30 stitches. At the end of round three, you don't really need your stitch marker anymore, so you can pull that out, and for round four, this is actually going to be an incomplete round, so we're only gonna go so far 'cause I only want my skull to be so big. I feel like if I complete the round, it gets too large. So, I mean, again, that's a design decision that I made, but you can also play with how big you want to make this circle. To begin round four, the sequence that I would repeat is two half-double crochets in the first, and then one half-double crochet in then next two. So, an increase, and then two even, and I'm going to do that eight times. There's one and two, and then one in the next, one in the next. So that's 32 stitches worked. This is what it looks like right now. To join the end of this round back onto the circle, let's work two single crochets evenly, one, two, and then slip stitch to the next stitch to join. Don't turn your work. We're gonna keep the right side of our work facing us, and we're gonna work row one of the jaw. So, chain three. One, two, three. This counts as the first half-treble crochet of this row, and then in the next stitch, work a half-treble. So, yarn over twice, insert your hook into that stitch, yarn over, pull through one, yarn over, pull through two, yarn over and pull through three, and then a double crochet in the next stitch. Five half-double crochets evenly. That's one, two, three, four, five, and then a double crochet and two half-trebles evenly. So, there's the first half-treble, and the next stitch, a second half-treble. After the first jaw round, your shape should look like this. We're working on it upside down. For row two, you'll chain one and turn. Skip the first stitch, then work eight single crochets evenly. Skip one stitch and slip stitch into the last stitch, which, remember, this is actually a chain three. So you're gonna slip stitch the top of that chain three and then break off. You can weave in these ends now. I

usually like to wait until the very, very end. We're gonna give our skull two eyes. You can either do this with felts or, like me, you can do this with crochet. I'll be using black yarn, and you can either a magic circle, or, again, I do my chain three, one, two, three, and slip stitch to the first chain. Chain one, and work six single crochets into that circle. So, one, two, three, four, five, and then slip stitch to the top of the first single crochet and break off, leaving about 10 inches of yarn for sewing. Yarn over and pull through. I'm gonna weave in this short end. Definitely wanna weave the ends in on something that you have to sew onto something else, and if you have a gap from your initial ring, you can close that up here. You can also use these eyes for your jack-o-lantern if you want circle eyes. And make a second eye in the same way. You can play with the placement of these. I think, anatomically, the eye sockets are kind of more in the center here, more than they are high or low, but it's your skull. You can do whatever you want. I'm probably gonna put them here-ish. So you can go ahead and either whip stitch or just straight stitch these down into place. I have kind of a good length of black yarn on my needle. I'm gonna try to use the same length for the nasal area as well as the mouth. I'm just gonna do two tiny stitches. Well, I mean, again, you can kind of see how many stitches you wanna make after you put one down. If it looks too small, you can do another, and I'm using the center gap here as a guide. Kind of put one at, like, maybe eight o'clock and four o'clock, but you can play with that placement also. I'm trying to stay pretty close to the center as well. It's pretty dense, so it's like you have to figure out where you wanna bring up your needle. Then just a tiny stitch. Just angle it a little bit down, probably like a quarter of an inch, maybe less. See what that looks like. Don't pull it too tightly. I'm gonna do the other one and see if that looks like enough to me. So, again, about four o'clock here. Okay, the, the pro of weaving in your ends as you go is you don't have to deal with lots of stuff sticking off the back here. And then we'll put this stitch down. What's that looking like? It looks pretty good. I'm okay with that. I probably would not add a second layer of stitches, and you could travel and weave your yarn down to the jaw, but, again, this is black through white, and I just feel like it'd be too high of a probability that it would show through, so I'm gonna tie this off and trim it. You can weave those now or later. I'm gonna do that later, and for the mouth, I sort of plan out in my mind where I want it to go. Mine's gonna kinda go like this, and I'm gonna go in and out of every other stitch. This is from that first jaw row. I'll bring my needle up here, kind of toward the base of the stitch, that treble crochet. Skip one. Go down into the next stitch. Don't pull too tightly. Skip one. Come back up in the center. Skip one. Go back down. Skip one. Come back up. I think the the stitches themselves provide a pretty nice guide for where to put the mouth stitches, and come back the other way. You could leave him like this, as he almost looks like a little alien. Maybe you could do this in gray or green and have an alien applique, but to complete my skull's teeth, I'm going to do some vertical lines here in the middle of the four stitches I just made. Getting a little tangly in the back here. And always reminding myself and you to not pull these stitches too tightly, because you'll start squishing the fabric of the skull. Check it out, see if you like it, and then tie a knot and secure both ends of the black yarn. Now, you get to weave in all the rest of your ends. RIP.

Bat

- I probably should not be playing favorites with these appliques but I gotta say the bat might be my personal favorite. It's the perfect mix of cute and just a little bit scary. And the shaping on the wings is really fun to crochet. Much like the spider, I would usually crochet this in black, but so it's more visible for the class, I'm going to crochet my bat with gray. We'll start with the bat body and a chain eight, one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, and eight. For round one, we're gonna skip the first

two chains from the hook and then work four half double crochets into the third. I'm picking up two loops from the chain for more stability. There's one, two, three, and then four and then four half double crochets evenly. One, two, three, and then four. This is probably familiar if you've been making the other appliques. We're just making a long oval again. And the last chain work, five half double crochets. I'm gonna go through two loops, so that chain, this last one can be a little tight. One, two, three, four, spinning around here, and five. And then four half double crochets on the other side of this foundation chain. One, two, three, four. And in the last chain which is technically the first chain you worked in, we're gonna work one more half double crochet and then slip stitch to the top of the first half double crochet to join. We're gonna make the bat's ears by chaining three, one, two, three. Skip the first chain on your hook and one slip stitch each in the remaining two chains. And then join by slip stitching to the next stitch on the body right at the top of the head. And work the second ear in the same way. Chain three, one, two, three. Skip the first chain and then slip stitch in the last two chains. And then join by slip stitching to the next stitch on the body. You can break this off. You could use the invisible join here. I think that a regular finish off is fine, especially because we're going to attach wings in this area anyway so any small knot will be hidden by that. Set the body aside for a moment and we're gonna make some wings. So start with a chain, 10, one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10. This is all worked in rows. We're gonna skip the first chain from the hook and then work one slip stitch and then eight single crochets evenly across. one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, and then eight. That's the end of row one. For row two, we'll chain one and turn and work four single crochets, one, two, three, four, and then two half double crochets, one, two and leave the rest of this row unworked. We'll start row three, chain two and turn. You'll skip that first chain from your hook and work a slip stitch in the last chain. This is creating the shaping of the tips of the wing and then single crochet evenly. And the remaining six stitches, one, two, three, four, five, and six. For row four, chain one, and turn work three single crochets evenly. One, two, three and then two half double crochets, one and then two. And then leave the rest of the stitches unworked. To begin row five, chain two. Turn. Skip the first chain from your hook, slip stitch in the second and then single crochet in the remaining five stitches. Two, three, four, five. And this is the last row Row six, chain one and turn single crochet. And then half double crochet. And then two double crochets. I'm gonna break off leaving about eight to 10 inches of yarn for sewing. Mirror over and pull through. And the row that we just finished is the row that will be sewn to the bat's body. Sorry, all the ends are hanging out. It's kind of hard to get a visual on this, but these two pieces are gonna go together like this. And you need to make a second wing for the other side. Here it is. I've also gone ahead and woven in some of the ends on the bat body as well as the ends from the foundation chain on the wings. And we're leaving the yarn tails from the last row of the wings for sewing. And I wanted to show you that the two wings are identical pieces. They're crocheted the exact same way. And what we do is arrange them on the bat. This again, is row six. Row six will be what attaches to the body. This is also row six attaching to the body. And there is not really a right side or wrong side to the wings. Like we are seeing different sides of these pieces, but you can hardly tell the difference. So I think that's kind of a fun part of the pattern. So let's go ahead and sew these on. Since we're starting at the bottom of the wing I wanna make sure that I end up on the bat body in a place that I think looks good. So if I say that I want the top of the wing to start at this stitch I know that I have four stitches on the wing here so I'll count down four on the body, one, two, three and four, And I'll keep in mind that this is where I wanna join as I start to sew towards the top. So I'll probably count the stitches again after I thread my needle and reorient some of these pieces. So again, this is where I want the top of my wing to end up. One, two,

three, four. And this is where I'll insert the needle to join. And then you can just join these two pieces stitch for stitch. And sometimes when I'm joining two pieces and I've done my final stitches I feel like there's still maybe a disconnect here. It's very subtle. You might not be able to see it but I feel like I'm very aware of it. So this was the last stitch that I joined from the wing. I might go and pick up a loop next to it here and then sew that through the same stitch on the body. And to me that just sort of, it makes the connection a little more smooth. And then you can pop your needle back to the other side of the bat and then secure with a knot and weave in this end. And you would sew on the other wing in the same way. And account from the top of the body four stitches down. Let's see. Probably have it start here. One, two, three, four, and connect the two. We'll probably do that little trick again where I do another stitch in this same stitch on the body. But then, right just sort of next to the last stitch of the wing. That's really optional. It's just my preference. It's like a little nitpicky thing that I happen to see in my own work. Secure this. Tie a knot. Weave in the end. And for the eyes, I like to use yellow yarn and I'll embroider two small stitches. Look how cool it is.

Potion bottle

- I brewed up this last design for you. It's a potion bottle. We'll start at the top of the bottle and I'll be using ivory to represent the color of the glass of the bottle. And we'll begin with a chain 6, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. For row one, we'll skip the first two chains from the hook and then work four half double crochets evenly. 1, oops, 2, 3, and then 4, row two, chain two and turn. And another four half double crochets across. 1, 2, 3, 4. Before you begin row three, I have a fun technique to show you. It creates kind of a smoother transition for a color change from row to row. I'll show you more what that is as we get into it. So you could continue with row three with just white or ivory and we'll change colors at the end of it, but if you wanna try this new technique, grab your second color of yarn and I'll show you what this is all about. Row three starts with a chain two, but we're going to make the first chain in our first color and then introduce the second color on that second turning chain. I'm gonna join with a slipknot and pull through for that second chain. This is gonna look a little fussy, but I think you might like the result and I think it's worth that extra effort. So we'll turn and essentially what we're doing is we are working row three in ivory, but we're gonna complete the top of row three with the new color, so it'll make that line between the two colors very smooth. So I'm gonna carry the second color inside my new row. We're gonna yarn over with ivory, the original color, start the half double crochet, yarn over and pull through one. And here we're gonna drop white, pick up green and complete the half double crochet. And you can see that chain we made in green is now the top of our first half double crochet. So I wanna drop green again, pick up white, start the second half double crochet. So yarn over, insert your hook, yarn over and pull through one, drop white, pick up green, and finish that half double crochet with green. See again it's got a green top and a white bottom. We're going to drop green, start the new half double crochet, finish with green. You can see you can kind of get a rhythm going if you understand what you're doing. Here's our last half double crochet. We'll pull through with green, and at this point, you can break off the white and we'll continue with green. I'm gonna work one more row. I think it'll get us farther away from this transition. And then I can show you a comparison. So we'll work on row four, which is chain two, turn, again, it's just four half double crochets across. 1, 2, 3, 4. Row five is the exact same. So chain two, turn, four half double crochets. Let's just take a look at our color transition. It's so smooth, it's really clean. I have a sample here of a piece where rows one, two, and three are all white, and then I changed color at the end and four and five are the green. You can see sort of the spiky bottoms of the new color and how straight this is. For me, this is wild, like I thought this looked so much cleaner

than here. If your eye's telling you "Mmm, they're pretty similar," I don't really care, like you don't have to do it this way, but I always like to share fun techniques when I discover them so you can sort of decide which way you prefer. But I think this is really cool. I mean it's a tiny project, and you might not get the full effect of that effort, but it's also a nice place just to practice a little bit. We will continue our potion bottle with row six. We're gonna start increasing. So chain two, and turn, work two half double crochets into the first stitch, one half double crochet and the next two and then two half double crochets in the last stitch. Row seven is chain two and turn and work three half double crochets in the first stitch. It's 1, 2, 3, and then you wanna half double crochet evenly until you get to the last stitch. And we'll work three half double crochets in that last one, as well, 1, 2, 3. For row eight, chain two and turn, we're gonna go back to two half double crochets in the first stitch. 1, 2, and then eight half double crochets evenly across. You should have one stitch remaining and then you can work two half double crochets in that last stitch. After row eight, you should have 12 stitches across. Rows nine to 11, you're going to chain two and just work one half double crochet in each stitch. The last two rows will be identical to each other. We'll chain one, turn, skip the first stitch and then single crochet across. So we're decreasing just by one stitch in the row. It's kind of bringing the shape of the bottle in a little bit at the bottom. Chain one and turn, skip the first, and then single crochet all the way across. You should have 10 stitches. You can break off. Give our bottle a little cork at the top. So I've flipped the bottle so it's upright and we have the white portion on top. I'm gonna grab this tan color and rejoin at the top right corner of the bottle and chain two and half double crochet in the same stitch. And then work one half double crochet and all these spaces up on top, which you might think would be four, but I can actually sneak in five in this little corner. I think I'm hitting the bottom of my foundation chain here or my turning chain. So you have the turning chain and then five half double crochets, break off. Before you continue, I would suggest weaving in all these ends right now 'cause it's getting a little chaotic, a little messy. It'll just be easier to work with as we move forward. In the next step, we're going to make a label for our bottle so everyone knows what's inside and not to drink it. I'm using ivory and we'll start with chain 11. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11. Skip the first chain from your hook, work one single crochet in the next and then two half double crochets, evenly, just 1, 2, and then four double crochets evenly. 1, 2, 3, 4, 2 half double crochets, 1, 2, and in the last chain it'll work a single crochet. I'm gonna flip this a little and we're gonna work on the other side of the foundation chain, just the mirror image of what we just crocheted. So start with single crochet, two half double crochets four double crochets, 1, 2, 3, 4, 2 half double crochets, and in the last stitch, single crochet. Then we'll slip stitch to the top of the first single crochet to join. Break off, leaving 10 to 12 inches for sewing later. Let's see this little oval, that'll fit right on top. Let's weave in this end. You get to decide what to put on this label. You could embroider a word or some kind of shape or symbol, but whatever you put on it you want to stitch that, or glue that, probably, before you attach the label to the bottle just in case anything happens. If you mess up, you only have to redo the label and you don't have to redo the whole bottle. So I am going to embroider X, X, X on this oval. I'm gonna use black. It's probably too much yarn, but I would rather have too much than too little. And since there are three letters and I wanna make sure it's centered, I'll probably start stitching the center one first and then do the sides after. Just kind of eyeballing this, you could use your disappearing ink pen here if you wanted. And don't pull too tightly 'cause you'll start warping the fabric of your label and come right next to that X to make my second one. If this were a love potion, you could stitch hearts onto this, all kinds of different options. Then I'll come back to this other side. I'm always kind of stretching this and making sure I'm not pulling my stitches too tightly. Looks pretty good. Secure both ends of this black yarn with a knot

and then weave in those ends. We're just weaving just a little. I don't want a lot of that black yarn showing through the white label. And then the last step is to stitch the label on. I'm gonna use my stab stitch, running stitch, straight stitch, you can whip stitch if you like. You can use pins if you want. I'm just going to use my hands. Okay, this is looking a little funny to me. I can kind of see my yarn, sort of where the knot is. And my quick fix for that, if you didn't use the invisible join, is before you start stitching, you can kinda almost fake the invisible join by going to the next stitch and coming from the back, insert your needle to the front. And I can snug the knot and it kind of goes inside or behind the work and I don't see it as easily. Put the label back on. That may or may not be an issue for you, depending on how you finished your label and depending on how you crochet. But that's sort of a quick trick that I use sometimes if I happen to feel bothered by what that finishing knot looks like. And I always like smushing things around as I stitch them. It's kind of like sculpting. You can kind of affect the shape, make sure you're stitching in the right spots. This label is looking a little low, a little low on the bottle, but you can really put your label wherever you want. It can be up and down and sideways if you want. Do one more stitch, tie a knot, weave it in just a little. Your very magical, mysterious potion. Here's a version I did in purple and you can see the skull and crossbones. And actually the skull is a little piece of felt that I cut out and glued on. You have many different ways to conjure up your own potion bottle.

How to use your appliques

- Now that you know how to make a bunch of super cute crocheted appliques, let's go over some ways that you can use them. Applique comes from the French word that means to apply, and you're probably familiar with appliqueing one small fabric shape onto another larger piece of fabric. I'm gonna show you two different ways you can go about doing that with your crocheted appliques. I thought I would put a cute skull onto this plain black hoodie and before you attach your applique to your garment, or whatever you're attaching it to, I would suggest putting on the garment. You kind of never know where these appliques will end up on your body once you sew them down. So you definitely want to be able to adjust it, pin it into place, and then take it off, and then apply it. Sometimes these things end up like way across over on your shoulder or maybe too far center, so definitely try it on first if you can. So you would pin it on, and then just use really basic sewing stitches to attach it. You can see on this jack-o'-lantern I used a matching orange sewing thread and a really basic back stitch. You can follow sort of the same method that we used when sewing with yarn. The applique like the applied eye to the jack-o'-lantern where you still wanna follow the spaces within the stitches, like I wouldn't sew in the middle of a stitch. You don't want to squish the stitches or alter the way that they look. So still follow in between each of these outer stitches in the last rounds of your applique. If you prefer not to sew, you can glue your appliques on. I made this ghost. It's the exact same pattern, as the smaller ghost that we crocheted. I just used a bulkier chenille yarn and a larger hook, and it just blew this ghost up to a really jumbo fun size. And by the way, this chenille is also glow in the dark and it glows pretty strongly. Just a word of caution, with chenille it is really hard to see your stitches, so you can play with that, but I just wanted to give you a word of warning. It is really fun though. And when you are gluing down an applique, especially with one of this size, I wouldn't try to glue down the entire surface of the applique and then flop it onto the bag. It's gonna get messy. You're gonna get glue everywhere, go section at a time. So I might start with just the top of the head, glue it down, and then you can lift up parts of the applique apply more glue, lay it back down, and kind of go in sections. You can see I still have the bottom tail portion left to glue, and my new favorite glue, this is the hot tip, is this Aleene's Super Fabric

Adhesive. It is a little bit stinky, like E6,000, but it has an amazing hold when it comes to yarn to fabric. And I wouldn't worry too much about seeping but if you wanna be super careful about it, and you don't wanna stick the top layer of your tote bag to the bottom one, just put in a little piece of cardboard, or a piece of parchment paper to protect that. If you wanna add some words, I actually stitched this on. At first, I did not use an embroidery hoop, which was kind of a mistake. So remember to use an embroidery hoop for this, if you wanna do some lettering, or just some other more detailed stitching. You can see in the back. It's a little messy, but no one's gonna see that. This is gonna be filled up with treats. This is a super fun way to personalize your trick-or-treat bags. The way that I use my appliques most often in real life is to decorate greeting cards or birthday cards. So think about if you're throwing a Halloween party you could use your appliques to make really fun invitations. We have our witches hat and "You've been summoned," so get out your jelly pens and crayons or pencils and have fun with sort of Halloween-inspired captions. You can put whatever you want on the inside. I'm using tacky glue to adhere the crochet to the card. I find it dries very quickly and it has a stronghold. And much like applying the applique to fabric I would still go in sections. Like the bat, his wings kind of flop around a little bit, so it's easier if you start in the center, glue that part up, get it down on the card, and then you can flip up one wing, apply glue, tack it down, and then you can flip up the other wing, and tack that down. Just makes your life a little bit easier. If you want your applique to be reusable by the recipient of the card, skip the glue, and you can stitch the applique right onto the card with a sewing needle and thread. You can see on the inside of this skull card I just stitched, just choose three or four spots. It doesn't have to be, you know, all around the outline of the applique. And then you can write down an instruction for the person to snip the threads, and it'll just release that applique and then they can stick it onto whatever they'd like. I also love turning all my crocheted little doodads into hair clips and pins. And before you attach your clip or your pin back it's a good idea to reinforce the back of your applique. On the back of the spider, this is a pin/hair-clip combo that I like a lot, but you can see underneath I cut out a piece of matching felt, black felt, a little bit smaller than the actual shape I wanna cover, just so it doesn't show on the front. And again, I used the tacky glue to apply the felt to the spider. I feel like the tacky glue provides a nice texture. It's still flexible, but has a really good hold, and it's not as stinky as my new favorite fabric glue, like that we used on the tote bag. And generally I would say people aren't washing their broaches that much, like maybe just a spot clean. So I feel like tacky glue is my preferred glue for this application. If you have a shape, like a bat where cutting out the whole shape might seem daunting. Also, keep in mind if you just reinforce the body that might be kind of neat because the wings can still flop around, as you're wearing it. To add some fun and color to your home, the appliques are perfect for making fun garlands, and you also have a couple different options for how to put those garlands together. This top garland is our pumpkin applique without the stripes and a fun pastel fall colorway. And it's really easy to use twine and tiny one inch clothes pins to assemble your garland. And I also like this because you can change it up, as the weeks go by, if you wanna start from like fall but then move on to spooky. For this garland, I created a string with crochet. And this is also a fun example of using felt shapes to create faces on your jack o'lanterns, and you can use all the same face. I wanted to have a different expression on each one. This bottom garland is an example using one of each of all the appliques that you learned in class. And I'm gonna show you how I start to crochet one of these garland strings and attach each applique. I'm using ivory to attach all of my pieces. And this is really just a basic chain which you're really familiar with at this point. If you want to start with a hanging loop, and this is optional, I would decide how big you want it, and just crochet that many chains. I'm gonna start with that little loop.

I'm gonna chain 20 and see what that looks like. It's 5, (yarn shuffling) 10, (yarn shuffling) 15, (yarn shuffling) 20. (yarn shuffling) that looks pretty good to me, And you simply join to the first chain with a slip stitch. Oops. (yarn shuffling) that's your loop. Now you can continue chaining to create this first stretch of chains. Just because of the direction of crochet you want to line up your appliques in reverse order, or remember to grab your appliques from last to first or right to left. So I would start with my spider, if I wanted this orientation. But first decide how long you would like this initial chain. Normally this is a little bit longer than the length of chain in between each piece. Just it makes it look a little bit better when it's hanging. So this for me is about 40 chains, but again this is just gonna depend on what yarn you're using and how tightly you chain. (yarn shuffling) I'm not gonna chain 40 right now, but just, you know, you can decide what length you would like. And again, you might wanna write down that number, so you can echo that on the other end of your garland. (yarn shuffling) To attach a spider, or really any of these appliques, you'd usually kind of go and find where this top center is and just attach with, oops, there's a lot of slip stitching in here. Find a gap, (yarn shuffling) and work a single crochet. (shuffling) And it's really easy just to attach 'em in that way. But as you can see here, for the spider, it looks a little different. I felt that having the spider really snug up against the garland string looked a little odd to me. I wanted to give it a little space to dangle. So if you want a little bit more dangle on your garland just sort of depending on what applique you're using, what I would do is start your single crochet, and on your first pull through, pull up the yarn, (yarn shuffling) maybe for that looks like maybe an inch and a half, two inches, and then complete the single crochet. And there are multiple ways you can hang the spider from your garland, but for me that was just an easy way to attach it with a little bit of dangle as I'm crocheting. And then you would simply keep chaining until you want to attach the next piece. (yarn shuffling) Oops, kind of getting some weird chains. (yarn shuffling) So let's say I've crocheted the length that I like between two pieces. If you want to use the bats, you could pop a stitch right in the center of its head, but I think it hangs a little bit better if you pop stitches in each of the ears. So you can come to the top of the ear here, work your single crochet, (yarn shuffling) and then work a couple chains. Let's see what three looks like. That's pretty good. You don't want too few chains or the ears will get stuck together. And then you can crochet your single crochet stitch into the next ear. Kinda check your work, see if you like it, and then continue with your chains again, before attaching your next applique. If you're feeling like your appliques are feeling a little floppy, you can also reinforce the backs of them much like the hair clip or the pin with felt, so just buy a matching-colored felt, and use your tacky glue to adhere the felt to the back, and that should firm them right up. I usually find that I don't need that for my garlands. If you just let them rest and sit out flat, they usually flatten out quite nicely. Those are just a few of my favorite ways to use your appliques. I am absolutely certain that you'll be able to come up with tons of wickedly delightful uses for yours. It's the perfect season to unleash your imagination. (swooshing) - Ahi. (laughs).