

Quoth The Raven

Ever since Fox network acquired the rights to the World Series, the Treehouse of Terror (aka The Simpson's Halloween Special) has been pushed to the first weekend of November. The annual episode is actually three terrifying yarns told to send chills through the hearts of audiences. Ironically, my favorite to date is the original, particularly the Simpson's unique spin on [Edgar Allen Poe](#)'s classic, The Raven. In it, Homer is driven insane by the raven which strangely resembles Bart. It also featured the first appearance of [Kang and Kodos](#), alien invaders from Rigel VII. In their first episode, the beings were not bent on world domination; however, Lisa's suspicions got the better of her and the alien's left in disgust.

SPOILERS AHEAD: Tonight's episode featured three new tales. My favorite was the final homage to another classic Halloween special. The names were changed to avoid any lawsuits. Milhouse and Lisa sat in the pumpkin patch awaiting the arrival of The GRAND Pumpkin. Only in this tale, the creature comes alive after poor Milhouse sheds a tear after he is abandoned by his love. After witnessing the torture pumpkins go through for Halloween (turning into jack-o-lanterns, etc), the giant gourd vows REVENGE. Most of the other aspects resemble the Peanuts special (even down to Bart's holey Charlie Brown ghost costume and Ralph Wiggum's cloud of dust as Pig Pen). The Grand Pumpkin also featured the annual appearance Kang and Kodos. And in yet another nod, Marge practiced her trombone which simulated the adult voices of the Peanuts cartoons. While not as memorable as past years, I never miss a Treehouse of Terror.

