

“In Search of the Orange Pumpkin”

Why do we associate the search for The Orange Pumpkin with the Family of Raiders? Obviously, someone wanted to match up a fruit or vegetable with our famous color orange, but why not search for The Orange Mango or The Orange Carrot? The original search was not for The Orange Pumpkin, but The Great Pumpkin, an imaginary character in the comic strip “Peanuts” by Charles M. Schulz. The Great Pumpkin is a holiday figure, comparable to Santa Claus or the Easter Bunny, which seems to exist only in the imagination of Linus Van Pelt. Every year, Linus sits in a pumpkin patch on Halloween night waiting for The Great Pumpkin to appear. Each year, The Great Pumpkin invariably fails to appear, and a humiliated but resolute Linus stubbornly vows to wait for him again the following Halloween. According to Linus, The Great Pumpkin rises out of a pumpkin patch he deems most sincere. He then flies through the air delivering toys to all the good little children of the world. Linus further believes that The Great Pumpkin is very sensitive and easily offended and would choose to bypass anyone who doubts or denies his existence. Therefore, in writing to The Great Pumpkin, you must convince him that your pumpkin patch is sincere, and you are not to ask for anything specific but to wait for and accept whatever he brings. In the end result it would seem that the search for The Great Pumpkin involves putting forth your most sincere effort and accepting whatever outcome that sincere effort brings. This philosophy is certainly connected to our goal of pursuing excellence, the basis of which is sincere effort. So, it’s a good thing there is more to the search for The Orange Pumpkin than just choosing a random vegetable. It might be really weird and sketchy, or at least highly questionable at best, to go around in search of The Great Orange Carrot.