

Read for Pleasure

The Scarecrow

By Beth Perry and The Fan Brothers



All the animals know not to mess with old Scarecrow. But when a baby crow falls from the sky, Scarecrow does the strangest thing...

A tender and affectionate tale that reminds us of the comforting power of friendship and the joy of helping others.

Title Talk

The title of this story is: The Scarecrow.

- Write the word SCARECROW on a slip of paper. Then cut it so that you have two separate words: scare/crow. What is a scarecrow used for?
- Where would you usually see a scarecrow?
- Who would have placed a scarecrow there and why?

Cover Chat

Now look at the cover of this picture book.

- Does this scarecrow look scary enough to frighten off crows and stop them from eating the farmer's crops?
- Who do you see perched on the scarecrow's arm?
- Why might this be considered odd? Might it also be significant? Discuss.
- What might this tell us about A] the scarecrow and B] the baby crow?
- What might this also suggest about how this story will ...
A] begin, B] develop and C] end?



Page 1-2

- What time of year is it?
- Why might these fields be described as being GOLD?
- Might this be why this scarecrow has been made and placed in the farmer's field?
- Read the three lines on page 2. Which two words rhyme?
- What might this suggest about how this story will be told? Discuss.

Page 3-4

- Who does not dare enter the farmer's field?
- Can you see them on page 3? Why do they not dare enter?
- Can you see the scarecrow on page 4?
- Why do you think the fox, the deer, the mice and the crows are on the left side of this double page spread and the scarecrow is on the right? Discuss.

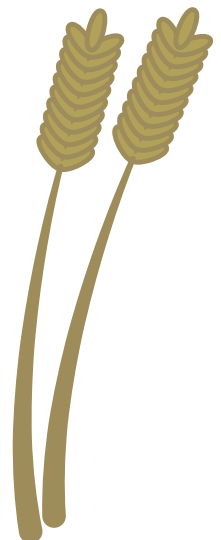
Page 5-6

- Autumn has passed. Winter has arrived.
Which word does the writer use to describe the snow?
- What does the scarecrow dream of? Why might this be?
- How do you feel towards the scarecrow? Why do you feel this way? Discuss.
- How does the illustration depict the scarecrow's loneliness?

Remember: look at what the fox, the deer, the mice and the crows are doing on page 5, and compare this to what is happening on page 6.

Page 7-8

- Winter passes. Spring arrives. What falls from the sky?
- Why might this baby crow A] have fallen and B] be scared?
- What does the scarecrow do when he sees the baby crow?
- Why would many people consider this to be very strange?
- How is this event illustrated on page 8?



Page 9-10

- Where does the scarecrow tuck the baby crow to let it sleep?
Might this be significant?

Remember: the heart is associated with LOVE.

- Why do you think the scarecrow sings a lullaby to the baby crow?
Discuss.
- As well as the crow and the scarecrow, we see lots of dandelion seeds gently floating through the air. Why might this be?

Knowledge: these seeds are dispersed by the wind and will grow wherever the winds of change take them. In this context, they can be seen as a symbol of both the passage of time from one season to the next, but also the soft and gentle hope of new beginnings.

Page 11-12

- Why might some view the scarecrow and crow's friendship as odd?
Discuss.
- Why do you think the crow becomes stronger? Might it be because it is growing in a place surrounded by love and laughter?
- Read the last sentence on page 12. Might this be significant?
- Why might this be illustrated in silhouette on the very same page?

Page 13-14

- Look up the word FLEDGLING. What does it mean?
- Why might the crow learning to fly be a happy time for the scarecrow?
Discuss.
- Why might the crow learning to fly be a sad time for the scarecrow?
Discuss.
- Interestingly, we see the crow flying on page 13 and the scarecrow watching on page 14. Why might they be pictured on opposite sides of the page?

Page 15-16

- It is summer. The sun has risen and the crops are bountiful. Happy times should abound for all. Yet it is also time for the crow to fly away. How might A] the crow and B] the scarecrow feel at this time? Why?



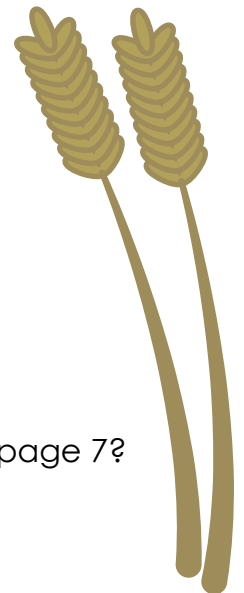
- Notice that we do not see the scarecrow's face as the crow leaves. Why might the illustrator have chosen to hide the scarecrow's face during this very emotional time? Discuss.

Page 17-18

- It is autumn. A chill is in the air and leaves are falling from the trees. Knowledge: autumn is the season we associate with reflection.
What do you notice about the scarecrow's smile? Why might it have disappeared?
- What might the scarecrow be thinking at this time and why? Discuss.

Page 19-22

- Snow falls. Winter has arrived. Why might nobody visit or care about the scarecrow during this time?
- How would this make the scarecrow feel? Why would this be?
- Might this be why we are told that the scarecrow SAGS and STARES? Discuss.
- Might this also be why we are told the scarecrow's heart is broken? Discuss.
- How sad is the illustration on page 22?
- Are we meant to feel this way towards the scarecrow? Why might this be?



Page 23-24

- Spring arrives and life begins to wake from its wintery slumber. What signs of life can you see beginning to emerge?
- What is the SOMETHING that drops from the sky?
- Do these words remind of the words we've previously read on page 7?
- With this in mind, who do you think the large black crow is?
- How does this make you feel? Why?
- Might the scarecrow feel the same way?
- Why do you think the crow has returned? Discuss.

Page 25-26

- How does the scarecrow feel about the crow's return?
- How loving is the illustration on page 26?

Page 27-28

- Why do you think the first words we read on these pages are: JOYFUL HEARTS? Discuss why both their hearts would be full of joy.
- What does the crow do to help mend the scarecrow?
- Why do you think the crow wants to do this?

Page 29-30

- How many crows can you see?
 - Which of these crows has straw in its beak? Why might this be?
 - What other signs of spring can you spot on these pages?
- Knowledge: spring is a season of new beginnings and new life.



Page 31-32

- What can you see on page 31?
- Where do you think this nest with its five eggs might be? Why do you think this?
- Why would the scarecrow want to guard these precious eggs?
- How is the idea of FAMILY depicted on page 32? Discuss.

Page 33-34

- Which two words on page 33 do you think are the most important?
- How are the words LOVE and HEART connected?
- Might it be significant that the nest of chicks is cradled in the scarecrow's heart? Discuss.

Remember: it was in the scarecrow's heart that the baby crow was first raised with love.

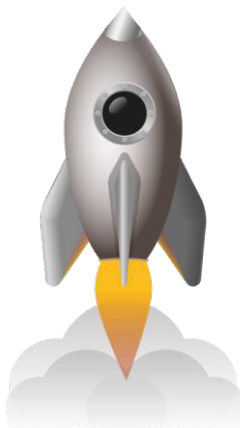
Page 35-37

- How is the idea of FAMILY depicted on pages 35-36? Discuss.
- How is this idea extended to include FRIENDSHIP on page 37?

Think about the book as a whole

Who do you think benefitted the most from this friendship: the scarecrow or the crow? Why do you think this?

Has this story taught you anything about the importance of FAMILY & FRIENDSHIP? If so, what has it taught you?



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