

The crows followed Barnaby. Barnaby was taller than all of them, and his straw hat was as wide as a giant umbrella. Barnaby walked slowly and cautiously, like a big friendly bear. "Don't be scared," he whispered to the crows. "The farmer is gone!"

The crows chattered amongst themselves. "We are looking for corn," one crow squawked. "But the farmer has scared us all away!" Barnaby felt a tug of sympathy. He had been scared of the farmer too. "I can help!" Barnaby announced. He hopped off his nest and began walking towards the cornfield.

They reached the tall stalks of corn. Barnaby tilted his head. "Hmm, I don't see any corn kernels." He looked down at his straw shoes. "I have an idea!" He lifted his straw arm and gently tapped the corn stalks. The kernels tumbled out of their husks and fell to the ground.

Barnaby the scarecrow was lonely. He stood in the cornfield all day, watching the sun rise and set. He wished he had friends to talk to. One day a group of crows landed on his straw hat. "Hello!" they chirped. "We are hungry!" Barnaby surprised, felt a flutter in his straw heart. "Hello," he said. "I am Barnaby. What can I do to help?"

The crows chirped happily and gobbled up the corn kernels. They pecked at Barnaby's straw hat, and one even sat on his head! "Thank you, Barnaby!" they cooed. Barnaby felt warm and fuzzy inside. He had made new friends, and he had helped them too.

The Scarecrow's Secret



Barnaby continued to help the crows every day. He would tap the corn stalks and the crows would eat. The crows were no longer afraid of Barnaby. He was not a scarecrow to them, he was their friend.

... Why was Barnaby lonely? Why did the crows need Barnaby's help? How did Barnaby help the crows? What did the crows think of Barnaby? How did Barnaby feel when he helped the crows? How did Barnaby change from the beginning of the story to the end? Why did the crows stop being afraid of Barnaby? What if the farmer came back to the field?

