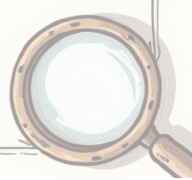


What did Lily think the scarecrow was doing?



Lily and Max learned that night that sometimes even the scariest things can be friendly. They walked home with smiles on their faces, a little bit braver, and with a new friend, a very friendly scarecrow.

Lily was determined to find out if the scarecrow really was alive. She convinced Max to go back to the pumpkin patch. As they crept closer, the scarecrow suddenly jumped up! It yelled, "Boo!" and flapped its arms. Max screamed and hid behind Lily, but Lily giggled. The scarecrow was just pretending to be scary.

It was Halloween night, and the moon was a giant, grinning pumpkin in the sky. The wind whispered spooky secrets through the trees, and the leaves rustled like ghosts dancing in the breeze. Lily and her brother, Max, were dressed in their Halloween costumes - Lily was a spunky witch, and Max was a brave pirate. They were walking down their street, searching for the best Halloween decorations.

Suddenly they spotted a scarecrow in a pumpkin patch, and it looked real! It had a wide, toothy grin, a straw hat tilted over its head, and a bright orange pumpkin nose. Lily gasped, "Look, Max, that scarecrow is smiling at us!" Max squinted at the scarecrow. "No way it's just a scarecrow." But Lily was sure she saw the scarecrow wink, and the pumpkin nose seemed to wiggle just a little.

Max started to get a little scared, so he grabbed Lily's hand and hurried past the scarecrow. But as they walked away, Lily could have sworn she heard the scarecrow whisper, "Boo!" They ran to the next house, a big spooky mansion with cobwebs hanging from every corner. A friendly witch opened the door and gave them a big bowl of candy. Lily and Max ate their candy, but they couldn't stop thinking about the spooky scarecrow.