



# The Scarecrow

by Beth Ferry  
Illustrated by The Fan Brothers

## Before We Read: Introduce the Book

- Suggested scripted text for readers is indicated in italics with the lesson. Feel free to adapt as you wish.
- The **Now We Read** and **After We Read** sections include suggested instructions in brackets for readers.

- *The name of this book is The Scarecrow. Beth Ferry wrote it. The Fan Brothers drew the pictures. This book is written in rhyme, like some music and poetry. This helps us feel the story as we learn about the life of a scarecrow during all the seasons of the year.*

[Children may wish to name all the seasons, beginning with fall, because our storybook begins with fall, which is called autumn in this book. Children will enjoy saying the names of the seasons of the year: fall (autumn), winter, spring, summer.]



- *Scarecrow is our main character in the book. Do you know what a scarecrow is?*
- *What is the job of a scarecrow?*

[Give children time to talk about what they know about scarecrows. Write down children's ideas on large chart paper. Children may wish to read this chart with you, and illustrate it after they hear the story.]

## Now We Read: Read the Book

- *Our scarecrow in the story has no friends. Being a scarecrow is all he knows. Can you think of why this might be a problem for him? Right! He has no friends, and nobody needs a scarecrow in the winter because...*

[Give children time to think—some may know that birds in some parts of the world fly south in winter, where the weather is warmer. Supply the information if it seems needed, or go on to read the story.]

- *Maybe something happens to scarecrow in this story. Maybe something will change his life ...*

## After We Read: Talk about the Book

Talk to children about the story. Ask them to describe what they noticed. Encourage them to share their ideas about the story and the illustrations. Here are some suggested prompts and questions to help children think about the story:

- *Think about the pictures. Did you see changes in the seasons?*  
[Allow time to describe them if children are interested.]
- *What about Scarecrow? What happened to Scarecrow to change his life?*
- *What are some ways he changed?*
- *What are things that happened that made Scarecrow sad?*
- *How does the story turn out?*
- *Can you think of something you learned? Especially enjoyed? What are some things that made Scarecrow happy?*
- *Can you think of a good question?*

[Allow time for children to ask their own questions. They will no doubt have many questions and ideas.]

## Optional Activities

- Reread the story! You may want to read the book, or parts of it, a second time. This gives children a chance to make comments or find some of the rhyming words as you read or page through the book. Your group may only want the first reading right now, but if children love the book they will want to hear it many, many times. And each reading can reveal something new.
- Review the chart you created before reading, which shows their knowledge of scarecrows. Now, invite children to draw or create a scarecrow their way.
- Invite children to act out the story. Children can take turns being the scarecrow, and acting out different parts of the story. Children will have their own ideas about how to “play the story.”