

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# The Scariest Scarecrow

by Kelly Hashway

Ben couldn't wait to go to Uncle Darrell's farm. Uncle Darrell had the best corn, apples, and pumpkins ever. And since Ben was going to be spending the weekend, he'd get to help Uncle Darrell pick them all.

Ben said a quick goodbye to his parents and ran from the car. He knew Uncle Darrell would be in the field tending to the crops. But when Ben got there, he saw Uncle Darrell wasn't the only one in the field. There were big black crows everywhere.

"What's going on?" Ben asked.

Uncle Darrell shooed the crows away and turned to Ben. "Hey, Benny. I'm just getting rid of these crows. They're trying to steal my crops."

"Where's the scarecrow?" Ben asked. Uncle Darrell usually had a giant scarecrow to keep the birds away.

"It was ruined in the last storm, and now every time I leave the field, the crows start attacking my crops. I don't have time to make a new scarecrow right now."

Ben looked around the field. The crows were already coming back. "I'll make a scarecrow for you."

"You will? But I thought you wanted to pick pumpkins and go for a hayride."

"I do, but this is more important." Ben spotted a medium-sized pumpkin, perfect and round, about five feet away. "Besides, I need to pick a pumpkin to make the scarecrow."

"You do?" Uncle Darrell narrowed his eyes.

"Yup. And I need some overalls and a flannel shirt."



"There are plenty of those in the house. Help yourself."

Ben ran into the house and found an old pair of overalls with holes in the knees. He grabbed a flannel shirt that looked two sizes too small for Uncle Darrell. Then he raced back outside and picked the pumpkin he'd eyed earlier.

Uncle Darrell was putting hay bales into the back of his truck.

"Any extra hay I can use?" Ben asked.

"Sure. Anything else you need?"

"Yeah, a big stake. One that can run the whole length of the scarecrow."

Uncle Darrell helped Ben find a stake and together they fastened the pumpkin on the top of it.

"I can take it from here," Ben said. He stuffed hay in the clothes and attached them to the stake, too. Then Ben drew the scariest face he could imagine on the pumpkin.

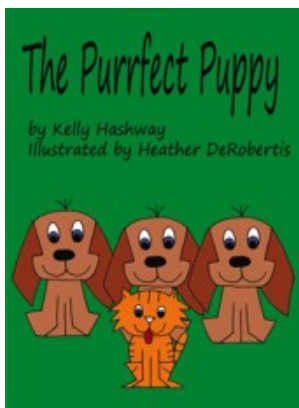
"Whoa, that is one scary scarecrow," Uncle Darrell said. "Let's see if the crows think it's scary."

Ben and Uncle Darrell shooed the crows away and placed the scarecrow in the middle of the field. Then they backed away and waited to see if the crows came back. None did.

"It works!" Ben cheered.

"Yes, Ben. It's the scariest scarecrow ever."

## About the Author



Check out Kelly Hashway's latest book, *The Perfect Puppy!*

When a stray kitten is raised by a family of dogs, she grows up thinking she is a dog. She fetches, growls, gives paw, and even does her best to bark. She loves her dog family, but when a little girl wants to adopt her and gives her the perfect name, the kitten will have to decide where her home really is.

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1. Name three crops that were grown on Uncle Darrell's farm.

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2. Why didn't Uncle Darrell have a scarecrow in his field?

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3. When Ben went inside to choose clothes for the scarecrow, how did he decide which ones to use?

- a. He chose the scariest clothes he could find.
- b. He looked for the biggest clothes he could find.
- c. He chose clothes with bright colors so the birds could see his scarecrow.
- d. He chose clothes that Uncle Darrell probably wouldn't want any more.

4. Re-read the following sentence from the story.

*Uncle Darrel helped Ben find a stake and together they fastened the pumpkin on the top of it.*

Choose the best definition for the underlined word.

- a. type of meat
- b. type of knife for carving pumpkins
- c. large stick that can be pushed into the ground
- d. top of a scarecrow

5. What is the setting of this story?

- a. at Uncle Ben's farm, in the summer
- b. at Uncle Ben's farm, in the fall
- c. at Ben's uncle's farm, in the spring
- d. at Ben's uncle's farm, in the fall

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Fill in the missing letters to create a word from the story.

Then, write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. \_\_\_ u i \_\_\_ \_\_\_

**clue:** fast

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_ \_\_\_ m p \_\_\_ \_\_\_ n s

**clue:** large, orange, round fruits that grow on a vine

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_ \_\_\_ y r \_\_\_ d \_\_\_

**clue:** a ride in a trailer filled with hay

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_ l \_\_\_ n \_\_\_ e l

**clue:** soft woven cloth, made of wool or other material

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_ t t \_\_\_ \_\_\_ h e d

**clue:** fastened

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. r \_\_\_ c \_\_\_ d

**clue:** hurried

6. \_\_\_\_\_

