



Oxford  
Reading  
Tree

# Scarecrows



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### **What's this story about?**

Should Biff and Chip make a girl or boy scarecrow? The magic key takes them to a scarecrow barn dance, which helps them decide.

### **Talk together**

Look at the cover, ask: "What is a scarecrow made from?" Talk about what scarecrows do.

### **Read the story**

**W** = Word recognition   **G** = Language comprehension

- W** Show that 'scarecrows' is made up from 'scare' and 'crows'.
- C** Page 3, ask, "Why didn't Biff want birds in her garden?"
- C** Page 8, ask, "Do you think scarecrows have to be boys?"
- W** Page 12, ask, "Do you know another word for 'lane'?" (road, track, path)
- C** Page 16, ask, "Why couldn't Biff and Chip go to the dance?"
- C** At the end, ask, "What was Biff and Chip's idea?"



Biff and Chip had a little garden.  
They planted seeds and they  
put in plants.





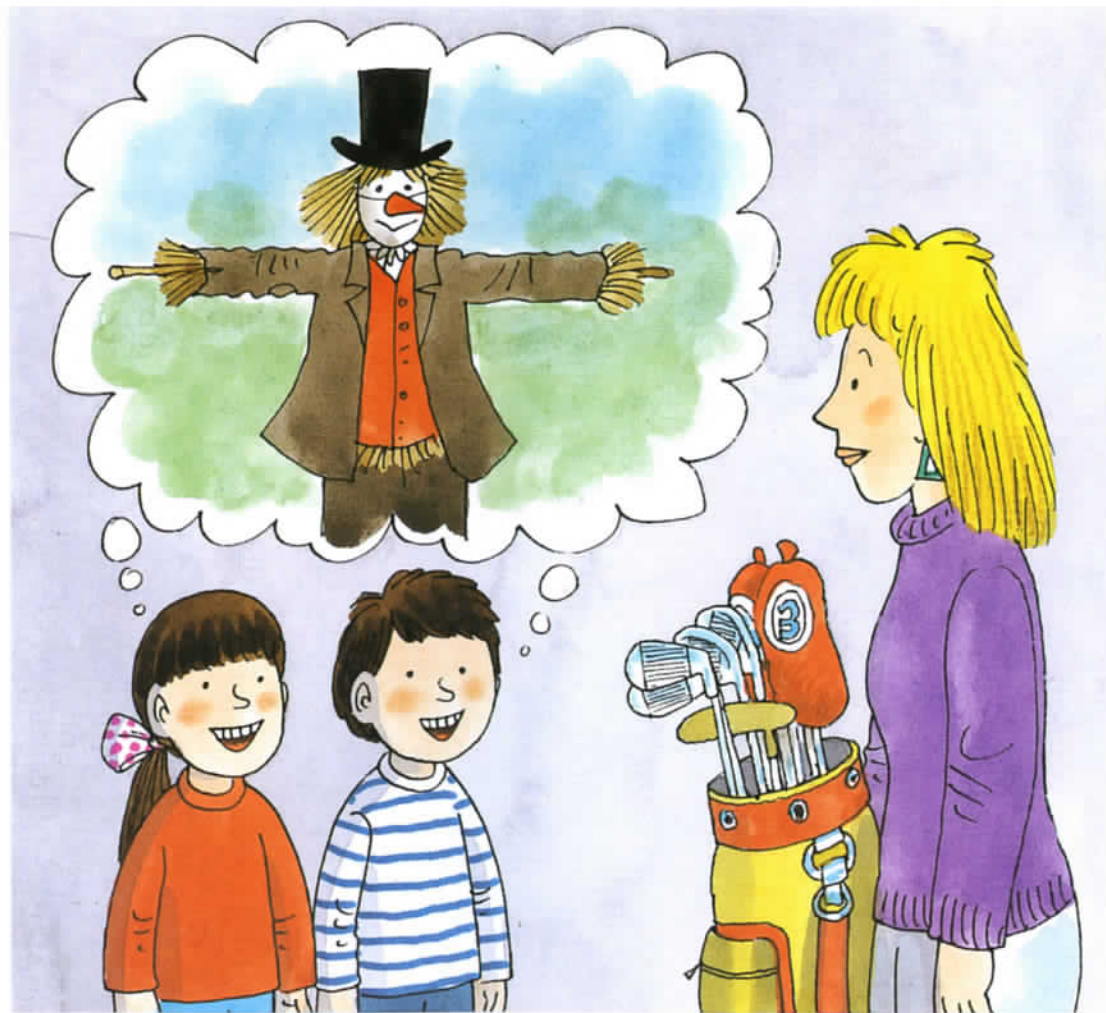
The birds liked the garden. They ate the seeds and pecked the plants.



Biff was cross.

“Look at the birds,” she said.

“Go away! Go away!”



Biff and Chip had an idea.  
“Let’s make a scarecrow,” they said.  
“What a good idea,” said Mum.





They got some old clothes and made the scarecrow's body. Mum helped them.



Biff got a bag. Chip painted a face on it. Mum made the scarecrow's hair.



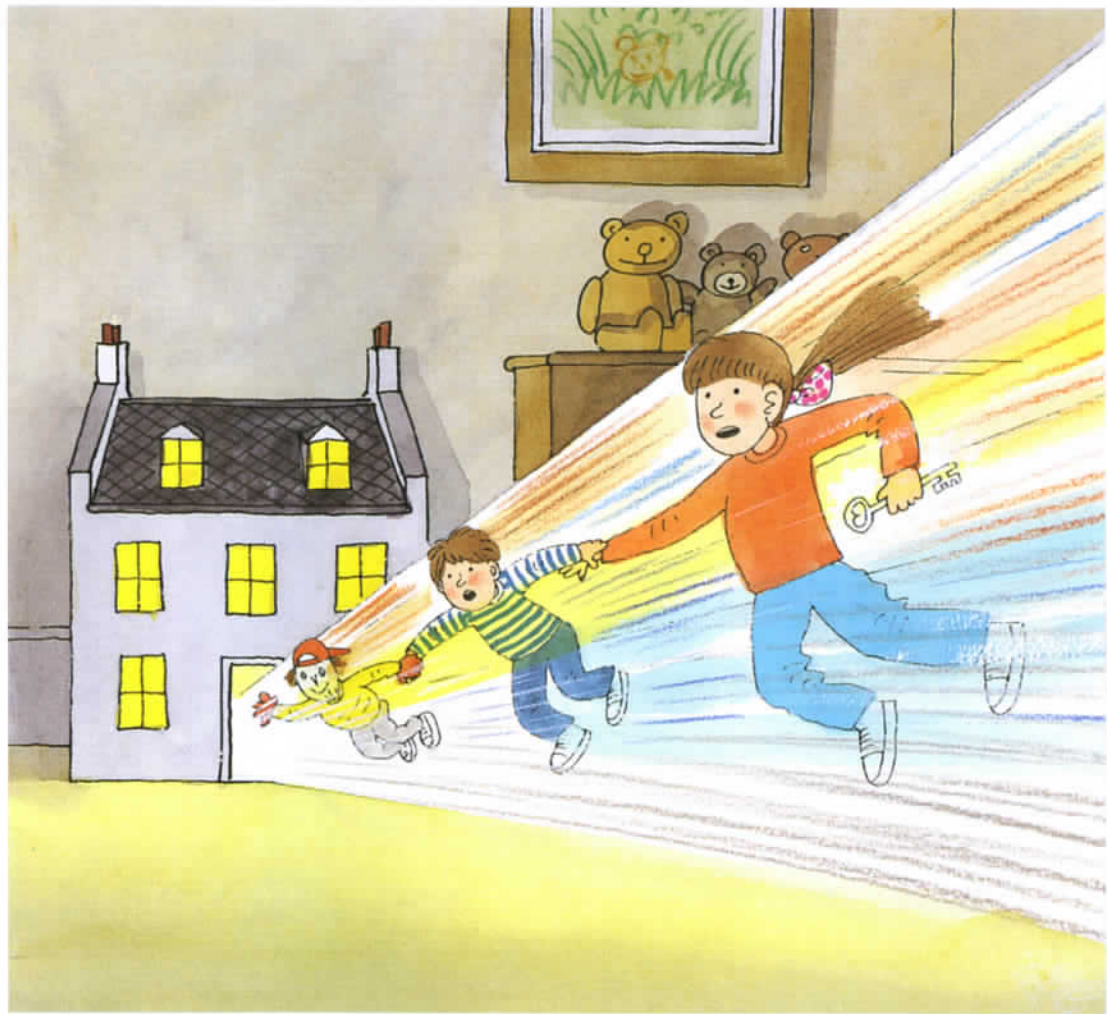


Chip wanted the scarecrow to be a boy. He called it Fred.



Biff wanted it to be a girl.

“All scarecrows are boys,” said Chip.



The key began to glow. The magic took them inside the little house.





The magic took them to a field. The scarecrow came to life.  
“I’m alive!” called Fred.



Fred jumped in the air.  
“It’s magic!” he called.



There were some scarecrows in the lane. Fred waved at them.





Fred ran up to the scarecrows.  
“Hello!” he called. “Where are  
you going?”

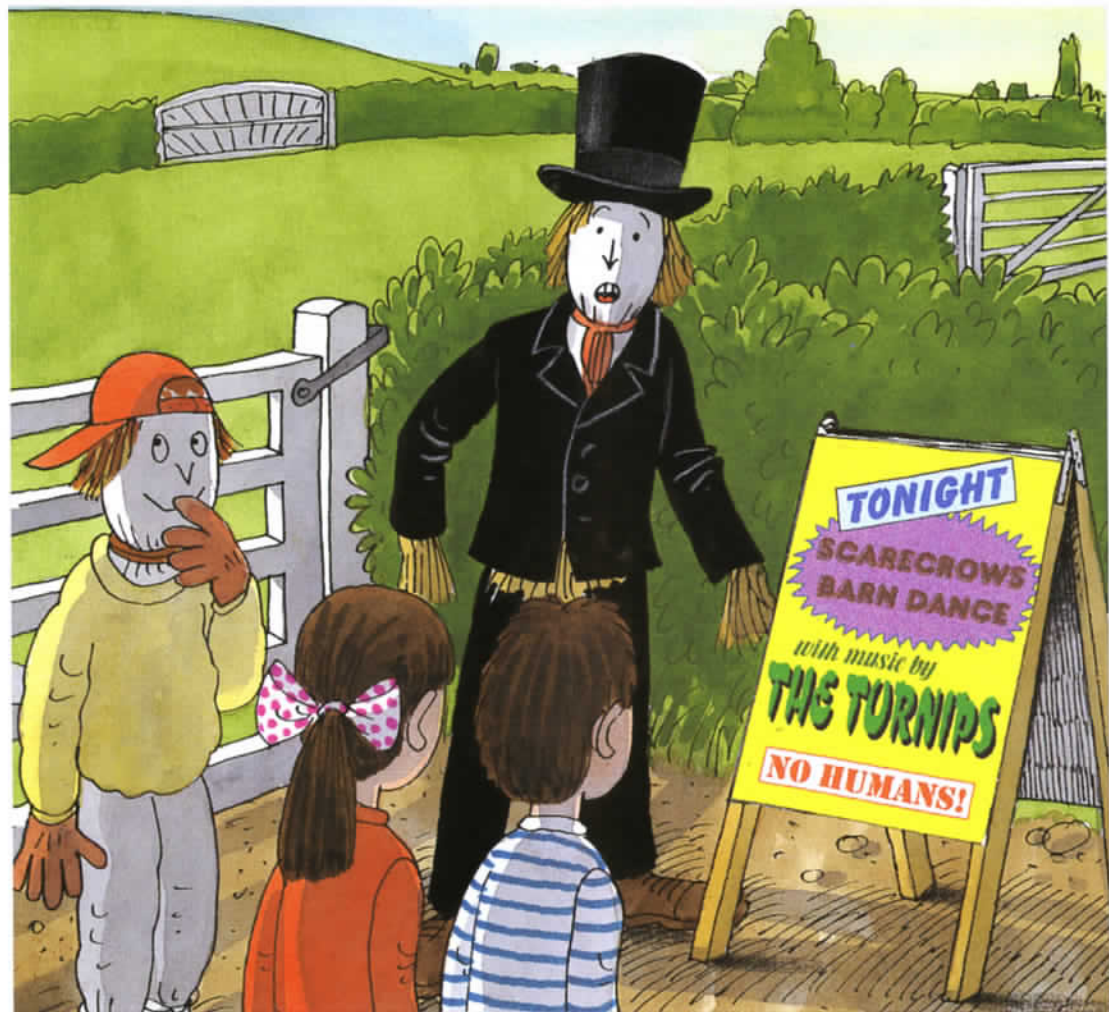


A scarecrow pointed to a barn.  
“We’re going to the barn dance. You  
can come too.”



Then the scarecrows looked at Biff  
and Chip.  
“Oh dear! You can’t come.”



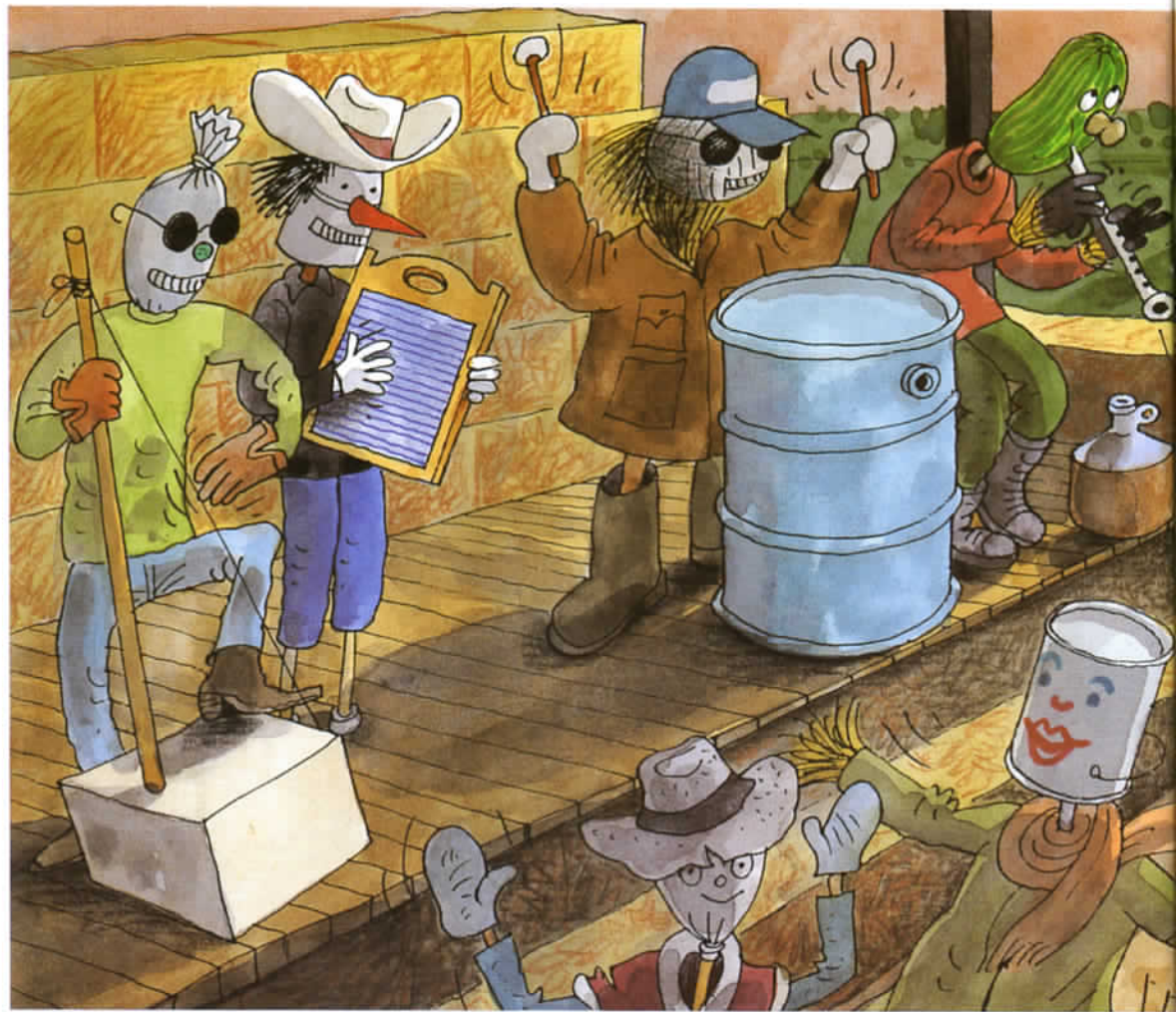


Biff and Chip weren't scarecrows.  
They couldn't go to the dance but  
Fred had an idea.



Fred made Biff and Chip into scarecrows. They went to the dance.





The band began to play.  
“Come on,” called Fred. “Let’s dance.”





Biff began to dance with the scarecrows.

“This is fun,” called Chip.



Biff danced with Fred. Chip danced with Biff. They all danced with the scarecrows.





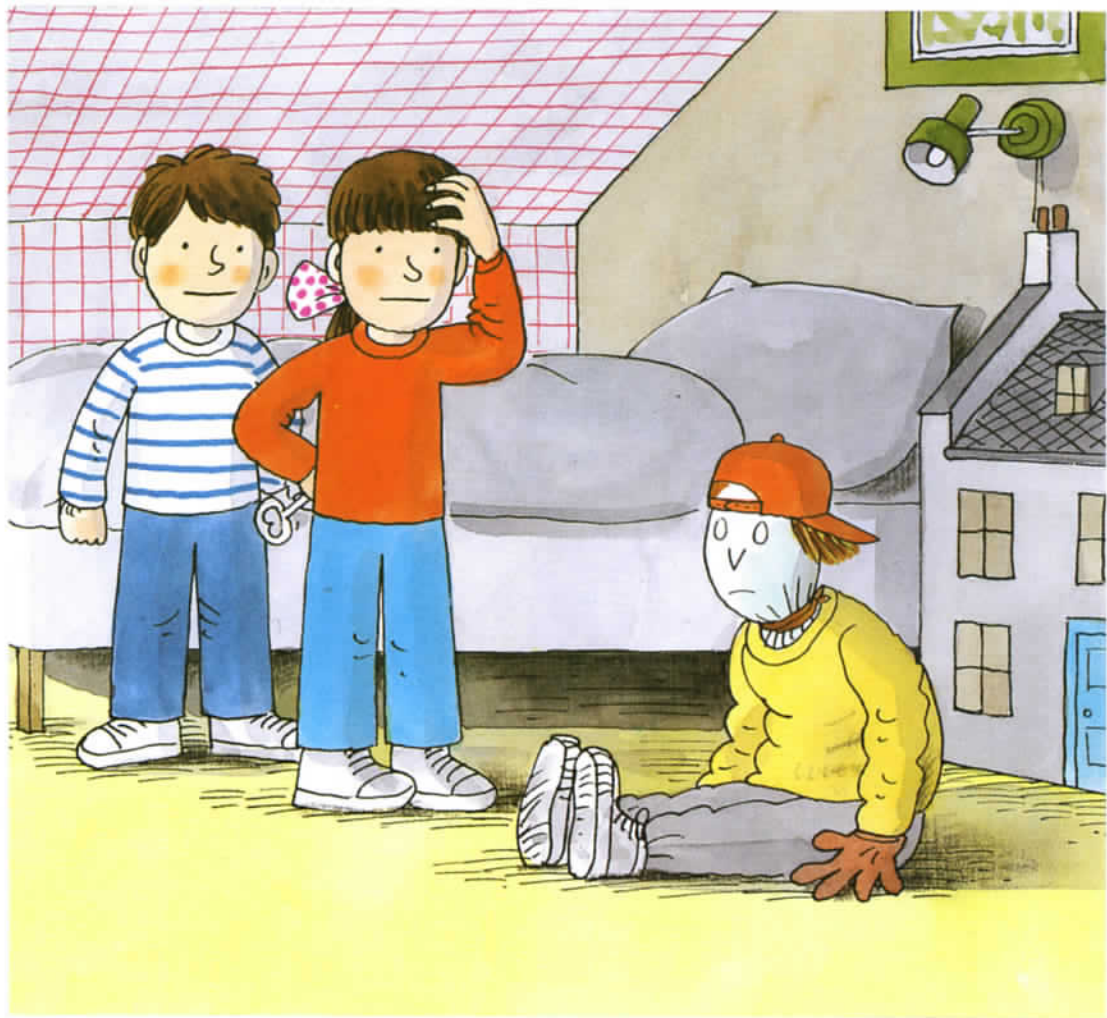
“See!” said Biff. “There are girl scarecrows. I told you so.”





Suddenly, the key glowed. It was time to go home.

“Oh no!” said Fred.



The magic took them home. Biff and Chip had an idea.



“I didn’t know there were girl scarecrows,” said Mum.

“Well, there are,” said Chip.



## ***Play a game***

### ***Scarecrow words***

*To help children look closely at words, which helps with learning to spell.*

- Remind children that 'scarecrows' is made up from 'scare' and 'crows'.
- Take turns to look for other words in 'scarecrows' (car, are, scar, care, row and crow).

## ***Other ideas***

*You can use these ideas straight away, or on another day.*

- Help each other retell the story. You can use the pictures or do it from memory.
- Plant some seeds. Make a cardboard scarecrow to keep away the birds.

# Scarecrows

Biff and Chip make a scarecrow.

This story practises these words:

an be boy but called came can't  
could(n't) girl good go had help(ed)  
home house jump(ed) little made  
make old put ran so some them  
then there time took want(ed) were  
what where with

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