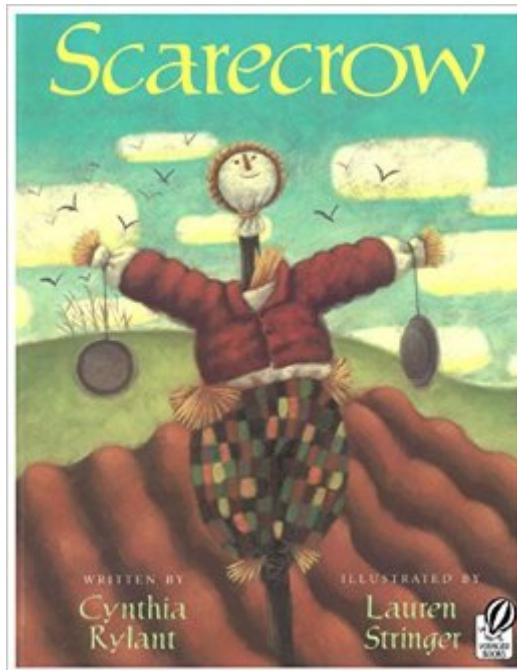


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# Scarecrow



## **Synopsis**

Scarecrows. They perch high above gardens and fields, with borrowed coats and button eyes and pie-pan hands that glint in the sun. What else is there to know about them? Perhaps more than we realize. Newbery Medalist Cynthia Rylant's rich and poignant story, powerfully illustrated by Lauren Stringer, will resonate deeply in the hearts of readers, who just might find themselves seeing the world in a whole new way.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: AD600L (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; 1 edition (April 1, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0152024808

ISBN-13: 978-0152024802

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.2 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 0.3 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (16 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #9,047 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #10 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > Farm Life #90 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature #173 in Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

From an adult viewpoint, I thought the book was "very nice", but my child fell in love with this book. I am rating it as he would rate it. After all, the book is intended for children. He came home from school one day to describe a wonderful story that their teacher had read to them. He said it was so special because the words were soft and pleasing. This is a first! He also loved the pictures. So, I couldn't resist getting him a copy for Christmas.

Title: Scarecrow  
Author: Cynthia Rylant  
Favorite Characters: scarecrow, birds  
This story tells about a scarecrows life from a scarecrow's point of view. It begins with the scarecrow being made in the spring and the garden is being planted. The birds love to hang around on his arms and talk all day.

He goes through summer, fall, and all he knows is that plants are growing up all around him. This book shows how a scarecrow's life is peaceful and relaxing. It also shows the seasons and what happens during those seasons. It's not every day you get to read about a scarecrow and its life, so I recommend you read this book.

I bought this book because I had purchased other scarecrow books. My students enjoyed the other scarecrow book, *The Scarecrow's Hat*, much better than this book. This book was not as engaging and actually a little hard to get through.

This story is a fresh perspective on a simple subject. The author sees scarecrows as neither scary nor effective in repelling crows. On the contrary, her scarecrow is a gentle and companionable creature who welcomes crows with, well, open arms. It is a lovely antidote if your little one has been frightened by an unfortunate Halloween experience. And the illustrations! Lovely, lovely. Rich fall colors, muted tones, dreamy softened edges. Buy this book if you are considering making over the paint scheme in your home. Copy the illustrator's color palette shamelessly.

Although I usually love Ms. Rylant's work (this is the 5th book by the author I have) and the illustrations are warm, colorful, and inspiring, I felt the story to be not very easy for children to understand and not as particularly uplifting as some of her other works. I was a little disappointed but will continue to read it to my children as they age and see if they catch on.

My 2.5 year old loves this book - he may not get the whole underlying meaning but he likes the pictures, seeing the mice, flowers and rain. And beyond that, I adore reading this to him. It's so heartwarming and sweet. Will buy this for the Moms I know to read to their little ones :)

We are old friends of Cynthia Rylant's work -- her "Henry and Mudge" early readers left us in stitches, and we all love "Poppleton." "Scarecrow," while beautiful, is not much of a story. Just watching the seasons change. There's a place for watching the seasons change, but it seems a shame to use illustrations as high-quality as these to illustrate... not much action. It's a peaceful story, but it seems like a missed opportunity.

Would not buy it again. The pictures are pretty, but the story was too long, too complicated for young children. They quit listening after the first two pages and I had to make up a simple story as I

turned the pages.

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