Dorothy walked along the road. It was made of yellow bricks. When she had gone some miles she needed to rest. She climbed to the top of the fence beside the road and sat down. Her dog, Toto, was also tired. He lay down on the ground by the fence. There was a large cornfield on the other side of the fence and in the field there was a Scarecrow.

Dorothy gazed at the Scarecrow. Its head was a small sack stuffed with straw. Its face was painted on the sack. It had an old, pointed blue hat on its head. On its body it wore a blue suit of faded clothes which had also been stuffed with straw. On the feet were some old boots. The Scarecrow was tied to a tall pole. It was there to scare the birds and stop them from eating the ripe corn.

While Dorothy was looking at the painted face of the Scarecrow, she was surprised to see one of the eyes slowly wink at her. She thought she must have imagined it. Then the Scarecrow nodded its head to her in a friendly way. Dorothy climbed down from the fence and walked up to it. Toto ran around the pole and barked.
‘You didn’t just speak, did you?’ asked the girl, in wonder.

‘Certainly,’ answered the Scarecrow. ‘How do you do?’

‘I’m pretty well, thank you,’ replied Dorothy politely. ‘How do you do?’

‘I’m bored,’ said the Scarecrow, ‘it is very dull being stuck up here night and day to scare away crows.’

‘Can’t you get down?’ asked Dorothy.

‘No. This pole is stuck up my back. Please help me get down.’

Dorothy reached up both arms and lifted the Scarecrow off the pole. He was quite light because he was only stuffed with straw. She set him down on the ground.

‘Thank you very much,’ said the Scarecrow. ‘I feel much better.’

Dorothy was so surprised to hear a straw man speak.

The Scarecrow stretched and yawned. ‘Who are you?’ asked the Scarecrow. ‘And where are you going?’

‘My name is Dorothy,’ said the girl, ‘and I am going to the Emerald City. I’m going to ask the Great Oz to send me back home to Kansas.’

‘Where is the Emerald City?’ said the Scarecrow. ‘And who is Oz?’

‘Why, don’t you know?’ she replied, in surprise.

‘No, indeed. I don’t know anything. You see, I am stuffed with straw, so I have no brains at all,’ he answered sadly.
'Oh,' said Dorothy, 'I'm sorry for you.'

'Do you think,' he asked, 'if I go to the Emerald City with you, that Oz would give me some brains?'

'I don't know,' she replied, 'Come to the Emerald City with me and Toto. You can ask the Great Oz for a brain.'

'What if he doesn't give me one?'

'You should try anyway,' said Dorothy. 'You have nothing to lose.'

'That is true,' said the Scarecrow. 'You see, I don't mind my legs and arms and body being stuffed, because I cannot get hurt. If anyone treads on my toes or sticks a pin into me, it doesn't matter because I can't feel it.'

Dorothy listened carefully and nodded. She was amazed to see the Scarecrow walking and talking.

'But I do not want people to call me a fool, and if my head stays stuffed with straw instead of with brains, as yours is, how am I ever to know anything?'

'I understand how you feel,' said the little girl, who was truly sorry for him. 'If you will come with me, I'll ask Oz to do all he can for you.'

'Thank you,' he answered gratefully.

Dorothy, Toto and the Scarecrow walked to the fence. They climbed over it and started walking along the yellow brick road towards the Emerald City.

Toto sniffed around the straw man. He growled as if he suspected there might be a nest of rats in the straw. He was behaving in an unfriendly way because he did not know the Scarecrow.

'Don't mind Toto,' said Dorothy to her new friend. 'He never bites.'

'Oh, I'm not afraid,' replied the Scarecrow. 'He can't hurt the straw.'

'Toto, be nice!' said Dorothy to her dog and bent down to pat him. Then she picked up her basket and they began walking again.
'Do let me carry that basket for you,' she said. 'I shall not mind it, for I can't get tired,' said the Scarecrow. 'I'll tell you a secret,' he continued as he walked along. 'There is only one thing in the world I am afraid of.'

'What is that?' asked Dorothy. 'Is it the farmer who made you?'

'No,' answered the Scarecrow; 'it's a lighted match.'

(Adapted from The Wizard Of Oz by L. Frank Baum)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

L. Frank Baum (1856–1919) was an American author. Before he started writing books for children, Baum enjoyed acting and writing for the stage and then worked as a journalist and in business. The L. in his name stands for Lyman but Baum hated this name and tried to be known as Frank. His most well-known book is The Wizard of Oz. It was so popular that he wrote thirteen more books about Oz and, after his death, other writers continued the series.

WORDS TO KNOW

gazed  looked at something steadily, thinking about it or admiring it

grateful  thankful

ripe  ready to eat or pick

Scarecrow  a human-shaped figure, often made by stuffing straw into clothes, that is used to scare away birds from crops
1. Answer the following questions.
   a. What is the road made out of?
   b. Where is Dorothy going?
   c. What is Dorothy’s pet called and what type of creature is he?
   d. Why is the Scarecrow in the field?
   e. What does Dorothy do to help the Scarecrow?
   f. What does the Scarecrow do to help Dorothy?
   g. What did the Scarecrow want to ask the Wizard of Oz for?

   These questions are more difficult. Discuss them first.
   h. How do we know that the Scarecrow is kind and polite?
   i. Can you explain why the Scarecrow is afraid of a lighted match?
   j. The Scarecrow says that he doesn’t have a brain. Is it possible to walk and talk without a brain?

2. Which of these sentences are true and which are not true?
   a. The Scarecrow never gets tired.
   b. The Scarecrow is frightened of the farmer.
   c. The Wizard of Oz lives in the Diamond city.
   d. Dorothy has a dog called Coco.
   e. The Scarecrow is wearing a blue hat.
   f. The Scarecrow was stuck up on a pole.
   g. At first, Toto does not like the Scarecrow.

3. Answer the questions about this line from the story.
   ‘I understand how you feel,’ said the little girl, who was truly sorry for him.
   a. Who is the little girl?
   b. To whom was the girl saying this?
   c. Why does she feel sorry for him?
   d. What happened next?
WORKING WITH WORDS

1. Can you find these words in the story? The letters are not in the correct order.
   a. FEDS TUF       b. CROWS RACE       c. LAME RED
   d. FIZZ ROW A DO  e. COLD FINER       f. GULLET FRAY

2. Which word in each list is not spelt correctly?
   a. friendly, field, freedom, freshly, fryed
   b. escape, discover, inspect, escuse, accident
   c. desided, dismayed, displayed, destroyed, deserted
   d. quickly, queue, quitely, queen, question

3. Try to find these words in the story.
   a. This keeps an area closed off or protected. Usually made of wood.
   b. Something worn on the head to keep one warm or to keep the sun off.
   c. A thin piece of metal with a sharp point at one end and a round head at the other.
   d. A container used for holding things—often made of interwoven strips of wire or cane.
   e. These rodents look like large mice with long tails and pointed snouts.
   f. The organ of the body in the skull. It controls movements, sensations and thoughts.

LEARNING ABOUT LANGUAGE

In Book 2 you learnt about nouns, adjectives and verbs. Do you remember what you learnt about nouns?

A noun is the name of something.

Example: The girl sat on the fence.

The underlined words are nouns. They are things.

1. Write out these sentences in your notebook in the correct order.
   a. The man took a note from his pocket and gave it to him.
   b. The taxi went off down the road.
   c. A taxi arrived and the man got in.
   d. He was sitting on a bench, waiting for a bus.
   e. The driver asked him for some money.
   f. The bus did not come.

2. Now underline all the nouns in the sentences that you just wrote down.
LISTENING AND SPEAKING

In the story Dorothy says: ‘You didn’t just speak, did you?’ She makes a question by adding a question tag to a statement.

We have not got anything to lose, have we?

1. Work in pairs and complete the following by matching the statements with the correct question tags.

   **Incomplete statements**
   - It’s not yours,
   - They have met you before,
   - Let us see whether he is in,
   - You are in the team,
   - They are very bright,
   - It has been stolen,
   - Don’t tell anyone,
   - I think this is a good idea,
   - (seek agreement)

   **Question tags**
   - shall we?
   - aren’t they?
   - will you?
   - is it?
   - aren’t you?
   - don’t you?
   - haven’t they?
   - hasn’t it?

2. You will hear some statements. Listen carefully, then add a question tag.

COMPOSITION

What do Dorothy and the Scarecrow say to the Great Oz when they meet him?

Talk about how they could ask politely for what they want. Then write out a short conversation.