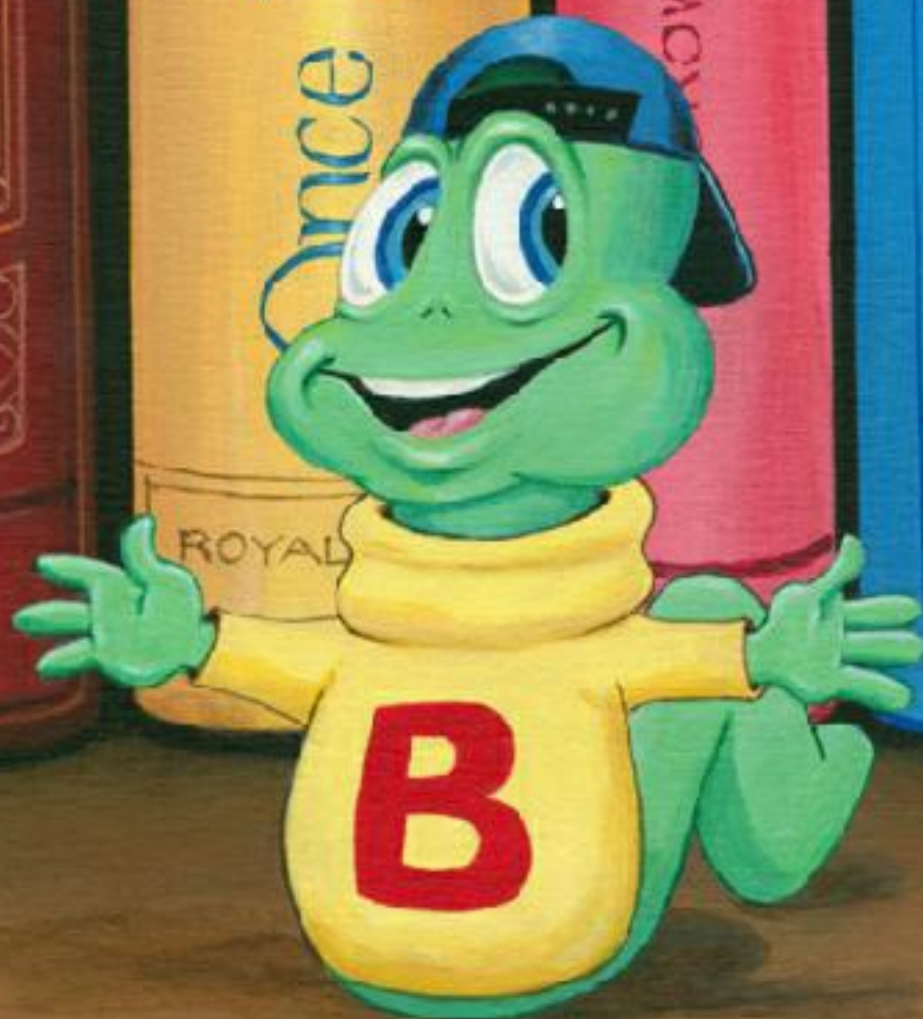


The Adventures of

BARNABY BOOKWORM



Written & Illustrated by

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For Sophia



There was a library in the little town of Centerville which was home to a family of Bookworms. Momma Bookworm's name was Louisa May and Papa Bookworm's name was George. They lived on the shelf between "Hi" and "Lo" and were expecting their first baby Bookworm very soon!

When their baby was born, they named him Barnaby. They were so proud of him. Like all the other bookworm children who lived in the library, he was soon crawling among the books, climbing, hiding, and just having fun. Barnaby was a happy bookworm and he loved the library. There were so many books and he couldn't wait to learn how to read every one of them!



When the time came, Barnaby was ready for Bookworm school. Every day, the little bookworms gathered in the Learning Section of the library. Barnaby loved the school and wanted to learn everything he could. He had many friends but his best friend was Lewis. Barnaby and Lewis sat next to each other in class and they went home together after school. Lewis was doing very well in school, but Barnaby wasn't, even though he studied very hard.



Lewis tried to assure Barnaby that he would do well in class if he just kept studying, but the other bookworms teased Barnaby because his grades were so low. When the teacher handed him his report card, he was so discouraged that he threw it off the bookcase shelf! He wandered off, thinking about what his parents would say when they saw his poor grades. He went from shelf to shelf, barely paying attention. Soon he had climbed down from the "Lo" shelf right down to the "No" shelf and then to the "Zy" shelf and onto the very floor of the library itself!

Barnaby wandered across the library floor, his head down as he thought to himself, "My parents will be so disappointed in me." Before he knew it, he had wandered right out of the library, down the stairs, and onto the sidewalk. Barnaby was confused, frightened and lost! He looked around but didn't know where he was! He tried to find his way back to the library, but no matter where he turned, nothing seemed familiar. He couldn't remember how to get back! The sidewalk was filled with people walking and scurrying about! He was nearly stepped on, so he hurried across the concrete sidewalk as fast as he could and leaped into the tall grass and kept going! Stopping to catch his breath, he leaned against a tree. This tree rose high into the air just like the

bookshelves in his library home!

He climbed as fast as he could and he finally reached a branch where he stopped to rest! As he was resting, he heard a flapping sound! He turned and to his surprise, there was a large Crow flying right towards him! He had learned about Crows in school and knew they were big trouble!



He raced along the branch, hurrying to get away from the large bird. Looking around, he saw an apple on the branch and went towards it as fast as he could! Just as the Crow swooped in to snatch him, Barnaby dove into a hole in the apple and escaped! He stayed there in the apple being very quiet, hoping the bird would leave. He waited for what seemed like hours. Frightened, lonely and tired, Barnaby closed his eyes and fell fast asleep.

The next morning, a man was walking to his office and happened to pass the apple tree. He plucked an apple to have with his lunch later that day. Barnaby felt the apple shake and shudder. It felt like he was falling! The apple was plucked from the tree by a kindly Optometrist, an eye doctor named Will Seemore, who put the apple into his lunch box to take to work.

When Dr. Seemore arrived at his office, he put his lunchbox onto a shelf and went about his daily routine. Barnaby had no idea where he was and he remained quiet, hoping he was in no danger.

At noon, Dr. Seemore opened his lunchbox to eat his sandwich. When he finished his sandwich, he picked up the apple. He took it to the sink and washed it very carefully. Barnaby was bouncing around and getting wet! He stuck his head out of the hole and was startled to see a large mouth opening wide in front of him!

Barnaby yelled "STOP!" The doctor was so surprised! "Who are you and what are you doing in my apple?" asked the doctor. Nervously, Barnaby replied: "My name is Barnaby and I hid in this apple because a Crow tried to eat me!" "Well," said the Doctor, "I don't think it was a good hiding spot because I almost ate you too!" "I'm glad you didn't" said Barnaby, and the doctor agreed!

Barnaby told Dr. Seemore all about his friend Lewis, his problems at school, and how he had accidentally left the safety of his home at the library. Dr. Seemore listened very carefully and soon realized the nature of Barnaby's problem.

Barnaby could not see the pictures and letters like the other bookworms because his eyesight wasn't perfect. He needed glasses to correct his vision. Barnaby was getting tired. He yawned and stretched. The Doctor made a comfortable bed for Barnaby using a small box and part of a paper towel as a blanket. He told little Barnaby to rest and he would try to help him after a short nap.



While Barnaby slept, Dr. Seemore made a very special, very small pair of glasses for him. When he woke up, Dr. Seemore said "Try these on." Barnaby asked "What is that?" "They are reading glasses." said Dr. Seemore. "Many people have trouble seeing clearly and when that happens they come to me for glasses. I believe these glasses will help you in school.

Barnaby put the glasses on and was amazed! All of a sudden he could see everything so clearly! What a difference it made! Barnaby was anxious to tell his parents and to show his classmates that he was just as smart as they were! But how would he ever get back to the Library? He missed his home and his parents and his best friend Lewis. Dr. Seemore said "I can take you back to the library. In fact, we can go there right now!" "Thank you Dr. Seemore" said Barnaby. And off they went to the library!

Dr. Seemore carried Barnaby back to the library in his little box and arrived there to find Barnaby's mom and dad frantically searching for him!

Dr. Seemore placed the little box on the shelf between "Hi" and "Lo" and Barnaby popped out to see his mom and dad. They were excited to see him but were quite angry that he had just run off. "Don't ever do that again Barnaby.

You frightened us!" his mom said.

Barnaby explained how he had wandered away, got lost and hid from a Crow. "Mom, I know what I did was wrong, but this is Doctor Seemore, he's an Optometrist, and he made these glasses for me. Now I can see better and I know I can do better in school!"

Barnaby's mom and dad thanked Dr. Seemore for getting their little Barnaby home safely. Barnaby said "I can never thank you enough Dr. Seemore." Dr. Seemore said "You're welcome Barnaby" and waved good-bye as he left the library.

Barnaby turned to his mom and dad and said "I ll never leave the library again without your permission. It was wrong and very dangerous. It's good to be back home. I love you both!"



The next day in school, Lewis was happy to see Barnaby! "Where were

you Barnaby?" asked Lewis. "It's a long story Lewis and all I can say is it's good to be back home!" Barnaby put the glasses on and said "Now I can see just as well as you can!" Lewis was surprised when he saw the glasses but Barnaby seemed to like them so it was OK with him! The other bookworm kids were surprised when Barnaby started getting high grades on his tests! He was glad to have his new glasses and he soon graduated with the highest honors! Barnaby's parents were pleased for him and he was the voted the smartest bookworm in the whole library!

"Now" Barnaby thought, "With my glasses and a library filled with wonderful books to read and enjoy, I can have many great adventures! I wonder what fun I can have in the History section!"

The End for now!



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