

Level
M

Dog's Big Bark



Written and Illustrated by Perry Scope



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The Dog Who Barked

Charlie was a dog who loved to bark. He could bark all day and all night. In fact, that's what he did. If someone made a noise, Charlie barked. If a leaf blew across his face, Charlie barked.



Charlie thought he was doing a great job **protecting** the farm. But the animals on the farm did not think so. They hated how noisy he was. His barking was so loud that it was hard to hear each other. And Charlie even kept the other animals awake at night!

The animals were getting ready for bed. Cassie the cow was tired from a long day. "I'm so sleepy," she yawned.

"Me too," said Hanna the horse.

The animals were falling asleep when they heard a loud bark.



“There goes Charlie again,”

Cassie moaned sleepily.

“What is he barking at this time?” Stan the sheep asked.

“The tree’s shadow looks like a person wearing a hat,” said Cassie.

“It’s not a person! It’s just a shadow! You don’t need to bark!” Stan yelled. But Charlie kept barking.



Hanna sighed. “I hope—”

BARK! BARK!

Hanna tried again. “I hope
he doesn’t—”

BARK! BARK! BARK!

Hanna waited before trying
to speak again. Charlie was
quiet long enough for her to
say, “I hope he doesn’t do
this all night.”



But, of course, Charlie barked most of the night. Cassie, Stan, and Hanna woke up the next morning. Stan let out a big yawn. Hanna blinked heavily. And Cassie lay down a lot longer than she usually did in the mornings.

“I don’t know about you guys, but I did not sleep well,” Stan said.

“Me neither. But I guess there’s nothing we can do about it,” Cassie sighed.

“Well, I might have some ideas to help,” Hanna grinned.



“What kind of ideas do you have?” asked Cassie. “How can they help Charlie stop making so much noise?”

“He is a dog. That’s what they do,” said Stan.

“Charlie barks and howls more than any dog I’ve ever met. We just need to teach him a lesson or two,” said Hanna.

The animals gathered around, and Hanna told them her ideas. They all agreed to try to get Charlie to stop being so noisy.



Teaching Charlie a Lesson

Later that day, Charlie started to bark again. But this time, the animals knew what to do. The chickens came out of the henhouse and ran toward Charlie. Charlie barked at them.

But when he saw that they didn't stop, he ran away.



Cassie, Stan, and Hanna
watched from the barn.
“It’s working!” Hanna yelled
to the chickens. “Keep going!”
The chickens chased Charlie
all the way down the road.
Charlie’s loud bark sounded
much quieter from far away.
The animals cheered.



The next morning, Charlie did not bark at all. The animals were sure they'd gotten him to be quiet for good.

Then, Stan, Cassie, and Hanna were by the pond enjoying the sun.

Charlie was sitting under the big willow tree. Suddenly, he started to howl.

"He's back at it," whined Stan.

"Time to ask Bruce to do his part!" cried Hanna.



Cassie walked over to Bruce
the bull.

“Hello there, Cassie,” said
Bruce. “Is it my turn to try
to make Charlie be quiet?”

“Yep! The other plan didn’t
work too well. Maybe you
can help,” said Cassie.

Bruce could see Charlie.
He was standing close to
the pond.

Bruce walked over slowly.
He did not want Charlie
to see him.



Bruce got closer and closer to Charlie. Charlie had taken a break from barking and howling to drink water from the pond. That's when it happened. Bruce picked up his pace and ran toward Charlie. Charlie turned around and saw Bruce coming for him. Charlie barked.

But it was too late.

SPLASH!

Bruce used his head to push Charlie into the pond.



Charlie swam out of the pond, dripping wet. He looked over at the other animals. Stan and Bruce were **giggling**. The chickens and Hanna were laughing loudly. Charlie tucked his tail between his legs and sadly walked away toward the tree. Cassie watched Charlie walk away.

“He looks so sad,” she told the others.

“Who cares? It’s finally quiet!” cried Hanna.

Cassie liked how quiet it was. But she did not like seeing Charlie so sad.



Henhouse Hero

For the next few days,
Charlie was very quiet. He
did not howl or bark once.
He spent his days slowly
walking around the farm with
his tail **drooping** behind him.
He did nothing but lie around
and watch the other animals
have fun.



One night, there was a loud cry from the henhouse.

“Help! A snake!” yelled one of the hens. The other hens started to yell for help.

“Our eggs! Don’t let it get our eggs!”

None of the animals knew what to do.

“Does anyone know how to get rid of a snake?” Hanna cried out.

“I know who can help!”

Cassie said as she ran off.

Everyone heard a loud and brave sound.

BARK! BARK! BARK!



Charlie dashed into the henhouse. The farmer heard Charlie and ran outside. Before the animals knew it, the farmer came out from the henhouse, holding the snake.

“Good boy, Charlie. Way to save the day!” beamed the farmer.

“I guess being loud isn’t always a bad thing,” said Hanna. “We’re happy you’re here to protect us, Charlie.” Charlie wagged his tail. From then on, he knew when to be quiet and when to be loud.



Glossary

beamed—smiled big

dashed—ran in a hurry

drooping—bending or hanging low

giggling—laughing

protecting—keeping safe

Charlie is a dog who loves to bark. But he barks so much that the other farm animals decide to teach him a lesson. What will happen when the farm animals need Charlie to protect them?

Lexile Measure

Kindergarten	A-D	BRL-230L	
Grade 1	E-J	200L-550L	
Grade 2	K-M	420L-795L	500L

