

"Benny and Clara's Halloween Mischief"

It was the night of Halloween, and the moon hung high, casting a silvery glow over Maplewood Farm. Benny, a playful pig with a knack for mischief, snorted excitedly as he looked at the barnyard. Beside him, Clara, the gentle and thoughtful cow, stood calmly chewing on a mouthful of hay.

"Come on, Clara!" Benny oinked, his small tail twitching with excitement. "It's Halloween! Let's do something fun for once, instead of just watching from the fence!"

Clara's large brown eyes looked down at him thoughtfully. "What are you up to, Benny?" she asked in her slow, melodic voice. "I hope it's not another one of your pranks."

Benny grinned, showing his small, white teeth. "No pranks, I promise! But I was thinking... what if we visited the other animals tonight and played some tricks? Nothing too serious—just some Halloween fun!"

Clara sighed but smiled. She knew Benny always meant well, even if his tricks sometimes went a little too far. "Alright, but we have to be careful. I don't want anyone getting upset."

With that, the two friends set off under the glowing moonlight, their shadows long and eerie across the farmyard. Their first stop was at the chicken coop, where Mrs. Hen and her brood of chicks were roosting.

Benny cleared his throat, putting on his best "ghostly" voice. "Ooooh, whooo dares to sleep in my coop?"

Mrs. Hen squawked and flapped her wings in surprise. "Who's there?!" she cried, feathers flying. Her chicks peeped and huddled close to her.

Clara stepped forward, feeling a bit guilty. "It's just us, Mrs. Hen. Benny was trying to spook you."

Mrs. Hen glared down at Benny, who had the grace to look sheepish. "That's not very nice, Benny," she clucked. "We've got little ones here, you know."

“Sorry, Mrs. Hen,” Benny apologized, his ears drooping. “I didn’t mean to scare you that much.”

Clara patted Benny gently with her hoof. “Let’s try something less spooky,” she suggested softly.

Next, they wandered over to the sheep pen, where Oliver, a woolly ram with a love for storytelling, was regaling his fellow sheep with tales of werewolves and haunted meadows.

“...and just as the moon reached its peak, the creature howled—Awooo!” Oliver bleated dramatically.

“Boo!” Benny shouted, jumping out from behind the hay bales.

Oliver bleated in fright, leaping back and nearly knocking over a bucket of water. “Benny! You scared the wool right off me!” he gasped.

Clara frowned at Benny, but before she could scold him, Oliver chuckled. “Well, that was a good one, I’ll give you that! But be careful, Benny. Not everyone likes surprises.”

The pig nodded, a bit chastened. “I guess I’m not very good at this Halloween thing.”

Clara nuzzled him gently. “You’re just excited. Let’s go visit Mr. Tom Turkey and see what he’s up to.”

They found Mr. Tom Turkey, the proudest bird on the farm, near the cornfield, fluffing up his feathers and practicing his strut.

“Mr. Tom, what are you doing out here?” Clara called out.

“Why, my dear, I am preparing for my grand entrance!” Mr. Tom gobbled, his tail feathers spreading like a fan. “I’m going to show those silly humans that turkeys can be just as majestic as peacocks! It’s all about presence.”

Benny snickered. "Maybe I should help you practice your 'boo-tiful' entrance!"

Mr. Tom blinked at him, confused. "What do you mean, practice?"

Before Benny could pull another trick, Clara intervened. "We're just wishing you a Happy Halloween, Mr. Tom," she said hastily. "You look wonderful."

Mr. Tom preened, clearly pleased. "Well, thank you, Clara! At least someone appreciates true elegance!"

As they made their way to the pumpkin patch, Benny kicked a small stone moodily. "Maybe I'm not cut out for Halloween tricks," he muttered.

Clara nudged him gently. "You don't have to be spooky to have fun on Halloween, Benny. Maybe we should try doing something nice instead?"

Benny's ears perked up. "Like what?"

Clara thought for a moment, then brightened. "I know! Why don't we surprise everyone by decorating the barn with some of these pumpkins? It'll be a treat, not a trick."

Benny grinned, his excitement returning. "Yeah! And we can make pumpkin lanterns!"

They worked together under the moonlight, gathering small pumpkins from the patch and carefully carving funny faces into each one. Benny squealed with delight as he added a little pig snout to one, and Clara made one with big, floppy cow ears. They placed the pumpkins around the barnyard, lighting them up with small candles they found in the old shed.

As the night wore on, the animals began to gather, drawn by the soft glow of the pumpkin lanterns. Mrs. Hen clucked approvingly, Oliver and the sheep bleated happily, and Mr. Tom even gave a few appreciative gobbles.

“Wow, Benny, Clara, this is beautiful!” Mrs. Hen exclaimed, her chicks peeping excitedly.

Oliver nodded. “A great surprise—no scares, just a lovely Halloween treat.”

Mr. Tom puffed out his chest. “This is the kind of elegance I’ve been talking about! Marvelous!”

Benny looked around at the smiling faces of his friends and felt a warm glow in his chest. “I guess Halloween doesn’t have to be about tricks,” he said thoughtfully. “It can be about making everyone happy, too.”

Clara smiled, her big eyes gentle. “Exactly, Benny. You just needed to find your own way of celebrating.”

The animals gathered around, sharing stories, laughing, and enjoying the soft glow of the pumpkins. As the night deepened and the barnyard was filled with the sounds of happy chatter, Benny turned to Clara.

“Thanks, Clara,” he whispered. “I think this is the best Halloween ever.”

Clara nuzzled him gently. “Happy Halloween, Benny.”

And under the bright, twinkling stars, Maplewood Farm shone with a different kind of Halloween magic—a magic made of friendship, kindness, and the joy of bringing a smile to others.

****Lesson:**** The story teaches that Halloween, while often associated with tricks and frights, can also be a time to bring joy to others. True fun comes from making people happy, not from scaring them. Benny learns that sometimes the best surprises are the ones that make everyone smile.