



Name: _____

Why Spinner Weaves Her Web

Long ago, in a lush green world, there lived a kind-hearted spider named Spinner. Spinner had a special gift: from her body, she could pull shimmering, silken thread. But in those days, the threads were short and weak, good only for tying two leaves together or for a spiderling to hold onto.

Spinner spent her days wandering, searching for her purpose. She watched the bees buzzing from flower to flower, gathering pollen. She saw the ants marching in a line, carrying food to their hill.

"I wish I had an important job like that," Spinner sighed. "What good is my silk if it cannot help anyone?"

One evening, a terrible storm blew through the forest. The wind howled and the rain fell in sheets. Spinner, who was sheltering under a large leaf, heard a tiny, frantic cry. It was a family of ladybugs, huddled on a branch, being battered by the wind.

"Help!" cried the smallest ladybug. "The wind is going to blow us away!"

Spinner knew she had to act. She quickly began to spin. She anchored her silk to the branch and wove it back and forth, over and under, creating a strong, tight wall. She worked all through the storm, her eight legs moving in a blur. By the time the storm passed, she had woven a perfect, silken tent that protected the shivering ladybugs.

The ladybugs were so grateful. "You saved us!" they cheered. "Your silk is a marvel!"

The next day, Spinner noticed her friend, a young frog, looking very unhappy. A cloud of pesky gnats buzzed around his head, and he couldn't catch them all. "They never leave me alone," the frog croaked miserably.

Remembering her success from the night before, Spinner had an idea. "I will make you a trap!" she said.

She spun a different kind of structure this time. She wove a beautiful, wheel-shaped net between two reeds. It was delicate but strong, and wonderfully sticky. Soon, the gnats flew right into it and were caught. The frog could finally enjoy the sunshine in peace.

Word of Spinner's cleverness spread throughout the forest. The creatures now saw her not as a wanderer, but as a master builder, a protector, and a helper.

The Great Spirit of the Forest saw this too and was pleased. "Spinner," boomed the Spirit, "you have found the purpose of your gift. You use your silk to help others and to provide for yourself. From this day forward, all spiders shall know your skill. They will spin webs to create safe homes, to catch their food, and to remind the world that even the smallest creature has an important role."

And so, from that day on, every spider spins its own unique web. Some are sheets, some are funnels, and some are beautiful orbs that glisten with morning dew. They are all following the example of the first spider, Spinner, who taught the world why spiders weave.





Name: _____

1. At the beginning of the story, what was Spinner's silk like?

- a) Strong and sticky
- b) Short and weak
- c) Colorful and shiny
- d) It didn't exist yet.

2. Why did Spinner first weave a silken tent?

- a) To make a bridge across a stream
- a) To catch food for a frog
- b) To protect ladybugs from a storm
- c) To practice for a contest

3. How did Spinner's feelings about herself change from the beginning to the end of the story?

- a) She went from feeling happy to feeling confused.
- b) She went from sad to scared.
- c) She went from bored to angry.
- d) She went from feeling useless to feeling helpful.

4. Name the two problems Spinner solved with her silk in the story.

5. How was the web Spinner made for the frog DIFFERENT from the tent she made for the ladybugs?
