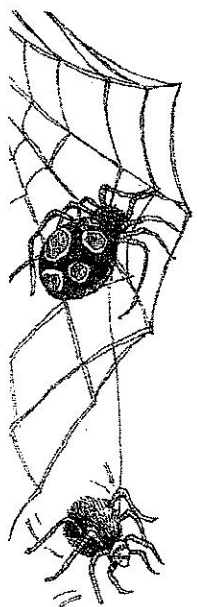


Thursday (6)

Creepy Spiders



Many people are a little afraid of spiders. This makes sense because some spiders can hurt people. But most spiders are safe. It is important to know that.

Ann Blaine was not just a little afraid of spiders. Every time she saw a spider, Ann screamed. She cried. She fell down. She was that scared!

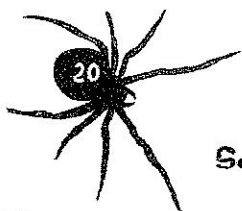
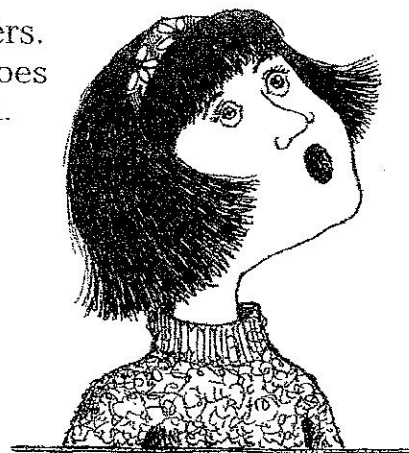
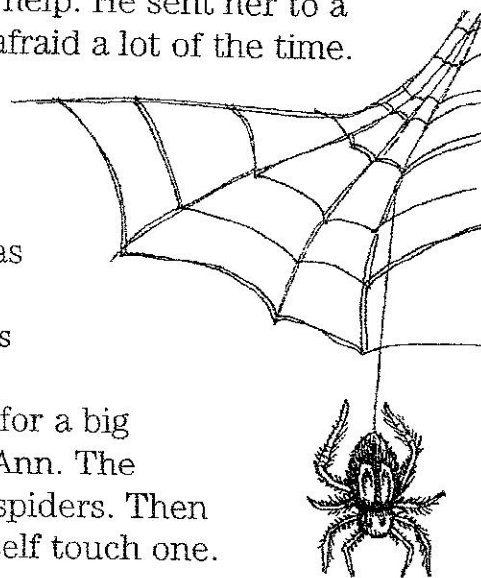
If the spider was in her house, she had to leave. She would stay at a friend's house until her family caught the spider! Once she did not come home for a month!

Ann went to a doctor. Ann's doctor told her that lots of people are afraid of things. He said she could get help. He sent her to a special doctor who helps people who are afraid a lot of the time.

First, Ann had to look at pictures of spiders. To her surprise, she slowly got used to them. Next, Ann had to look at videos of spiders. Then, the doctor gave Ann's family a big, toy spider. Their job was to hide it in the house. Poor Ann! Coming across the toy spider in strange places was not fun!

Finally, the doctor said Ann was ready for a big test. He put some real spiders in front of Ann. The spiders were in jars. They were very tiny spiders. Then the spiders were let loose. Ann made herself touch one. She even let one run on her hand.

Ann is still a little afraid of spiders. But if she finds one at home, she does not have to move away for a month. She can catch the spider in a jar and put it outside—all by herself.



1. Why do you think Ann Blaine went to a special doctor?

2. Why do you think the doctor made Ann look at pictures of spiders?

3. Why do you think Ann was ready for the big test at the end of the story?

- ☐ A She could put spiders in jars.
☐ B She could hide toy spiders in her house.
☐ C She could let spiders run on her hand.
☐ D She wasn't afraid of toy spiders anymore.

4. Do you think the special doctor helped Ann? Tell why or why not.

5. Think of something else a person might be afraid of.
How would you help this person if you were a doctor?
How would you get the person used to the thing so it did not seem so scary?

