



## TEACHING NOTES

# Spiro

Title

Spiro

Author

Anna McGregor

Publication

July 2024

Category

Picture book

ISBN 9781761381010



## PLOT

A hilarious tale of one spider's determined search for a decent meal from award winning author and illustrator Anna McGregor.

*Spiro's formula for spidery success:*

*11% hunger to succeed  
(or actual hunger)*

*34% trying again and again ...  
and again!*

*53% giving it another shot*

*And 2% spider silk.*



## THEMES

Creepy crawlies

Perseverance

Resilience

Playful joy

Lessons in nature

Onomatopoeia

Wordplay



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## ABOUT THE CREATOR



Anna McGregor is a creator of modern, quirky and conceptual stories with humour and heart. Since beginning her career as a graphic designer, Anna is now emerging as an award-winning picture book author/illustrator.

Anna's driving purpose is to delight and entertain children through timeless storytelling. With them, she explores evergreen issues through a child's lens and allows them to interpret the stories in their own way and draw their own conclusions.

## DISCUSSION AND ACTIVITIES

### Before reading

- \* Look at the front cover of the book. What do you think the story might be about?
- \* Other than the spider, there are three different bugs on the back cover. What insects do you think they are? Why?
- \* On the back of the book, the blurb says that the spider is searching for a decent meal. Do you know what spiders eat? What do you think would be a decent meal for the spider? Are there any hints on the book cover?
- \* One of the ingredients in Spiro's spidery success is 'spider silk'. What is that? What would it be used for?

### After reading

- \* Spiro tries over and over again to catch his meal. What is something that you've done where you had to try over and over again? Why do you think it was important that you kept trying?
- \* At the end of the book, the bugs come swarming to Spiro's web. Why do they all suddenly come then?
- \* Spiro eats other insects. This means that he is a predator. Do you know of any other creatures that are predators? What are they? What do they eat?
- \* When Spiro's web snaps, it goes 'TWANG', and Gary's lawnmower goes 'BRUMMM BRUMMM'. These are called onomatopoeias – words that sound like the noise they describe. We use lots of onomatopoeias in our everyday lives. Brainstorm some!

## ACTIVITY

### Drawing activity: a meal fit for a very special spider

In the book, Spiro gets to eat a stink bug, a fly, and a moth – but spiders eat so many other bugs! Draw some of your favourite insects (bonus points for scientific accuracy!) that Spiro could hunt down for a meal.

## ACTIVITY

### Biology: thinking about the food chain

Spiro eats bugs – but he almost gets eaten, too! Think about Spiro's place in the food chain. What do the things that he eats eat? What do the things that would eat him eat? Write them out in order.

