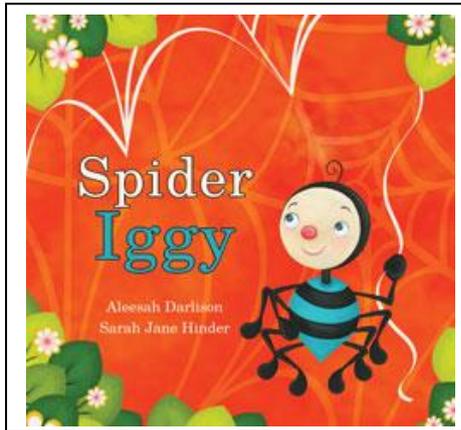




## Teacher's Notes and Activities

Prepared by Wombat Books



## Spider Iggy

By Aleesah Darlison

Illustrated by Sarah Jane Hinder

ISBN: 978-1-925139-33-4

Recommended Retail: \$24.99

Recommended Age: 3-7 year olds

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## Story Summary

In the cold, grey city no one ever seems to notice Spider Iggy. As he spins his web into beautiful and intricate designs, he dreams of a faraway land filled with colour and light. Determined to leave his 'ho-hum' life behind, brave Iggy sets out on an adventure to find the one place he can finally fit in. Home.

*Spider Iggy* is a picture book aimed at ages 3–7 years. Although Iggy is lonely and lives in the grey, unfriendly city, he remains positive about life. During his journey he makes new friends and eventually comes to a place where he discovers he truly belongs. A place where he is made welcome and where he feels loved and safe.

## Key Learning Areas

Key learning areas focus on kindness, courage, acceptance, creativity, relationships and love. Suitable topics for Early Stage 1, Stage 1 and Stage 2 school students.

## Values Addressed/Themes

The theme of *Spider Iggy* is about finding your place in life and finding your home in the world. The story will resonate with young children as they identify with the feelings of being small and helpless that Iggy has to face, as well as his desire to find a place where he can be loved and accepted.

Spiders are well-recognised and appear in all parts of the world. Many people fear them, often for no reason at all. From childhood, we all become familiar with the nursery rhyme *Little Miss Muffet*. But in *Spider Iggy*, the spider is the protagonist, the main character, the hero. Iggy is a sweet, gentle creature, but also brave and adventurous. He wants to find a place to fit in, a place where he can be loved and accepted for who he is. By using a spider as a main character, the author has allowed readers to view spiders – and Spider Iggy's situation – in a new way. Readers will empathise with brave Iggy because, just like him, we all want to be loved. We all want to feel safe.

To make Spider Iggy even more appealing, the book features bright, vibrant and sweet illustrations by artist Sarah Jane Hinder. So Spider Iggy not only has a gentle and friendly personality, he is also attractive and appealing to young children.

The book is designed to be read to or with young children in pre-school, library and primary school situations. It makes an excellent learning tool, teaching social behaviours, courage, acceptance and kindness – all crucial aspects of a child's mental development.

## Extended Reading / Additional Resources

### 1. Books

Students can have more fun reading other fictional spider books. To learn more about the amazing world of spiders, there are also many non-fiction texts which can be used in the classroom. Below are a sample of suitable books:

*The Very Busy Spider* by Eric Carle (fiction, picture book)

*Diary of a Spider* by Doreen Cronin (fiction, picture book)

*AAAARRGGHH! Spider* by Lydia Monks (fiction, picture book)

*Sophie's Masterpiece* by Eileen Spinelli (fiction, picture book)

*Injured Spider Urgency Emergency* by Dosh Archer (fiction, picture book)

*Charlotte's Web* by EB White (fiction, novel)

*Spider-Man Comics* by Marvel

*Spider Opedia: Name that Spider* by Speedy Publishing LLC (non-fiction)

*Grow With Me Spider* by Valerie Bodden (non-fiction)

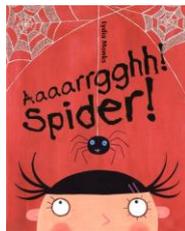
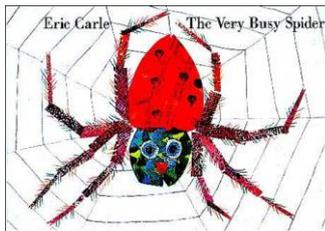
*What's it like to be a Spider?* by Jinny Johnson (non-fiction)

*Are You a Spider?* by Judy Allen (non-fiction)

*Spiders and How They Hunt* by Literacy World Non-Fiction series (non-fiction)

*Sneaky, Spinning Baby Spiders* by Sandra Markle (non-fiction)

*The Spectacular Spider Book* by Valerie Davies (non-fiction)



### 2. Internet

There are numerous websites that provide information about spiders:

The Find-A-Spider Guide [www.findaspider.org.au](http://www.findaspider.org.au)

Spider Identification – Dangerous – Venomous? [www.spider.com.au](http://www.spider.com.au)

How Spiders Work [www.animals.howstuffworks.com/arachnids/spider5.htm](http://www.animals.howstuffworks.com/arachnids/spider5.htm)

Australian Museum: Spider Webs [www.australianmuseum.net.au/spider-webs](http://www.australianmuseum.net.au/spider-webs)

Spider Activities at Kidzone <http://www.kidzone.ws/lw/spiders/activities-books.htm>

Carol Hurst's Children's Literature Site <http://www.carolhurst.com/subjects/insectsspiders.html>

### **Craft and Cooking Ideas:**

Craft and cooking are great ways for children to get hands-on with spiders. These activities are just for fun, to extend learning at pre-school or in the classroom or to celebrate Halloween or a themed Birthday Party.

Taste of Home Spider Cupcakes <http://www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/spider-cupcakes>

All Recipes Halloween Spider Cupcakes <http://goo.gl/hbJ4En>

McCormick Creepy Crawly Spider Cupcakes <http://goo.gl/xj7uco>

BBC Good Food Chocolate Spider Cookies <http://goo.gl/WwyGSD>

Hungry Happenings Spider Infested Chocolate Chip Cookies <http://goo.gl/MmVNHZ>

Spider Lolly Pops <http://goo.gl/iO5owv>

BBC Good Food Spider Nest Cakes <http://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/spider-nest-cakes>

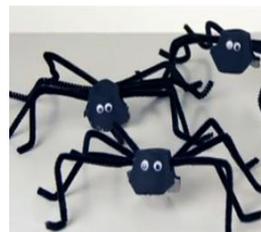
Kidzone Cute Egg Carton Spiders <http://goo.gl/xq1sN7>

Activity Village – Various Spider Crafts <http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/spider-crafts>

DLTK's Crafts for Kids <http://www.dltk-kids.com/crafts/insects/crafts-spiders.htm>

Enchanted Learning <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/spider/>

YouTube Video: How To Make A Paper Plate Spider <http://goo.gl/7wzOuQ>



### **3. Videos**

YouTube videos:

Video adaptation of Children's Book About Spiders <http://goo.gl/Lb6BaB>

All Things Animal: Spiders <http://goo.gl/C1kGgw>

Writing Spider Making Web <http://goo.gl/yFKz1V>

Spider Spinning Web Time Lapse <http://goo.gl/sJ8koF>

Incy Wincy Spider Nursery Rhyme by Chu Chu TV <http://goo.gl/EBrnx>

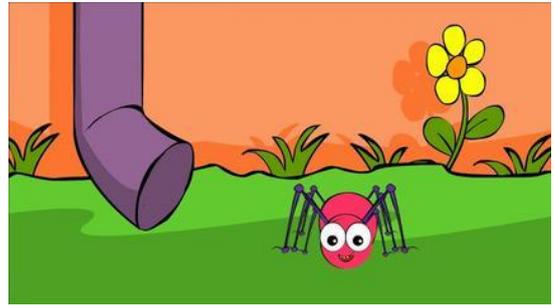
Little Miss Muffet <http://goo.gl/KQ3Ylg>

#### **4. Spider Nursery Rhymes**

Have fun in the classroom singing these classic songs. They are also available as videos on YouTube in various formats and styles.

##### **Incy Wincy Spider**

*Incy Wincy Spider climbed up the water spout  
Down came the rain and washed poor Incy out  
Out came the sun and dried up all the rain  
Then Incy Wincy Spider climbed up the spout again*



##### **Little Miss Muffet**

*Little Miss Muffet  
Sat on a tuffet,  
Eating her curds and whey.  
Along came a spider,  
Who sat down beside her  
And frightened Miss Muffet away!*



### About the Author – Aleesah Darlison



Aleesah Darlison writes picture books, chapter books and novels for children. Her books often feature animals and her story themes include courage, love, understanding, anti-bullying, self-belief, friendship and teamwork.

She has won several awards for her writing and has had numerous short stories, articles and book reviews published in anthologies, magazines and newspapers.

*Spider Iggy* is Aleesah's fifth picture book. Her other titles with Wombat Books are *Little Meerkat*, *Puggle's Problem* and *Little Good Wolf*. She is also working on a new picture book with Wombat due for release in 2016 called *Zoo Ball*, which is illustrated entirely by Australian school students.

Website: [www.aleesahdarlison.com](http://www.aleesahdarlison.com).

FB Page: [www.facebook.com/AleesahDarlisonFanPage](https://www.facebook.com/AleesahDarlisonFanPage)..

### About the Illustrator – Sarah Jane Hinder



Sarah received a BA Honours Degree in graphic design at Teesside University and then gained a PGCE in teaching art and design.

After several years of teaching she was involved in a car accident and decided to follow her dreams and become a freelance illustrator.

Working part time for a couple of years she plucked up the courage to quit teaching and become a full time freelance illustrator. Sarah has illustrated several picture books and also created illustrations for magazines, greeting cards, character designs for products and even life-size mascots.

*Spider Iggy* is Sarah Jane's first venture into hardcover picture books.

Sarah believes life is too short to just dream!

Website: [www.smogawoo.com](http://www.smogawoo.com)

FB Page: [www.facebook.com/SarahJaneHinder](https://www.facebook.com/SarahJaneHinder)

## READING

Have the teacher read the book out in class, making sure everyone can see the illustrations. Alternatively, students can take turns at reading each page out aloud.

1. Why was Spider Iggy lonely in the city?
2. Why do you think the other creatures ignore Spider Iggy?
3. What type of spider do you think Iggy might be?
4. Why do people seem afraid of Iggy?
5. How do you think Iggy feels about how people react to him?
6. How do you feel when you have friends around you?
7. What are some of the dangers Spider Iggy faces in the story?
8. What are some of the dangers spiders and insects face in real life?
9. What does Spider Iggy learn at the end of the story? What do readers learn at the end of the story?
10. How does Spider Iggy's life change by the end of the story?
11. Find words in the story that you don't know the meaning of. Try to work out the meaning of the words. Then look them up in a dictionary to find out if you were correct. Some words might be: intricate, swag and ferocious.



## WRITING

1. What was your favourite page in the story? Why?
2. Have you ever lived in a city before? Write down what it's like to live in the city.
3. Research about spiders and webs. Write a report on what you've learned and present it to class.
4. Write down five important facts about spiders.
5. Draw a picture of your home. Write down five special things about where you live.
6. Have you ever seen a spider before? Write a factual account about what happened.
7. What would you do if a spider came to visit you? Write a fictional story about meeting a spider or having one as a pet.

## ART

1. Look closely at the illustrations in the book. Which one is your favourite? Which colours are used in the picture?
2. Which colours are used to convey different moods in the story? Hint: look at the last page where Spider Iggy is sitting with Isabel. Compare it with the page where he is lost and alone in the forest.
3. Draw five different types of spiders. Make them as unusual and amazing and colourful as you like. Give each one a name.
4. Make a large drawing of your favourite spider. The class can pin up their pictures all around the room.
5. Draw a spider web. Can you make an unusual pattern in the web?



## EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

1. Organise a visit to your local museum to look at their spider display. Ask to speak to one of their spider experts for more information. Draw pictures of the spiders and take photos and videos. Present your findings to class.
2. Organise a visit to your local zoo, conservation or rainforest centre. Make sure you sit in on their Spider Keeper Talk if they have one. If you live in New South Wales, you could try the Australian Reptile Park's Spider World or Taronga Zoo.
3. Book into a video conference through DART Connections or via Skype with the author, Aleesah Darlison. Develop a list of questions you could ask Aleesah about *Spider Iggy*, why she wrote it and how the book was created.
4. Build a diorama of a forest scene and include spiders and spider webs. Use rocks, sand, sticks, leaves, cotton thread, cotton wool, paper and other materials.
5. Borrow some books from the school or community library about spiders (a list of spider books is included in these teaching notes). Learn all you can about spiders.
6. Make a chart of Australian spiders. Which ones are venomous? Which ones are harmless?
7. Borrow *Charlotte's Web* from the library. Read it at home or with the class.
8. Draw your own version of Spider Iggy on white cardboard. Colour him in. Glue on plastic eyes and pipe cleaners for legs. Make a display of all the Spider Iggys made by the class. Take a photograph and send it to the author, Aleesah Darlison, at [aleesahdarlison@yahoo.com](mailto:aleesahdarlison@yahoo.com) so she can display it on her website.



