

Spiders and Webs

PUPPET SHOW

Characters: Benjy Bear, Charlotte Spider, Rhonda Robin

Prop: suitcase

Benjy Bear

Aren't you excited about tomorrow's big celebration, Charlotte? I can hardly wait!

Charlotte Spider

What celebration, Benjy Bear? The news hasn't made it to my corner of the woods.

Bear

We're having a big party to thank the Earth Fairy for this wonderful season. All the animals of the woods are doing something special for her.

Spider

Great! What are the spiders doing?

Bear

Well, all the insects are going to fly in a big parade in the air!

Spider

Fly?! But spiders can't fly.

Bear

Oh my, you can't? I don't understand it. I thought all insects could fly!

Spider

Well, most insects can fly, but spiders aren't insects. Everyone thinks we are, but we belong to a different class all together. We're called arachnids.

Bear

I never knew that. I always thought you were insects.

Spider

No, no. We're really very different. Spiders have no antennae and no wings, and we have eight legs. Insects only have six legs.

Bear

Eight legs! Let's see if that's right. *[Bear counts to seven]*

Spider

No, no, Benjy. You missed one, I'm sure. Now count again.

Bear

OK, OK, but I could use some help. Will someone please help me count? *[all count to eight]* Goodness. Eight legs and no wings! You really are very different from insects. I don't know what you spiders are supposed to do. If you don't have any wings, you can't very well be in the air show.

Spider

You mean no one has come up with anything special for the spiders to do! *[whimpering]*

Bear

Well, uh . . .

Spider

Why does everyone forget about us spiders? *[crying]*

Bear

Now don't cry, Charlotte. It's not that we forgot about the spiders; we just thought you were insects. I'm sure we can think of something special for you spiders to do. What else can you tell me about spiders?

Spider

Well, most of us have eight eyes. How many animals do you know with eight eyes?

Bear

Eight eyes! I hope you never need glasses.

Spider

Well, it wouldn't matter so much if I did. I can always hunt for my food by feeling it.

Bear

Hunt for food by feeling it? But you must have to catch it before you feel it.

Spider

Oh, we do. We catch our food and we know we've caught it when we can feel it.

Bear

Charlotte, I'm confused! What **are** you talking about?

Spider

Many of us spiders spin a web – a sticky silk web. Mine is shaped like a wheel, but other spiders spin different designs. Then we sit and wait.

Bear

Wait? For what?

Spider

We wait for dinner time. When little insects like flies and moths fly into the web and get caught, we feel something moving. Then we rush out, wrap some silk around whatever is caught, and eat it.

Bear

Boy, you sure use a lot of silk. That must get expensive.

Spider

Expensive! Ha, ha, ha! We don't buy the silk, Benjy. We make it.

Bear

Spiders can make silk? Wow, I wish I were a spider!

Spider

But don't forget. If you were a spider, everyone would be calling you an insect. Oh, it's so depressing. I guess I'll just stay at home in my web during the big celebration. *[Spider walks off]*

Bear

Poor Charlotte! It's tough being a spider. *[Robin enters]*

Rhonda Robin

Oh, Benjy, I'm glad I found you. I need your advice.

Bear

What's the problem, Rhonda?

Robin

I've been trying to find someone to decorate the forest for our celebration, but everyone is too busy.

Bear

Decorate the forest? What kind of decorations do you want?

Robin

Oh, you know, we need some white doilies and lacy garlands to hang in the trees.

Bear

Gosh, I wonder where we're going to get doilies and lacy garlands. Maybe somebody could make them for us. But who? *[pause; hopefully audience will suggest Charlotte the Spider]* Charlotte Spider? Of course! The spiders could weave the decorations with their silk. It will solve our problem and make Charlotte so happy. The spiders will have something special to do for the big celebration.

Robin

What a great idea, Benjy. I'll go tell the Organizing Committee right now! *[Robin leaves; Spider re-enters carrying a suitcase]*

Bear

Charlotte, Charlotte, where are you going with that suitcase?

Spider

The spiders just had a meeting. We can't stand the thought of a big celebration in which we have no part. So we've decided to move on to another forest. No one here will even miss us spiders.

Bear

But Charlotte, you can't leave. We **will** miss you, and besides, we **do** need you spiders. The spiders must make the decorations for our celebration! We need beautiful white doilies and lacy garlands to hang in the trees. Can you do that in time for tomorrow's festivities?

Spider

Of course! We spiders often spend our evenings spinning silk. Tonight we'll all work on spinning and weaving decorations. We could even string glistening beads of dew on each strand! Oh, Benjy, thanks so much for thinking of us.

Bear

Oh, no need to thank me, Charlotte. I'm just happy you'll be here to help us celebrate.

Spider

Well, you've made a lot of spiders very happy. I'd better go tell the others, Benjy, and then get right to work. We'll want to make sure this celebration is one that the Earth Fairy will never forget. Bye, bye, Benjy.

Bear

Bye, Charlotte. See you at the grand celebration.