



The Tinsel Spiders

READ ALOUD GUIDE

Themes: Magic, Family, Unexpected Beauty

Book Brief: A magical Eastern European folktale about a grandmother who discovers that sometimes the most beautiful decorations come from unexpected places, and how spiders' webs became tinsel!

Author:
Storytime

Illustrator:
Ariane Delrieu

BEFORE READING

The Cover: Ask students to make a prediction about the story based on the cover and title.

The Pictures: Take a quick picture walk and ask students what they notice about the illustrations.

Prior Knowledge: Ask, "Have you ever noticed something beautiful in an unexpected place? What was it?" (Optional: Think, Pair, Share)

Vocabulary: Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#).

Purpose for Reading: "As we read, think about the main idea or message of this story. What does the grandmother learn about beauty and perfection?"



Think Aloud: "The grandmother is tired and doesn't finish decorating. But while she sleeps, spiders create something magical. The grandmother realizes that sometimes imperfection can create the most beautiful things."

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- What does the grandmother need to do to prepare?
- Why doesn't she finish decorating the tree?
- What happens overnight while she sleeps?
- Why does the grandmother decide to keep the cobwebs?
- How did tinsel become popular because of this story?

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: "What is the main idea or message of this story? What did the grandmother learn about beauty and decorations?"

Extending Our Thinking: Ask students, "This folktale explains how tinsel became popular. Why do you think people tell stories like this?" Connect the story to understanding that folktales explain things in magical ways. Have students think about other things that have interesting origin stories and discuss how folktales make ordinary things seem magical.

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- Explore 100 other free eBooks on Skybrary! Visit www.Skybrary.org to learn more.
- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.