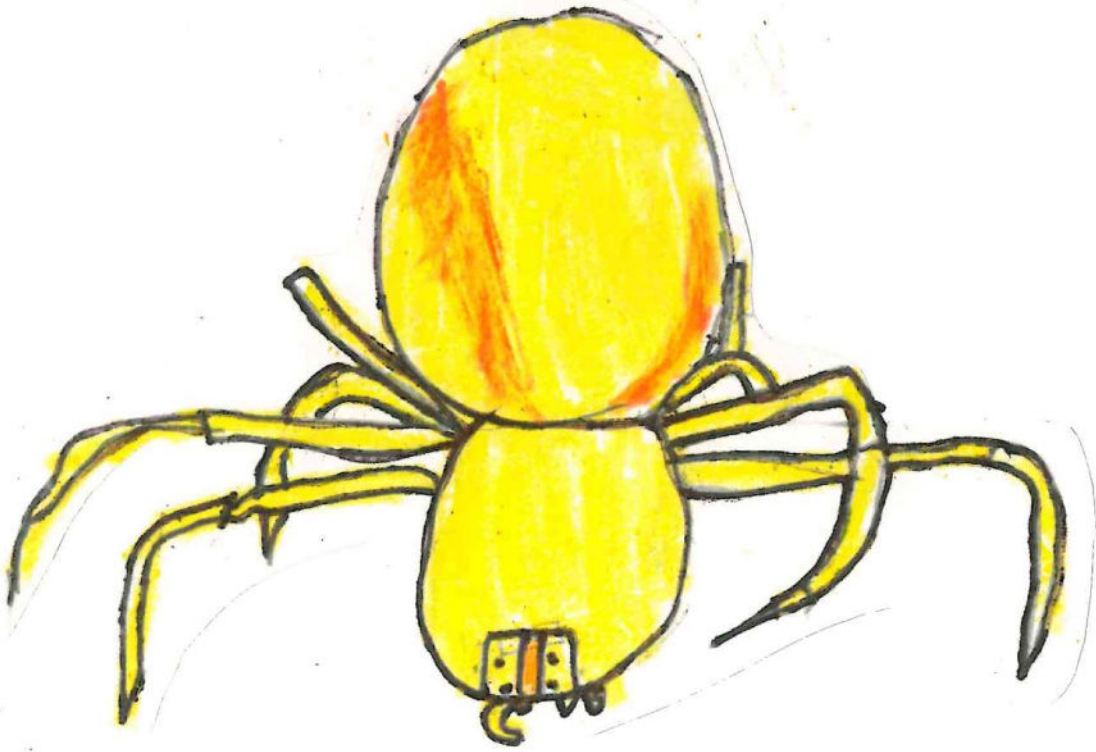


At the Arboretum

By: Rhys Kinney



It was morning and I asked my dad, "Can we go spider hunting?" He said, "Yes! Let's go to the Arboretum. It's a wide open space and there are spiders there." We got there and saw a Goldenrod Crab Spider that was smaller than a dime, walking in the grass. It was using its legs to catch lots of bugs.

We decided to name the spider Jake. He loved to jump around all day. His favorite place to jump was from flower to flower. He jumped like a cricket all morning long. We saw him use his eyes to find a bug and he never used a web to catch it.

Jake was a tricky spider because he would sit and wait for a bug to get close and then he would QUICKLY catch it. Jake loved living on his flower and he loved being a spider but suddenly we saw another spider starting to bother him. Jake was upset and he started to fight the other spider.

He told the other spider, "Get away, or I'll hurt you!" The other spider said, "Please don't hurt me." Jake said, "Okay, but stop being mean and bothering me. We wanted to take Jake home but we left him on his flower because we knew that's what was best for him.

Wolfy is Helpful

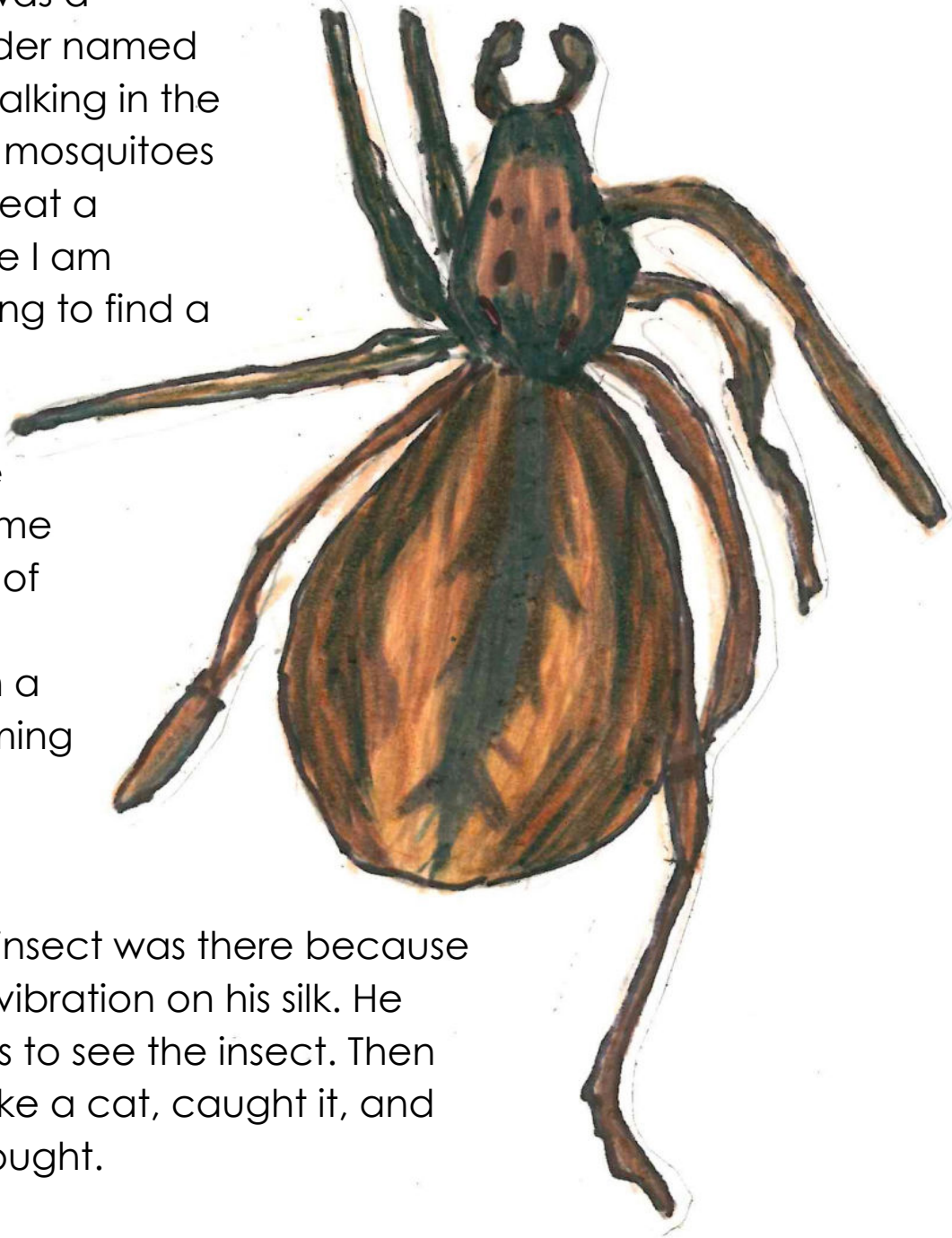
By: Nyles Mobley

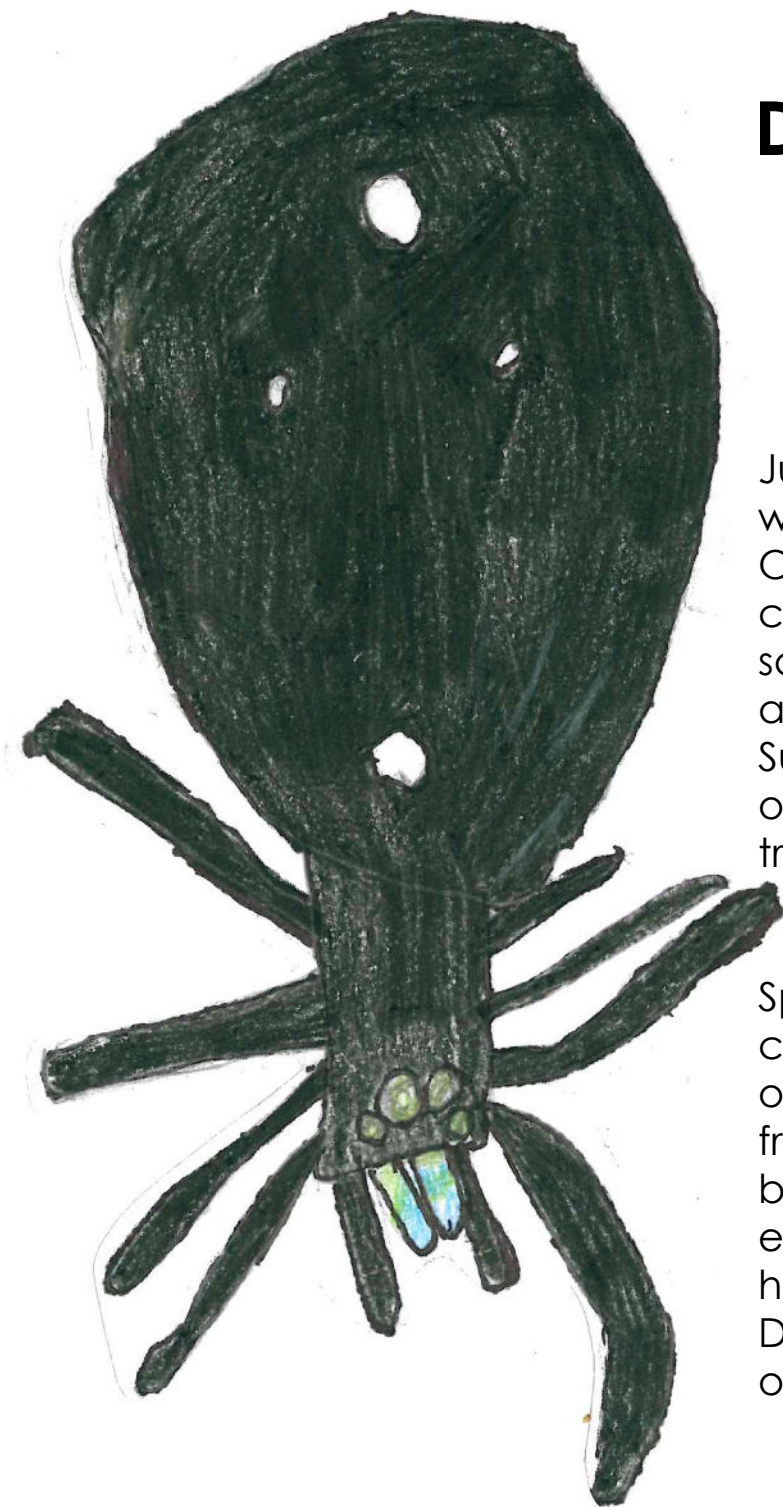
There once was a Carolina Wolf Spider named Wolfey. He was walking in the desert looking for mosquitoes to eat. "I want to eat a mosquito because I am hungry!!! I am going to find a mosquito."

So he started burrowing into the ground. He left some silk on the outside of his burrow so he would know when a mosquito was coming by. Wolfey felt an insect on his silk.

He knew the insect was there because he could feel the vibration on his silk. He used his eight eyes to see the insect. Then he snuck up to it like a cat, caught it, and ate it. Yum! He thought.

Then he wanted to get some mosquitoes for his family. After they ate them they all took a nap because they were so full from eating so many mosquitoes and insects. Wolfey's mom said, "Thank you for catching us some mosquitoes. You are such a helpful spider." Wolfey liked being helpful. He gave his mom a hug but it wasn't that big because he's only the size of a soda tab!





Darth the Protector

By: Henry Huyler

Once there was a Bold Jumping Spider and it's name was Darth. He lived in the future. One day a spider villain challenged Darth to a fight. Darth said no because he was only about the size of a dime. Suddenly he sensed that his owner and his friend were in trouble. Darth said, *I need to go.*

Darth, the Bold Jumping Spider, jumped into his self-driving car and raced to Henry, his owner, and Liam, his owner's friend. Darth has eyes that face backwards so he could see if the evil spider villain who challenged him to a fight was following him. Darth knew he needed to save his owner.

Once he arrived he saw Henry and Liam, who were swarmed by bees! Darth jumped onto the bees like a hawk and used his spinnerets to make a dragline and gather up all of the bees. He was going to throw the bees into his web retreat when he got home. Once Darth captured all of the bees and knew his owner and his owner's friend were ok he felt better.

Henry asked Darth, "Hey man, what are you going to do with all those bees?" Darth replied, "You know my wife just laid 200 orange eggs, so I'm preparing the food for my spiderlings." Liam said, "Hey man, you sort of look like a tarantula." Darth said, "Ha, I get that all of the time." Darth grabbed his bag of bees and hopped back into his self-driving car. He said, "Bye-bye Henry and Liam. I'll catch you later!" Henry and Liam both waved goodbye while yelling, "Thanks for saving our lives!!!!!!!"