

Spider in the bath

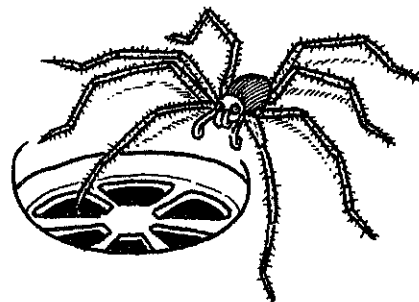
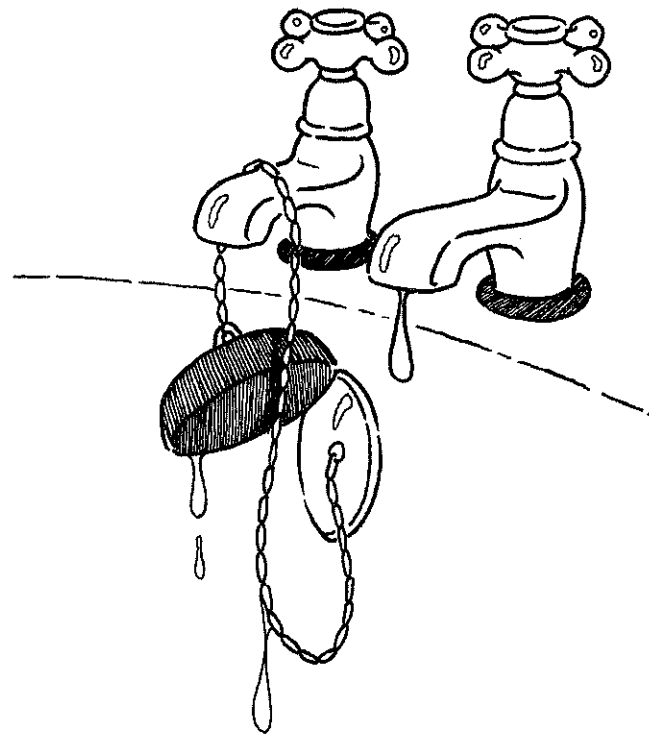
➡ Sometimes we are afraid of things for no good reason. They cannot harm us, yet still they frighten us. The speaker in this poem is not squeamish, but has one great, irrational fear.

I've picked up frogs,
And patted dogs,
Stroked the skin of snakes.
I've tickled cats,
Examined bats,
Fed the ducks and drakes.

I've chased fat hens,
Pushed sheep in pens,
Held chickens in my hand.
Been stung by bees
On both my knees,
Pulled crabs out of the sand.

I've watched a mole
Go down his hole,
Followed ants along a path.
So why am I
So frightened of
A spider in the bath?

Lynette Craig



Part 1

- 1 a) In the first verse, what does the speaker look at most closely?

1 mark

b) Which word in the poem helped you to answer? _____

1 mark

- 2 In verse 2, which action is **being done to** the person speaking?
(Explain what is happening and where.)

2 marks

- 3 a) Imagine that the poet writes another verse to this poem. It begins:

I've cuddled slugs / and played with . . .

Which word would fit to finish these two lines? (ring **one**)

1 mark

snails bugs worms mice

b) Explain why you chose this word. _____

1 mark

Part 2

- 4 Which creatures has the speaker tickled?

1 mark

- 5 What has the speaker done to sheep?

1 mark

- 6 a) Name **one** creature in the poem that lives or hides underground.

1 mark

b) Which words tell you that it lives or hides underground?

1 mark

- 7 Look at these drawings. Colour the **two** animals that are in the poem.

2 marks

