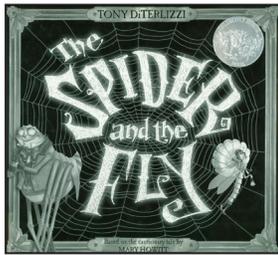




# Cruchley's Collection

Diana Cruchley is an award-winning educator and author, who has taught at elementary and secondary levels. Her workshops are practical, include detailed handouts, and are always enthusiastically received. Check her website, [dianacruchley.com](http://dianacruchley.com) for picture book teaching ideas, grade 4-8.

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## THE SPIDER AND THE FLY

Based on the original poem of the story of the fly who is flattered into stepping into the spider's web, this picture book is beautifully illustrated in black and white. The spooky Victorian house is the perfect setting for the tale.

Mary Howitt, Simon and Schuster, ©2002,  
ISBN978-0-689-85289-3

## THE MORAL OF THE STORY

Fables always have a moral. The rhyming moral of this story is "*And now, dear little children, who may this story read, To idle, silly, flattering words I pray you ne'er give heed; Unto an evil counselor, close heart and ear and eye, And take a lesson from this tale, of the Spider and the Fly.*" Be sure students know what that means. Do they agree that it is the moral of the story? What modern "schemer's webs" might there be?

- Internet fraud
- Internet predator
- Free "start up" drugs

## EXTREME WRITING/ PERSONAL WRITING

A springboard from a picture book to personal writing should include 3 topics if possible. Some ideas are:

- A time you felt cheated.
- A time when you were treated unfairly.
- Things that freak me out (a little).

## VICTORIAN VOCABULARY

Students might be amused by knowing the names that wealthy middle class Victorians gave to various rooms in their houses - most of which we either don't use now, or have changed their use.

## TRAGEDY

This is interesting because, unlike most picture books, this one has an unhappy ending, where our main character dies. Another unusual picture book in this way is the Chinese story of the origin of the blue willow pattern, titled *Blue Willow* (for teaching ideas see [dianacruchley.com](http://dianacruchley.com))

## A NON-AESOP FABLE

This is a fable not written by Aesop. What are the characteristics of a fable that demonstrate that this is one:

- Animal characters - behaving in their stereotypes
- A moral to the story
- Succinct
- Animals are anthropomorphized
- Frequently doesn't have a "happy ending"

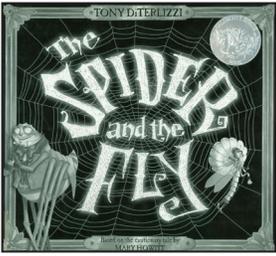
## A RHYMING FABLE

Here's a chance for students to tell a traditional Aesop fable in poetic form - rhyming couplets like this one...although less elaborate. It is much easier to tell a rhyming story that already exists, because it provides student rhymsters with a "sense of direction" for the story.



## MARY HOWITT, AUTHOR

Born in 1799, Mary lived until 1888 which would make her a Victorian writer. This book is set in a Victorian house, which is very appropriate. This is her most famous work, although she, and her husband, were prolific writers. She was the author or co-author of 110 books.



## The Spider and the Fly, page 2

# NAMES FOR ROOMS IN A VICTORIAN HOUSE



Parlour	a living room
Pantry	an area to store dry goods, food waiting to be served, and dishes
Den	an office area, usually used by the man of the house
Ballustrade	the rail on a stair where you lay your hand
Attic	beneath the roof; for storage
Box Room	a room specifically for storage
Cellar	a cool storage room, beneath the house; to keep root vegetables and smoked meat
Drawing Room	an entertaining area for guests to visit
Withdrawing Room	a room women “withdrew” to after dinner so that the men could smoke a cigar and have a brandy
Larder	food storage; room or cabinet
Utility Room	where appliances such as washing machines were used