

# Miss Spider's Tea Party

by David Kirk

Counting to twelve has never been so much fun! The brightly colored pictures and rhythmic story jump off the page and children will love to count all the bugs that are attending the tea party.



## Read

### Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *Who do you think would come to a tea party hosted by a spider?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder what kind of tea Miss Spider is pouring?

### During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

### Rare Words in *Miss Spider's Tea Party*

- lonely: feeling alone
- insects: small six-legged animal
- silken: made or consisting of silk
- timid: demonstrating a lack of courage
- beetles: hard-backed insect
- fireflies: night sleeping beetle that produces light
- dashed: to rush, with a quick purpose
- swaying: move gracefully, swing back and forth
- descending: go down, come nearer to the ground
- gloomy: murkily dark, creates a cheerless atmosphere
- alas: used to express sorrow or pity
- strode: walk with long steps
- brewed: make tea or coffee
- platoon: people or things working together
- bouquet: bunch of flowers
- dainty: refined in taste, delicate and pretty
- saucers: small circular dish
- gleamed: to shine brightly
- jagged: having sharp parts or points
- mortal: relating to death and fear
- dread: feel extremely frightened
- perched: a place or resting place
- cloak: a loose sleeveless outer garment
- frail: physically weak
- alarm: warning device
- centerpiece: an object placed in the middle of something as decoration
- reputation: the views that are generally about somebody or something
- hostess: woman entertaining guests

## After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What is Miss Spider setting up to do?
- How many beetles did she invite?
- Why didn't the fireflies stay?
- What did Miss Spider tap on the glass to get the bumblebees' attention?
- How many rubber bugs were there?
- What kind of tea did she brew for the six ants?
- What were the butterflies hiding in?
- How many cups did Miss Spider set for her tea party?
- How many moths did she try to invite?
- What did Miss Spider do after everyone flew away?
- Who did Miss Spider hear cough?
- What did she tie around the moth's neck to keep warm?
- How many bugs came to the tea party?
- What did they all eat and drink at the party?



**Do**

## Find the Rhyming Words

Re-read the story. Select several rhyming words and have the children name other rhyming words that are found in the story. For example on page 1, tea rhymes with me. They also could name other rhyming words that are not found in the story. For example, tea also rhymes with three, knee, key, etc.