



The Legend of the Spiders

A Christmas Story

It was a few days before Christmas and everyone was very busy at the farmhouse. The farmer was busy, seeing that his animals were all warm and well-fed. The children helped around the place, running errands and helping their mother to cook and clean. The farmer's wife was very busy with all the Christmas preparations. She knew that the whole house had to be cleaned, from the bottom to the top, before the celebrations began. She washed and polished and scrubbed and washed the floor.

Now, a family of spiders lived in the house. When the farmer's wife saw them, she swept them outside, into the cold and icy winter night. They had no choice but to go and live in the barn. From the barn, they watched the work going on, and wished that they could be inside to enjoy it all. On Christmas Eve, they watched as the Christmas tree was carried into the farmhouse. They crept to the window and peered in. They saw the family decorating the tree with candles and ornaments. How they longed to be indoors, so that they could explore the beautiful tree.



Soon, the family went to bed. The windows were shuttered and the great door locked and bolted. The spiders sat on the windowsill, in the bitter cold of the December night

Suddenly, beside them stood a child. He asked them what was wrong. They told him of their dearest wish. The child took them in his hand and opened the door. He placed them on the beautiful tree, so that they might explore its branches. All night long, the spiders roamed around the tree, and, in the morning, it was covered with their silvery webs. As dawn broke, they crept out again to their barn, satisfied. Imagine the surprise of the family on that Christmas morning. The child was, of course, the Christ Child, and from that day forth, we have put silver tinsel on our trees to remember the spiders who wanted to celebrate Christmas.



1. What tasks do you think the farmer might have to perform before he could enjoy Christmas?
2. What did his wife do?
3. How did the children help?
4. How did the farmer's wife treat the spiders? Where did they go to live?
5. What single thing did the spiders want to see most?
6. How did the family make sure the house was secure at bed-time?
7. Who let the spiders into the farmhouse?
8. Describe the feelings of the family on Christmas morning, when they saw the tree.
9. What tradition has followed from this legend?
10. Draw a picture from the story.

