



# Flora

## the Fly Saves the Spiders

by Regina Velázquez  
illustrated by Ken Gamage

**HOUGHTON MIFFLIN**



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BOSTON

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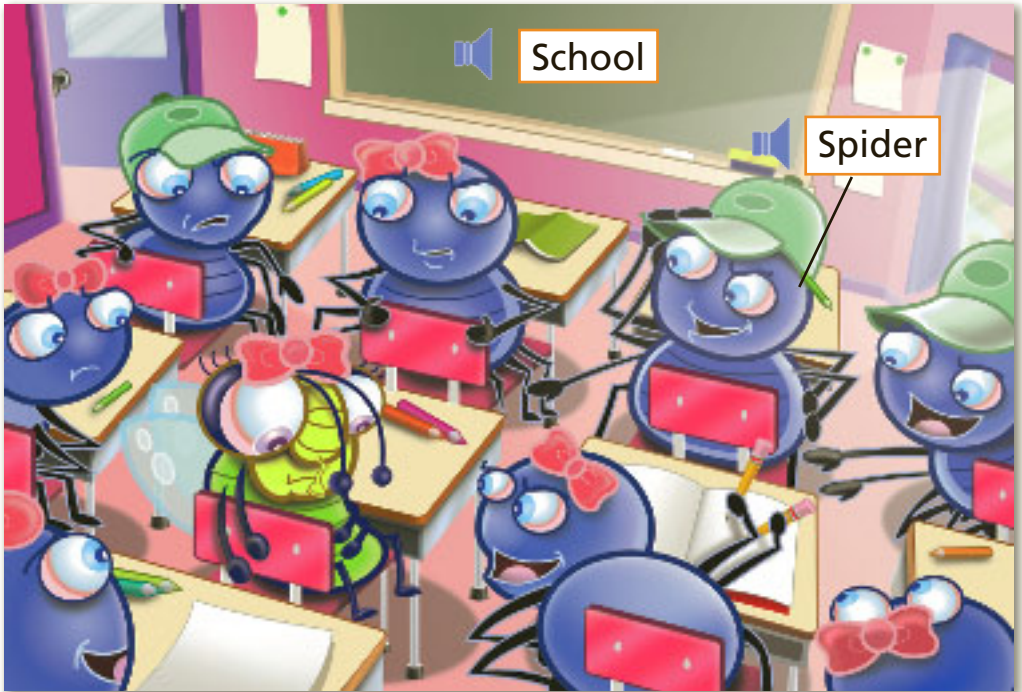
Wings



Ice cream

Flora was a fly. A fly is an **insect**. Insects have wings and six legs.

Flora liked ice cream. She liked her wings. She also loved to fly.



🔊 But Flora did not like school. She was the only insect at her school.

🔊 The other kids were spiders. Spiders have no wings and eight legs. The spiders laughed at Flora. They said “Ha, ha! You only have six legs!”

🔊 The spiders **judged** her, too. “Wings are silly!” Sammy said.

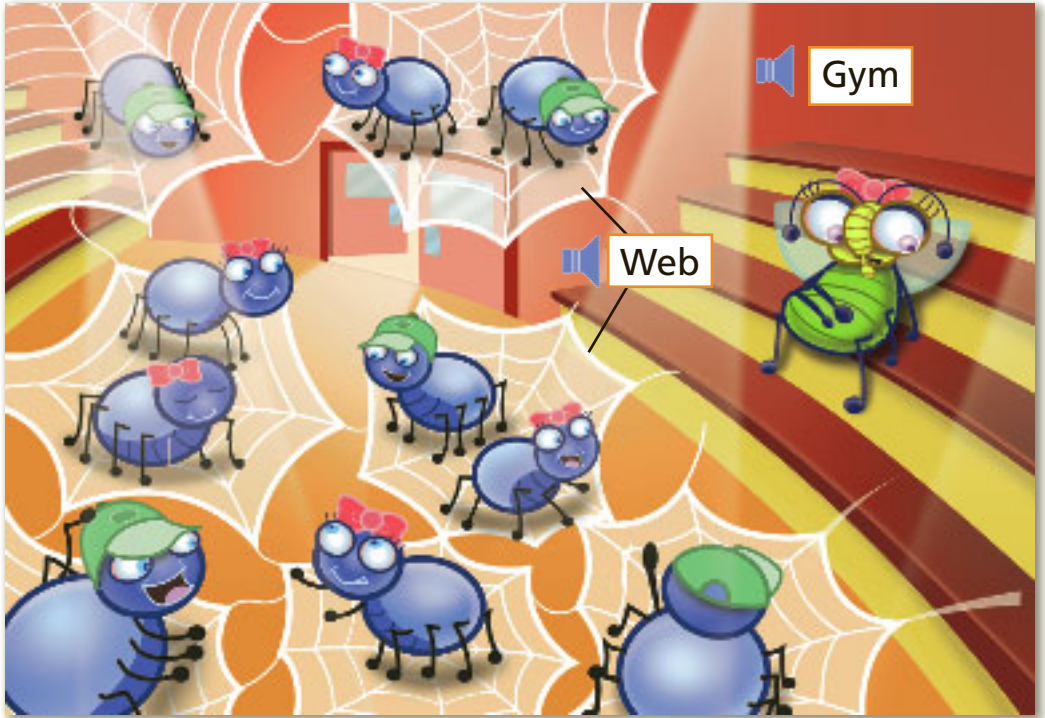
🔊 The spiders took Flora's book bag. They said Flora's lunch looked **rotten**. They pushed her away from the water fountain!

🔊 "Why don't they let me drink?" Flora asked. "The spiders are so mean!"



🔊 Book bag

🔊 Water fountain



🔊 In gym class, the spiders made spider webs. They made huge webs. They made very sticky webs.

🔊 Flora tried to be like the spiders. She tried to make a web, too. She tried and tried. But she could not make a web.

🔊 The other kids laughed. “You are silly! Flies can’t make webs!” they said.

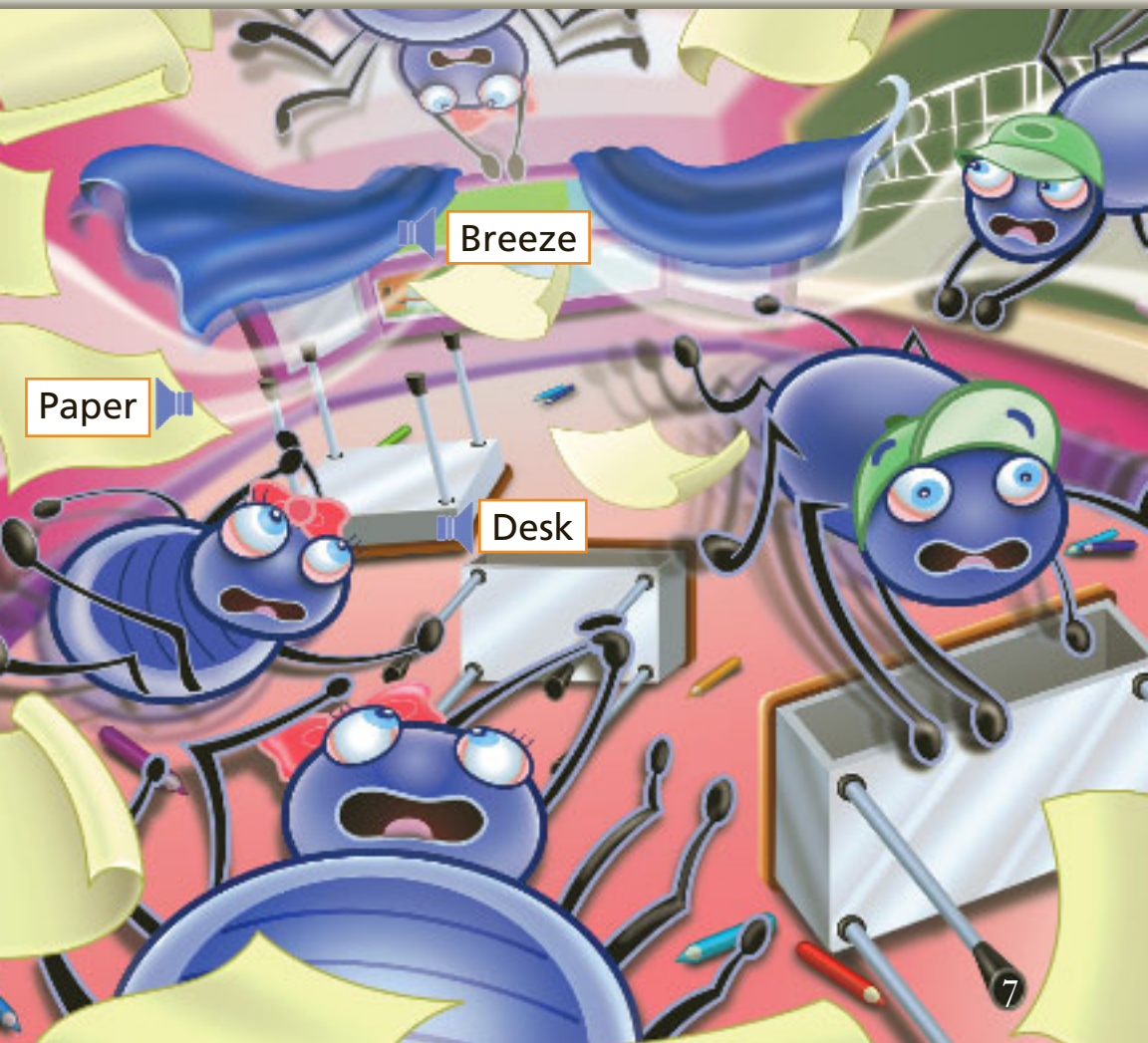


🔊 One day, Flora’s teacher wrote a new word on the board. It was *arthropod*. An arthropod is any kind of bug or crab. Spiders and flies are both arthropods.

🔊 Flora said, “See, a fly is the same as a spider.” But the other kids did not care.

One day, a strong breeze came into Flora's classroom. It scared everyone. It blew papers in the air. It made desks fall down.

Then, it took everyone out of the room!





🔊 The breeze took all the spiders out the window. It lifted them high up in the air.

🔊 The spiders landed in a tree. They could not go down the tree. It was too **dangerous**. The spiders were afraid. “Help!” Flora heard them **screaming**. “Help!”





- 🔊 The breeze took Flora away, too. But she was not afraid. She was not like the spiders. She could fly!
- 🔊 Flora flew to the tree. Flora took Sammy first. She put him on the ground.
- 🔊 “Wow,” Sammy said. “Your wings are not silly. They’re great! Thanks, Flora.”

Flora saved all the spiders. “Thank you, Flora!” the spiders said.

“It is good to be a fly,” she said.

“And it is great to have a fly who is a friend!” said Sammy. “Please play baseball with us!”



Baseball

# Responding



## TARGET SKILL

## Cause and Effect

Copy this chart. Name the causes for three events from the story *Flora the Fly Saves the Spiders*.

Cause	Effect
Flora could not make a web in gym class.	The spiders laughed at Flora.
?	It blew papers in the air.
?	The spiders screamed for help.
Flora put Sammy on the ground.	?



## Write About It

**Text to Self** Flora makes friends with the spiders. Use a few sentences to write a personal narrative about a time when you made a friend. Remember to stay focused on one main idea.



### TARGET VOCABULARY

breeze

dangerous

insects

judge

rotten

scare

screaming

sticky



### TARGET SKILL

**Cause and Effect**

Tell how one event makes another happen.



### TARGET STRATEGY

**Summarize**

Stop to tell important events as you read.



**GENRE Humorous fiction** is a story that is written to make the reader laugh.

**Level:** J

**DRA:** 18

**Genre:**

Humorous Fiction

**Strategy:**

Summarize

**Skill:**

Cause and Effect

**Word Count:** 353

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