

STD 3 NATIONAL LEARNING ASSESSMENT
MENTOR TEXT – BOOKLET 5

BEING BRAVE

What is the one thing you fear the most in the whole wide world? My biggest fear is spiders. Even the tiny ones with skinny legs make me want to run away screaming. I don't know why, but they just give me the creepy-crawlies. Let me tell you a story about a time I had to be super brave, even though my knees were shaking like jelly, all while facing my biggest fear.

It was a bright and sunny Saturday morning. My mom asked me to get the watering can from the shed in our backyard. Usually, my dad does this job, but he was out helping Mr. Singh fix his fence. So, it was just me. I knew the watering can was right inside the shed, hanging on a hook. Easy peasy, right? Wrong!

As soon as I opened the door, I saw it. A huge, black, hairy spider, chilling out on the handle of the watering can. It was the biggest spider I had ever seen. Its legs were as thick as my crayons. My heart started pounding like a drum. I wanted to slam the door shut and pretend I never needed to water the plants. Then I remembered that my mom really needed the watering can for her prize-winning roses. If I didn't get it, her roses might get all droopy and sad. She works so hard on them. I was stuck. I had a choice: either stay scared and let the roses suffer or face my fear and get the watering can.

I took a deep breath. The kind my swimming teacher tells us to take before jumping into the deep end. I told myself, "It's just a spider, it won't hurt you." Yet, my brain wasn't really believing it. Slowly, I reached for a long stick that was leaning against the shed wall. I used the stick to gently nudge the watering can. The colossal spider scampered a little bit, and I almost ran away, but I held my ground. I kept nudging until the watering can swung a little. Finally, it swung just enough for the spider to climb further up his web. Seeing the spider move a little, I hit the can a massive blow, causing it to fall off the hook completely.

As the can hit the ground, I scooped it up and ran out of the shed. Once I was outside, I ran faster than a cheetah back to my mom. I didn't even tell her about the spider. I didn't want her to take me back there in search of it and I planned not to return the watering can either. I planned to forget the can right outside the shed, knowing my dad would see it and hang it where it should be whenever he goes near the shed.

