

# **SPINNER**

*Secret and swift,  
Light and small,  
The Spinner rakes my garden  
Wall to wall,  
For shadowed caves between the stones  
And leafy holes within the hedge,  
A guttering tunnel, dark and damp,  
An empty pot on a window ledge.  
Each greyish, brownish, blackish place  
Is laced with threads too fine to see  
'I have my secrets,' Spinner says  
And waits, expectantly.*

*Cold dark comes,  
Frost lies white,  
Thickens over my garden  
Until the night  
Thins  
And day begins.*

*Suddenly under the primrose sun  
Spinner's secrets known.  
Every webbed and shadowed place,  
Beautiful with diamond lace  
Is shown.*

**Gwen Dunn**

1. What creature is this poem about?

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1 mark

2. Look at verse 1.

What sorts of places does the *Spinner* look for?

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2 mark

3. Look at verse 2.

What **two** changes take place that give the *Spinner's* secrets away?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

2 marks

4. The last line of the poem is: *Is shown*.

What would you see if you were there?

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2 marks

5 Find five words to do with *darkness* in the first verse of the poem.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

2 marks

6. ...beautiful with **diamond** lace. (verse 3)

What does the word **diamond** tell you about the webs?

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2 marks

7. The second verse of the poem is different from the first and third verses.

Write down **one** main way in which it is different.

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## Mark schemes

### Q2.

1. Award **1 mark** for

- *a spider*

**Do not accept:**

- *Spinner*

**1 mark**

2. Award **1 mark** for answers that are taken directly from the text and refer to **two or more** of the following:

- *shadowed / caves;*
- *stones;*
- *pots;*
- *dark / tunnel;*
- *hedge;*
- *gutter;*
- *(leafy) holes;*
- *in the wall;*
- *greyish / brownish / blackish place(s).*

Award **2 marks** for answers that summarise, categorise **or** generalise from the poem, eg:

- *dark / shady / shadowy places;*
- *somewhere where it can hide away.*

**up to 2 marks**

3. Award **1 mark each** for one answer from each group, up to a maximum of **2**:

- *frost / ice / dew;*
- *sun / daylight / dawn.*

**up to 2 marks**

4. Award **1 mark** for answers that reveal understanding of the key feature of the final stanza, ie webs:

- *a web / webs;*
- *beautiful webs / webs like lace.*

Award **2 marks** for a fuller description of what is revealed, eg:

- *a spider's webs covered in frost / drops / dew;*
- *a spider's webs glistening in the sunshine;*
- *dew clinging to the webs and sparkling.*

**Do not accept** only direct quotation from the text.

**up to 2 marks**

5. Award **1 mark** for **four** correctly identified words.

Award **2 marks** for **five** correctly identified words.

- *shadowed;*
- *holes;*
- *tunnel;*
- *greyish;*
- *brownish;*
- *caves;*
- *dark;*
- *secrets;*
- *blackish.*

**up to 2 marks**

6. Award **1 mark** for answers which refer only to the shining / glistening / sparkling quality of diamonds.

Award **2 marks** for answers which refer to other aspects of diamonds, such as their value or use in jewellery, eg:

- *shiny, glittering and valuable;*
- *the webs are like diamond necklaces because the spider's silk is like the thread on which the diamonds of dewdrops are laced;*
- *the web is as precious to the spider as a diamond is to us and it is also beautiful the way it shines in the sun;*
- *beautiful chains of crystals, transparent and sparkling.*

**up to 2 marks**

7. Award **1 mark** for answers which refer **either** to line /word length **or** to change of content, eg:

- *not about the spider / it is about the weather / time of day;*
- *rhyming*
- *the lines are shorter.*