



**NON-FICTION  
WRITING REFLECTION  
ART/POETRY**





## **The Spider and The Wasp**

As a wasp flies over an angry spider  
—both hungry for a meal—  
who do you think  
will go away full and happy?

What makes you think so?

## SPIDER REFLECTION FOR RESEARCH AND CRITICAL THINKING

*The poem below holds the answer to this quandary. Students may want to write poems of their own on what they have been learning about spiders.*

### Poems of a South African - Published 1943 SPIDER AND WASP By A. Vine Hall

The wasp is careful to sting where it will paralyse and not kill the spider,  
that there may be fresh meat for the wasp-grubs when hatched.

A BIG black spider lived in a hole;  
A terrible spider was he:  
As big as your hand, and with hairy legs,  
And a mouth as red as could be.

The beetles and flies at the sight of him fled,  
And even the birds were afraid.  
He had two great nippers, and eight wicked eyes;  
How he ran ! and what leaps he made  
I and all who lived in the garden knew  
That terrible spider's lair,  
And told their little ones, under their breath:  
' O never, O never go there! '

Those who were naughty and disobeyed,  
By their mothers would not have been known,  
For the spider had sucked their juicy parts—  
Sucked them as dry as a bone.

One day when he crept quite out of his hole,  
To pounce on a passer-by,  
Buzz, buzz, came a wasp: the spider's afraid—A spider afraid of a fly!

His poisoned nippers he opened wide,  
And reared himself up to fight;  
Round, round, and round, flew the wasp, then—down!  
And stung him before he could bite.

He crumpled up, and was carried away,  
And buried alive, to feed  
The baby-wasps that were soon to be born.

—A story for bullies to heed.