

# HOGGY, FOGGY AND THEIR TERRIFYING LIFE WITH A SPIDER

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## READER ACTIVITY GUIDE

*Fear, friendship, loss, and the love that stays*

Read together. Wonder together. Talk about what matters.

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### FOR GROWN UPS - *Why This Story?*

Hoggy is terrified of spiders.

Foggy is terrified of being lonely.

The spider is terrified of ninjas.

At first, everyone runs.

Then an accidental collision traps all three together, and they finally do something none of them has tried: *They talk.*

They discover that fear becomes less frightening when someone listens. The old house fills with friendship, laughter, banana cream pie, polka dots, poetry, and the small rituals that make a place feel like home.

And then life changes.

Foggy leaves. Later, the spider grows old and dies. Hoggy is sad—very sad—but he discovers he doesn't have to be terrified of loving someone simply because he may someday have to miss them. Eventually, Hoggy welcomes a new little spider and carries forward something his old friend taught him.

This story isn't intended to explain death. As my author's note says, its gentler message is that children can be afraid and still love, can lose someone and laugh again, and can discover that love remains after someone is gone.

*Talk About It Together. You don't need to ask every question. Choose the ones that feel right for your child/class and your reason for reading.*

- What is Hoggy afraid of?
- What is Foggy afraid of?
- What is the spider afraid of?
- What happens when they finally talk instead of run?
- What makes their house begin to feel warmer?
- How does Hoggy feel when Foggy doesn't come home?
- What does Hoggy remember about his friends?
- What do you think “love stays” means?
- Can we feel sad and happy at the same time?
- What helps you remember someone you miss?

#### A NOTE FOR GROWN-UPS

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Children experience loss in many forms: death, moving, changing schools, military relocation, divorce, friendship changes, or simply growing apart.

They may move between sadness and play quickly.

They may ask the same question repeatedly.

They may laugh while grieving.

The story itself makes room for that complexity rather than prescribing a “correct” way to grieve. Its back matter explicitly acknowledges that children may ask questions, laugh, or become quiet.

The goal of this activity isn't to make sadness disappear.

It is to make room for memory alongside it.

## THINGS THAT STAY WITH US

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Sometimes little things carry BIG love. Think about someone you love or miss. You can write things down, if you like.

And importantly: **“I don't feel like writing about someone today.” That's okay, too.**

 Something they liked to eat...

 A color that reminds me of them...

 Something they used to say...

 A sound or song that reminds me of them...

 Something that made them laugh...

 A story I remember...

 The way they made me feel...

*Even small things can carry big love a long, long way.*

## EVERYONE IS TERRIFIED OF SOMETHING

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Hoggy is afraid of spiders.

Foggy is afraid of being alone.

The spider is afraid of ninjas.

**Something that scares me:**

**When I'm scared, my body feels...**

- ☐ wiggly
- ☐ shaky
- ☐ quiet
- ☐ hot
- ☐ like running
- ☐ like hiding
- ☐ something else: \_\_\_\_\_

**Something that helps me feel safer:**

**Someone I can talk to:**

## SOME THINGS CAN FEEL SCARY

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Making a new friend.

Missing someone.

Saying goodbye.

Laughing after you've been sad.

Loving someone new.

Not knowing what happens next.

DRAW SOMETHING THAT MAKES LIFE FEEL BETTER.

Maybe it's a person. Maybe it's a pet. Maybe it's banana cream pie. Maybe it's a soft blanket, a ridiculous hat, a song, a memory, or somewhere you feel safe.

WHATEVER IT IS, IT BELONGS RIGHT HERE.

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You can be afraid and still be brave.  
You can be sad and still laugh.  
And love can stay even when someone is gone.