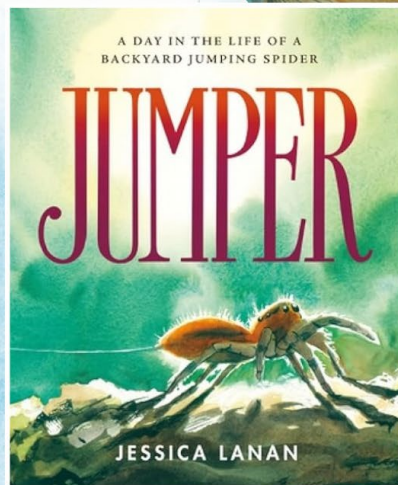


LESSON PLANS FOR...



# Lesson Plans for Jumper: A Day in the Life of a Backyard Jumping Spider

Written and Illustrated by Jessica Lanan

Non-fiction books don't always make the most exciting read-alouds for story time, but *JUMPER: A Day in the Life of a Backyard Jumping Spider*, written and illustrated by Jessica Lanan, may change your mind about that. This informative picture book reads much like a documentary narrated by David Attenborough! The text is succinct, and invites readers directly into the narrative through questions and the use of second person pronouns. The book's compelling visual presentation make for the perfect combination of art, story, and science. The purpose of the book is to engage young readers without scaring them, making them more sympathetic to a small creature that most would be afraid to interact with in real life.

## Science

### Spider Senses

Explore your spider senses (or Spidey senses for your superhero friends!) and learn more about how Jumper explores his environment.

1. Make a yarn spider web in your classroom and ask one child to touch a strand with their eyes closed and report when they feel movement: [Spider Web Science Activity for Kids for Halloween - Buggy and Buddy](#)
2. Jumper hears with the help of the tiny hairs all over his body. We have hair in our ears to help us hear. Close your eyes and listen to the sounds in the environment. Report what you hear. Play some recorded noise and have the children guess what they are hearing.
3. About 99% of spiders have 8 eyes. We only have 2 but can use microscopes or magnifying glasses to see more closely. Chose a special or unique object from outside or in the classroom. Study it with your eyes then again with a magnifying glass. What did you notice from each observation?

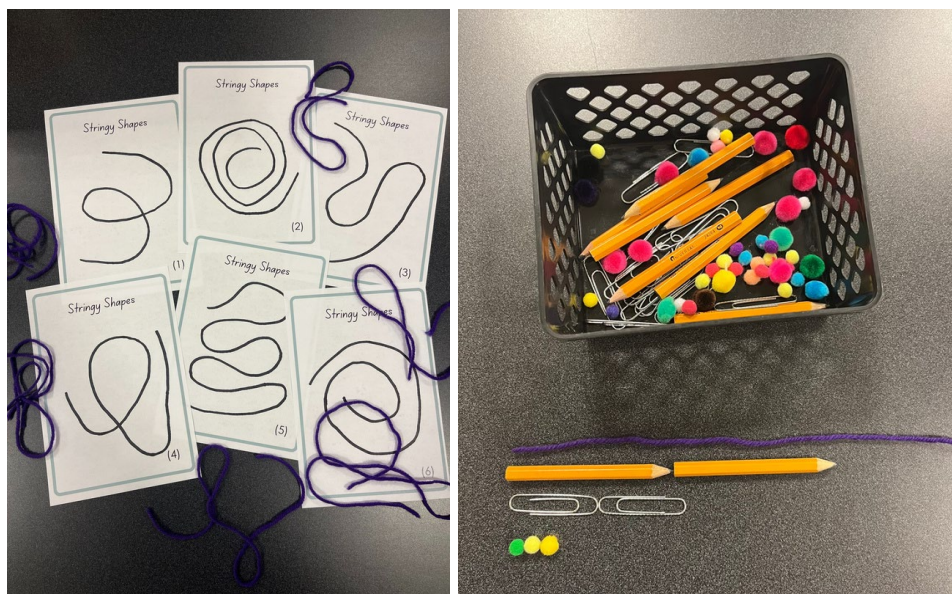
The sense can also help practice mindfulness or paying attention. Check out this article for more on that topic: [Activate your Spidey Senses with Mindfulness - Our Own Kids Club](#)



## Math

### Spider Measurement

Our spider can jump five times its body length. What does that mean to a preschooler? Line 5 items up of varying lengths and show them how “five times the (body) length” is a different distance for each of the selected items. Standard measurement with a ruler or a scale is a second-grade skill, but nonstandard measuring is perfect for preschool. It helps them understand the measuring process. These non-standard units can be anything but are best when the child selects them and are of high interest: shoes, Lego bricks, stickers, race cars, etc. The one thing that they MUST be is uniform in size. A child cannot measure their height in Lego and markers! Instead, one unit needs to be used at a time and lined up end to end, just as we would do when measuring with a ruler. There are a few rules for measuring precisely that kids should follow when lining up their nonstandard units: no gaps, no overlaps, and make a straight line.



Below are Stringy Shape cards for you to use with your students to explore nonstandard measuring. Before you begin, cut yarn to the sizes on the cards. Show the children the 6 cards without the yarn and ask which one they think is the longest. Then have them figure out which piece of yarn fits which card. Now they must choose the best tool for measuring. Keep a box of measuring items for them to select from.

## Art

### Spider Web Tape Resist

Provide your students with a small canvas, or a paper plate, paint (tempera, or acrylics if using a canvas), and fine line masking tape. Allow students to gently add tape strips to their paper plate or canvas, in any random pattern. After the tape has been added have you students fill in the white space, with paint, preferably a light color to enhance the next step. After your piece has completely dried, have your student gently remove the tape from their paper plate /canvas. Now allow the students to stamp a couple of fingerprints on the artwork. Add eyes and 8 legs to create spiders from their fingerprints.

## Music/Movement

### Itsy Bitsy Spider

An obvious song choice, but for extra fun, try these alternative verses!

- The Itsy Bitsy Spider went up the waterspout... (sing in a little squeaky voice)

- The Big Fat Hairy Spider went up the waterspout... (sing in a deep voice)
- The Quick, Speedy Spider went up the waterspout... (sing the whole verse really fast)
- The Really Slow Spider went up the waterspout... (sing the whole verse really, really slow)
- The Very Sad Spider went up the waterspout... (sing in a melancholy voice)
- The Very Happy Spider went up the waterspout... (sing in a happy upbeat way)

## Sensory Play

### Down the Waterspout

For this sensory bin, students will construct waterspouts for an itsy, bitsy spider like Jumper! The filler is white beans, which were colored various shades of blue to represent water. Include cardboard tubes, tape, and scissors for students to use to create various-sized waterspouts. Don't forget to add small spiders too!



This sensory box could also be used for a math activity. Roll a dice and grab that many spiders out of the box with tweezers or clothes pin. After all are collected, roll the die to see how many you need to put back.

## Literacy

### Book Box

Book boxes feature objects representing the MAIN facts (non-fiction) or features (fiction) from a chosen book. These can be used before, during or after a read-aloud and are excellent in assisting students with retelling skills. Retelling stories increases the children's familiarity with the story allowing them to pick up on more detail and offers more opportunities for their participation during the experience. These retellings also help



children build frameworks, characters, and vocabulary to use when they create their own stories.

A Book Box for *Jumper* may include a bar of soap, a bottle cap, a bean and a spider for size comparison. Create a fence out of craft sticks and include thread to be the web. A bird figure can act as the spider's predator and a grasshopper, wasp, and fly can be his prey. Add some fake greenery to be the garden where he lives.

What other favorite stories could you create a Book Box for?



## Where to Next?

Click the link for more books about SPIDERS: [Spiders! | Nashville Public Library](#)

## Comments or Questions?

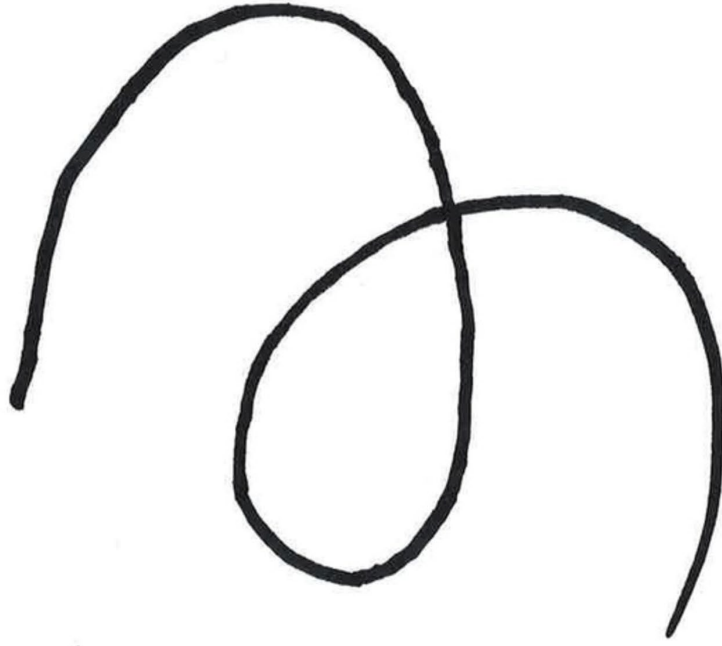
Contact Bringing Books to Life at [bringingbookstolife@nashville.gov](mailto:bringingbookstolife@nashville.gov)

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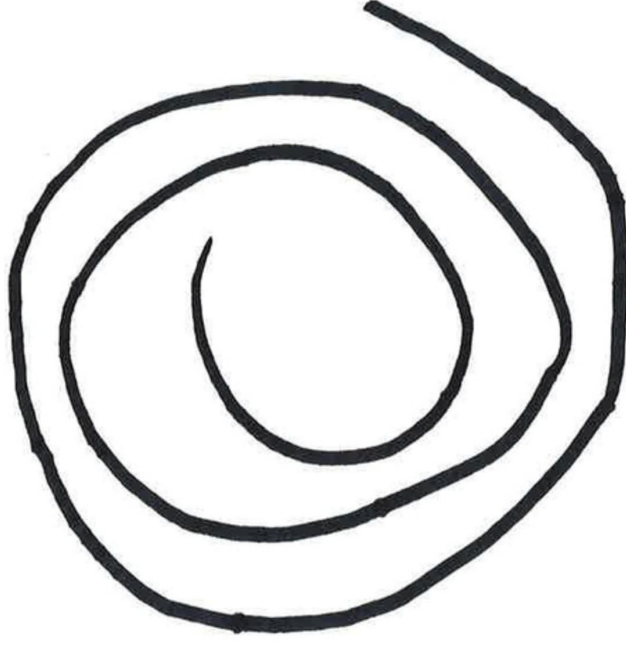
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Stringy Shapes



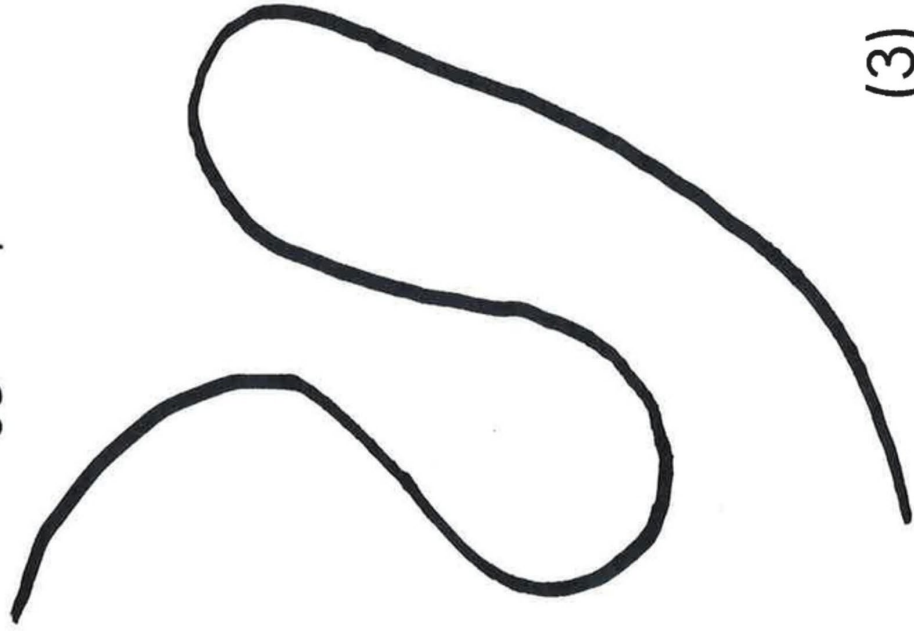
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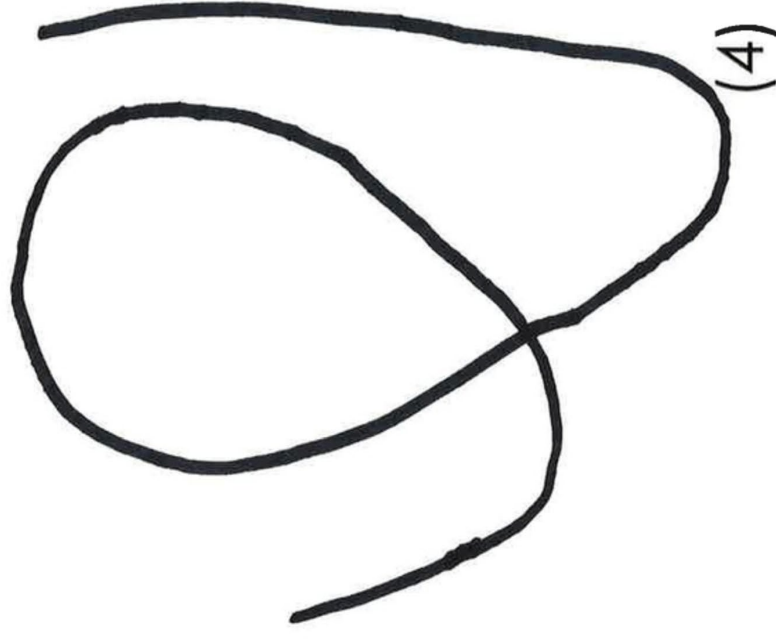
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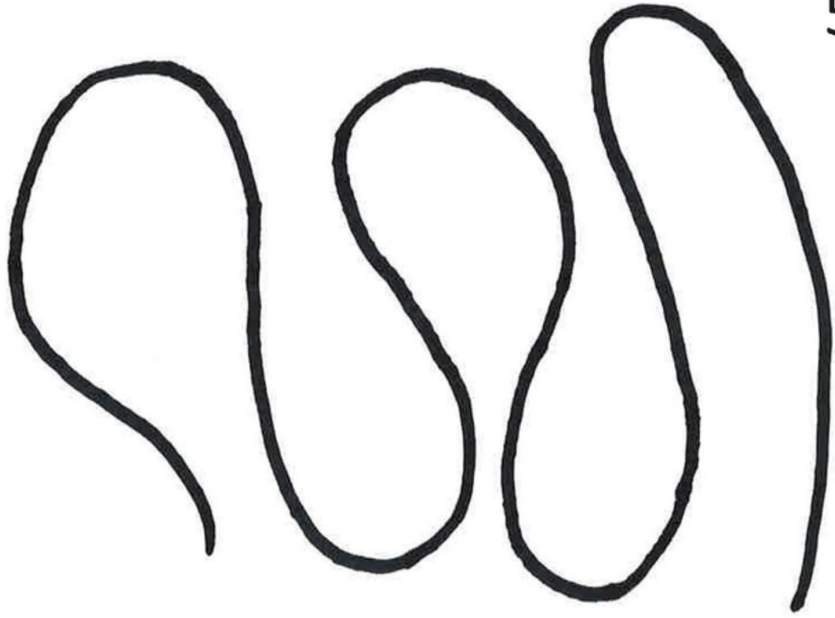
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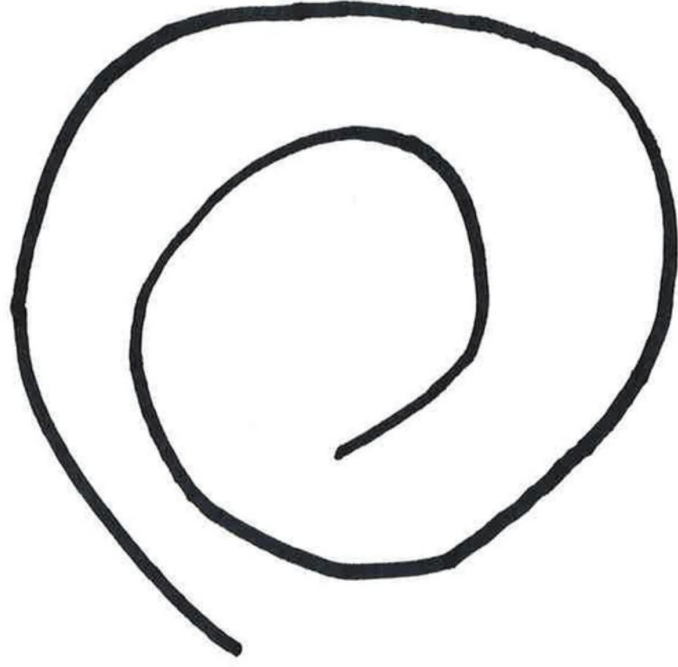
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Stringy Shapes



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