



Midnight Creep Discussion Guide

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The story begins with the spiders coming out at midnight while the “giants” are asleep. Who are the “giants”? And why do the spiders come out only when they are asleep?
2. The spiders in the story come in many different shapes, sizes, and colors. What do you notice about the spiders? Which of the spiders at the party do you like best?
3. The spiders dance, sing, and feast together. What would you include if you were planning a party for the spiders? Can you guess the dishes that Javier and all his jumping siblings bring? (Think creatively! Check your answers against the illustrator’s notes at the bottom of p2 of this discussion guide.)
4. In the singalong, one of the spiders calls out ‘ahla-wu-sahla’ (00:44), which means “welcome” in Arabic. Can you say welcome in another language? Listen to the song again, and try to call out “welcome” in another language at the same time.
5. The spiders dance the dabke, a folk dance from the Arab world. Have you ever done a group dance or line dance? What kind of dance would you do at a spider party?
6. The spiders have to be careful not to wake the “giants” sleeping upstairs. What do you think would happen if the giants woke up and saw the party?
7. The back of the book shares information and photos about all different kinds of spiders with different abilities. If you were a spider, what kind would you be, and what kind of special powers would you want to have?



Midnight Creep

Written by Jemima Shafei-Ongu
Illustrated by Honoka Taki



Illustration © Honoka Taki
from *Midnight Creep*



Barefoot Books
step inside a story

www.barefootbooks.com





DISCUSSION QUESTIONS, *continued*

8. The story invites us to imagine a world that we usually cannot see. What are some other things that might happen while people are asleep?
9. Spiders have different ways of surviving, and some do have poison that they use to hunt or protect themselves. What can humans do to be respectful and safe around spiders, given that we share our world with all animals?
10. Many traditional folktales use talking animals to tell their stories, often imparting important lessons. Can you think of another folktale that does this?



From left to right, including only the dishes that are shown in full and not cut off, the dishes are: Moth Pinchos, Termite Pinchos, Butterflies Ajillo, Earthworm Churros, Cockroach Paella

ANSWER TO QUESTION 3



Midnight Creep

Written by Jemima Shafei-Ongu
Illustrated by Honoka Taki

Illustration © Honoka Taki
from *Midnight Creep*



Barefoot Books
step inside a story

www.barefootbooks.com



Activity: Create Your Own Midnight Creep

Imagine what happens in your home after everyone goes to sleep. Choose an insect, or another creature, and create its own secret nighttime celebration. Draw a picture or write a short story showing what happens. What music do they play? Do they dance? And how do they make sure the “giants” don’t wake up?



Midnight Creep

Written by Jemima Shafei-Ongu
Illustrated by Honoka Taki



Illustration © Honoka Taki
from *Midnight Creep*



Barefoot Books
step inside a story

www.barefootbooks.com