

How The Hedgehog Got His

SPIKES



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Long, oh so long ago,
in the Wispy, Wet Woods,
Oh My Shiniest Treasure, in the
east of the vibrant capital of
Washington D.C., there lived a curious,
courageous Hedgehog. Now this miniscule
Hedgehog had smooth, pale skin and
large, beady eyes. He also had sluggy,
brown fur covering his tummy and a
good joyful heart. Hedgehog lived
in a damp dark cave. He was very
quick as his short, stumpy legs
were used to running away from
predators every day. Hedgehog
enjoyed going for vast, long walks
in the Wispy Wet Woods. So, this is
where our story brings us, Hedgehog
taking a nice stroll in the Wispy,
Wet Woods.

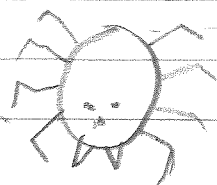
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Now also, **O**h My Shiniest Treasure,
there lived two cruel monsters; Bear
and Fox, who had hearts of stone. Fox
had a bushy, terracotta tail and a vast
gleaming coat of fur. His whiskers
shimmered in the light and every
graceful step he took was silent.

Bear, on the other hand, had a large, muscular body; his filthy skin was covered in scars, bruises and old, dry blood. The pair adored hunting Hedgehog; "Oy Hedgehog!" they would shout in their annoying, aggressive voices, but Hedgehog would be miles away from them by then. This very thing happened in our story, Oh My Shiniest Treasure, so the poor creature fled back to his cave and started gracefully singing a sloka (this is magic) about keeping himself safe. Hedgehog's friend - Spider happened to be passing the gloomy cave and she started to listen. She listened and listened and listened. After four minutes the blood-red spider started to wonder; "Can I help him? Is so what can I do?"

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The next day, Oh My Shiniest Treasure, Hedgehog went for a peaceful, calm walk to find some jet-black berries for his lunch. He slowly jogged along the soggy path. When he heard a twig snap...

He whipped around; NOBODY there. A crunch of leaves - still nobody! And then some sharp claws caught him and dragged Hedgehog backwards. Fox had grasped him and pulled him into a large bush.



SPIDER

"Please go away!"  
Hedgehog moaned.

Fox had let go disgusted at Hedgehog's attitude.

"No!" Fox snapped, in second, Hedgehog had dashed away. When he had arrived at his gloomy cave, he noticed Spider, who looked delighted.

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"Hello! I think I have found a solution to your terrible problem with Bear and Fox!" Her overjoyed voice turned sour at the last few words.

"OK, listen to me CLOSELY and I don't want you to worry. Stay still so I can stick sharp, pointy needles into your skin and I can put strong webs over them so they don't fall off. Then, when you see Fox or Bear you can roll into a tight ball and they can't get you."

The pale-skinned creature hesitated before rolling onto his tummy as the process started. The next day was bright and sunny and Hedgehog could feel the warmth on him as he walked out onto the beautiful forest clearing.

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He gently tumbled out into the open, his smooth skin now spiky and uncomfortable. There was no need to run now. And if he saw Bear or Fox he knew what to do. And this way Bear or Fox could never trouble him again.

ELLIE CARR 55 JSS Competition

