

The Spider

Not insect but predator of insects. Not larcenous but naturally ravenous. Orb weaver. Order Araneae, Class Arachnida, phylum Arthropoda, resident everywhere — from equatorial jungle to polar ice, Himalayas to Great Salt Lake. Adventurer, but with a dragline thread. Spinner of intricate, twenty-inch silk food snares. Twenty inches, always. Not fifty or two hundred. Spider knows the limit to her senses. Humans keep building bigger webs.

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