Bug Club

Read through the text and answer the questions.

Spiders and Flies: An Eritrean Story

Once there was a prince who hated spiders and flies. "There's no point in them!" he moaned to his mother, the queen. "They are ugly, and they do no work!"

"You're wrong, my son," said the queen softly. "Everything on earth has a purpose." But the prince did not believe her.

1 Find **two** reasons why the prince didn't like spiders and flies.

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2 Find and copy **one** word in the story that tells us how the queen spoke.

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Soon a terrible war came to the kingdom, and all the prince's family were killed. The prince decided to go and live with his uncle, far away.

The journey was long and hard, and the prince's enemies followed close behind him. He ran and ran until he was exhausted, and then he fell asleep under a tree.

3 What made the prince decide to go and live with his uncle?

_____

4 How do you think the prince felt as he set out on his journey?
Tick **one** box.

- Happy and excited ☐
- Upset and worried ☐
- Proud and boastful ☐

After a while, a fly landed on the prince's face. He woke up and crossly shooed it away – and then he saw his enemies in the distance! He had been so fast asleep that he didn't hear them coming.

The prince jumped up and ran to a nearby cave, where he hid himself as well as he could. While the prince wasn't looking, a gigantic spider started weaving her web across the cave entrance.

After a while, the prince heard his enemies approaching.

5 Explain why it was lucky that the fly woke the prince up.

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a) What do you think will happen next?

_____

b) Explain why you think this.

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"There's no point in checking that cave!" one man said to the other. "There's a spider's web right across the entrance. The prince can't be in there, or he'd have broken the web. Let's go and look somewhere else."

So the prince escaped to his uncle's house. At last he understood what his mother had told him – even spiders and flies have a purpose!

6 Why did the prince's enemies think he couldn't be in the cave? Tick **one** box.

- Because they knew he was afraid of spiders ☐
- Because they thought the spider's web showed that no one had gone into the cave recently ☐
- Because they realised he had gone somewhere else ☐

7 Do you think the prince will moan about spiders and flies again? Explain your reasons.