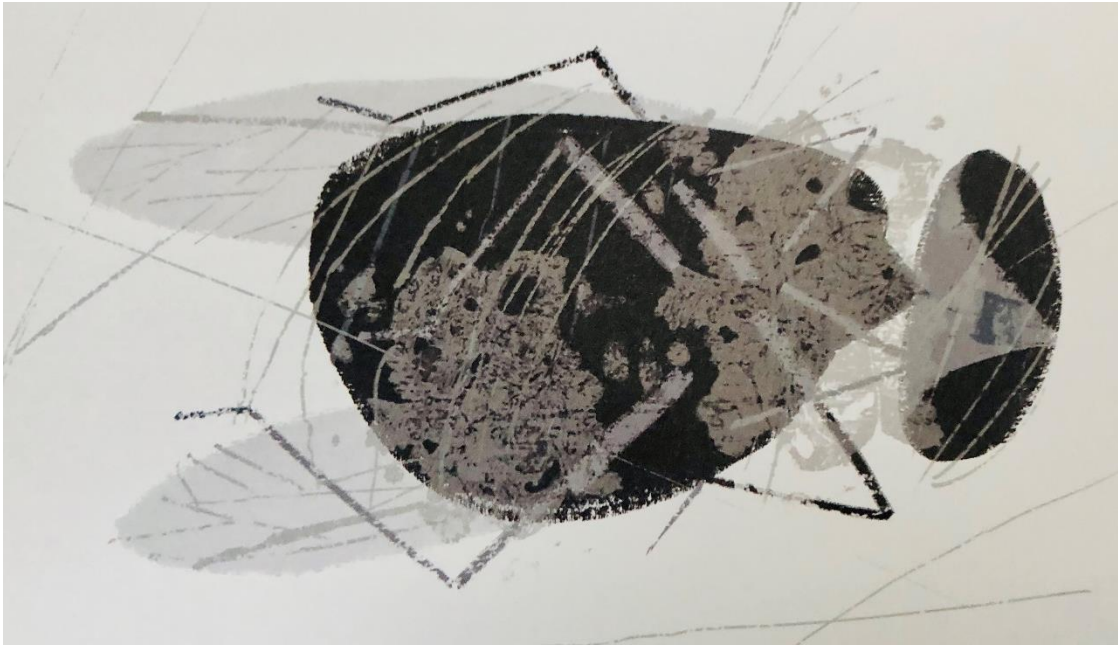


LO: To create vivid imagery through precise vocabulary.



### *Widow in Black*

They watched as a fly, trapped in the spider's web, frantically thrashed against the silk that held it prisoner. It was no use, of course. The web would not break; it was made of a material far stronger than the fly. The only thing the fly did accomplish was to alert the spider to its presence, its struggles vibrating along the strands of web. The spider clambered to its captive as the children watched, transfixed.

As the fly gave a last fruitless effort to free itself, the hungry predator unsheathed a gigantic pair of fangs and plunged them deep into its prey's exoskeleton. The fly writhed in pain as venom pumped into its body. The toxins worked fast, using the fly's circulatory system against it. When the spider withdrew its meaty fangs the poison had already begun its work, paralyzing the fly.

Though unable to react, the fly could still feel the fiery pain as the fangs pumped digestive fluid into its body. The last thing the fly felt was its innards slowly dissolving into a soupy mess. The spider could now drink its meal directly from the fly's body, enough sustenance for perhaps a week.