

★ BARNIE AND THE SPIDER

Key Themes

A story of courage, confidence and connection.

■ Courage

Bravery means acting *with* fear. Barnie learns to recognise fear, use its energy and take small actions that stop panic from taking over.

■ Resilience

Recovery takes time. Rest is active, setbacks are normal, and confidence grows through patience, practice and trying again.

■ Self-Confidence & Self-Belief

Barnie learns to trust himself, use what he has learned and believe, “I can do this,” even when situations feel uncertain.

■ Grief

Handled with honesty and gentleness. Barnie learns to let memories come, to talk about his feelings and to understand that those we lose remain part of us.

■ Acceptance

Difference — physical or social — is shown as neither better nor worse. Characters learn not to judge others by appearance.

■ Empathy

Barnie increasingly imagines how others feel, even those who threaten him. The story encourages peaceful solutions and perspective-taking.

■ Friendship

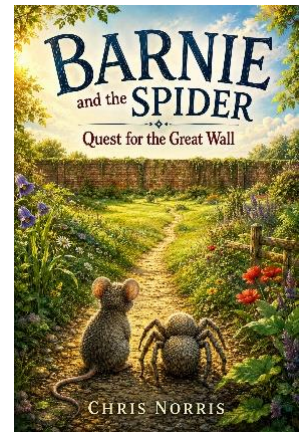
Trust grows across unlikely boundaries — mouse, spider, owl, hedgehog. Belonging takes time, and standing up for others matters.

■ Teamwork

The colony’s cooperation shows how many small individuals can achieve what one alone cannot. Practice builds instinct and calm responses in danger.

■ Growing Up

Barnie moves from pupil to teacher. He learns to make his own choices, navigate moral uncertainty and eventually passes on his experience to younger mice.



Perfect for Schools, Libraries & Family Reading

Supports **PSHE, wellbeing, emotional literacy, friendship, loss, resilience, confidence, empathy, and moral development** — all through an accessible, engaging KS2/3-friendly story.