

Next Time You See a SPIDERWEB


BY EMILY MORGAN


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National Science Teachers Association

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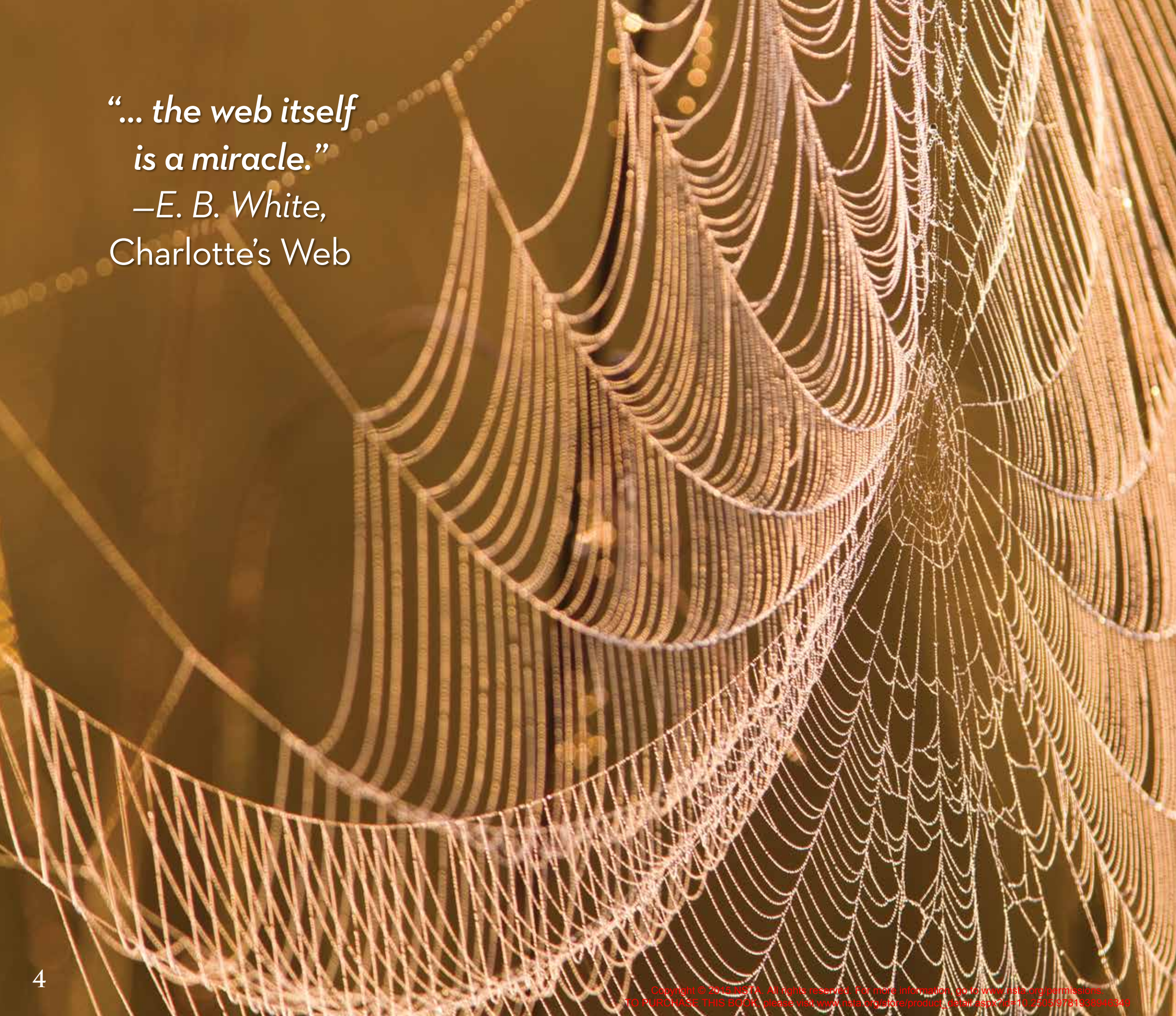
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*To Mr. Gary Courts, my high school biology teacher,
for nurturing my love of science and supporting
my work all these years later.*



“... *the web itself*
is a miracle.”
—E. B. White,
Charlotte’s Web

A NOTE TO PARENTS AND TEACHERS

The books in this series are intended to be read with a child *after* she has had some experience with the featured objects or phenomena. For example, take a walk in a park or natural area and look for spiderwebs. Notice the size, location, and patterns of the webs. Take photos of the various webs and compare them. Talk about what you observe and what you wonder.

Then, after you have had some experiences observing these fascinating structures, read this book together. Take time to pause and share your learnings and wonderings with each other. You will find that new learnings often lead to more questions.

The *Next Time You See* books are not meant to present facts to be memorized. They are written to inspire a sense of wonder about nature and foster a desire to learn more about the natural world. Children are naturally fascinated by spiderwebs, and when they learn that these webs are clever traps made by small and skillful spiders that never had a single lesson, these structures become even more remarkable. My wish is that after reading this book, you and your child feel a sense of wonder the next time you see a spiderweb.

—Emily Morgan



You've probably seen a spiderweb that looks like a mess of threads. These are known as *tangled webs* or *cobwebs*. When an insect flies into or walks over this kind of web, it becomes entangled in the silk threads, making it easy for the spider to catch the insect.

You may have noticed a web that lies flat across the grass or on a bush. These webs are called *sheet webs*. The spider creates a sheet of silk and weaves special strands above it. When an insect flies into the top threads, it gets knocked down and captured in the sheet below.





Another interesting kind of web is a *funnel-web*. These webs are wide at the top and get smaller at the base. The spider hides inside the funnel and waits. When it feels an insect walking across the web, the spider rushes across the web and grabs its prey.

Perhaps the most well-known type of spiderweb is the *orb web*. These beautiful and elaborate webs look like the wheel of a bicycle, with threads connecting each spoke. When an insect flies into the web, it becomes trapped in sticky silk. The spider, usually waiting in the center of the web or hiding nearby, feels the vibration on the threads and rushes in to get its prey.



Next Time You See a SPIDERWEB



If you know children who say “Ick!” when they spot a spider, this irresistible book will make them say “Ooh!” instead. *Next Time You See a Spiderweb* describes how these small, skillful creatures weave some of nature’s most clever traps—their webs. Author Emily Morgan shows how spiders snare their prey with tangled webs, funnel-webs, and intricate orb webs. The book tells how spiders spin sticky silk without getting stuck themselves, and it reveals the surprising tricks of the jumping spider, fishing spider, and trap-door spider. *Next Time You See a Spiderweb* is a book that children and adults alike will want to take along on their next nature walk.



Awaken a sense of wonder in a child with the *Next Time You See* series from NSTA Kids. The books will inspire elementary-age children to experience the enchantment of everyday phenomena such as spiderwebs, the Moon, maple seeds, pill bugs, sunsets, seashells, and fireflies. Free supplementary activities are available on the NSTA website.

Especially designed to be experienced with an adult—whether a parent, teacher, or friend—*Next Time You See* books serve as a reminder that you don’t have to look far to find something remarkable in nature.

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