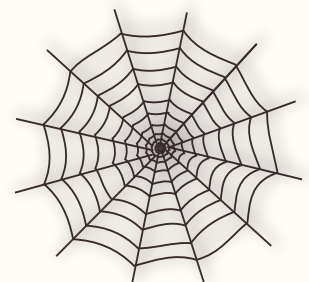





THE LEGEND OF THE CHRISTMAS SPIDERS

Once upon a time, a young mother was busily cleaning her home, for her family was receiving a special visit from Father Christmas. After days of work, the house was spotless. Even the spiders, usually left alone in the corners, were sent away to the attic.



At last, it was Christmas Eve. The tree was decorated to perfection. But the poor spiders were distressed! They were unable to see Father Christmas from their corner in the attic. Fortunately, the smartest spider suggested that perhaps they could catch a glimpse of him through a crack in the doorway. They crept out of the attic, down the stairs, and across the floor, but were suddenly overcome with the beauty of the Christmas tree. They scurried closer and crept all over the tree, up and down, over every branch and twig to inspect the many treasures.



But alas! Everywhere they went they had left their webs, and when Father Christmas arrived, he was dismayed. He loved the little spiders, but he knew the mother, who had spent hours trimming the tree for his arrival, would not feel the same. So Father Christmas touched the webs and they turned to shimmering silver and gold!

Since that night, we have hung tinsel on our trees and placed a spider among the branches to wait for Father Christmas.