

The Scorpion By Roald Dahl

You ought to thank your lucky star
That here in England where you are
You'll never find (or so it's said)
A scorpion inside your bed
The scorpion's name is Stingaling,
A most repulsive ugly thing,
And I would never recommend
That you should treat him as a friend.
His scaly skin is black as black,
With armour plate upon his back.
Observe his scowling murderous face,
His wicked eyes, his lack of grace,
Note well his long and crinkly tail.
And when it starts to swish and flail.
Oh gosh! Watch out! Jump back, I say,
And run till you're a mile away.
The moment that his tail goes swish
He has but one determined wish,
He wants to make a sudden jump
And sting you hard upon your rump
"What is the matter, darling child?
"Why do you look so tense and wild?"
"Oh mummy, underneath the sheet
"There's something moving on my feet,
"Something horrid creepy crawly thing,
"D'you think it could be Stingaling?"
"What nonsense child! You're teasing me."
"I'm not, I'm not! It's reached my knee!
"It's going... going up my thigh!
"Oh mummy, catch it quickly! Try!
"It's on... it's on my bottom now!
"It's...Ow! Ow-ow! Ow-ow! OW-OW!"

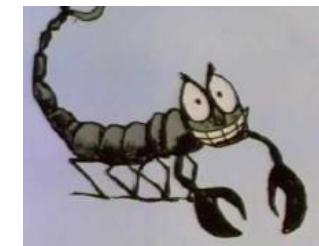


Read the following poem by Roald Dahl and answer the questions.
Click on the link if you would like to listen at the same time, when you read:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dg7NAg9Bxqs>

- 1) What is the name of the scorpion?
- 2) Why do you think the scorpion has that name?

- 3) Which statements are true and which are false

	True	False
Scaly skin		
Friendly face		
Crumpled tail		
Wicked eyes		
Lack of grace		



- 4) How far does Roald Dahl tell us to run from the scorpion?
- 5) Every two lines of the poem use rhyme. These are called **rhyming couplets**. Underline three pairs of rhyming couplets. Use different colours.
- 6) What is the scorpion's one wish?
- 7) How do we know the child is scared?
- 8) How does the mum react to what the child is telling her?
- 9) Why do you think Mummy reacts this way?

