Examples of Comparisons in Seymour Simon's *Spiders* (2007) & NOTES ABOUT WHAT'S BEING COMPARED:

- Some spiders are as small as the period at the end of this sentence. (CHARACTERISTIC - SIZE) Other spiders, such as tarantulas, are huge. They are as big as your hand and large enough to catch and eat. (p. 4)

- A spider's silk is like a suit of armor. (STRENGTH-DURABILITY) It is made of a stiff material called chitin. Chitin can't stretch the way your skin does. As a spider grows, it sheds its skin and grows a new one. (p. 7)

- Some spider silk is three times stronger than a steel wire of the same thickness . (STRENGTH/THICKNESS) Spider silk can be thinner than a human hair and can stretch to twice its length. (p. 12)

- To start its web, an orb weaver lets out a silky thread across an open space. Wind carries the thread until it catches on a spot on a distant tree or bush. The spider pulls the thread tight and marches across the silky bridge. Hanging from the bridge line, the spider builds a frame for its web. Silky spokes stretch from the center, or hub, like the spokes of a bicycle wheel. (p. 15) (STRUCTURE OR CONSTRUCTION)

- Some spiders don't wait around for their prey. They don't build webs or traps. A hunting or wandering spider catches prey the way a tiger stalks a deer or a cat stalks a mouse. The spider follows its prey along the ground. When it is within range, the spider leaps on and grabs the prey with its powerful jaws. (p. 19) (BEHAVIOR – HOW IT HUNTS)

- A black widow's bite is about 15 times more poisonous than that of a rattlesnake. It causes paralysis and may cause death. Fortunately, an antidote can be given to save a person's life. (p. 20)

- Tarantulas are the largest spiders in the world. Their hairy bodies and huge fangs look dangerous. But tarantulas are not as dangerous as they look. Due to their small poison glands, their bite is about as painful as a hornet or bee sting. (p. 23) (STRENGTH OF POISON)

- In most spiders, the jaws open and close like a pair of pliers. (HOW IT WORKS) But in tarantulas, the jaws move up and down. During a confrontation with a nesting bird or a tree frog, a tarantula lifts its front legs, lifts its head, and exposes its fangs. When it bites, a tarantula stabs downward, pointing its fangs like two daggers. (p. 23)(HOW IT WORKS)

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