

1 tuffet! Don't kids read their nursery rhymes anymore?
 2 VIRGINIA: What's a tuffet?
 3 SPIDER: (In disbelief) What's a tuffet? You've got to be kidding me! It's what you're supposed to be sitting on!
 4 VIRGINIA: How can I sit on a tuffet if I don't even know what one is?
 5 SPIDER: (Sighs deeply.) OK, let me try to explain. A tuffet is a low, padded seat or footstool.
 6 VIRGINIA: (Looks at what she's sitting on.) Well, this is a bench – not a tuffet.
 7 SPIDER: (Trying to hold it together) I can see that this is a bench, but it's supposed to be a tuffet so that it rhymes with your last name – Muffet. Get it? (Comparing the two) Tuffet? Muffet?
 8 VIRGINIA: (Giggles.) Oh, I get it. That's so cute!
 9 SPIDER: (Rolling his eyes) Oh, boy! You see, you are supposed to be sitting on a tuffet, eating your curds and whey.
 10 VIRGINIA: Oh, I had curds and whey for breakfast. I wanted something a little spicier for lunch, so I'm having tortilla soup. Want a taste? (Offers SPIDER a spoonful.)
 11 SPIDER: (Distracted for a moment by the delicious aroma) Mmmm. That does smell good. I love cilantro and those little chilis ... (Suddenly coming back to his or her senses) Never mind about the soup! That's close enough. At least it's in a bowl. But when I sit down next to you, you are supposed to run away in horror.
 12 VIRGINIA: (Considering this) But if I run away in horror, I might spill my soup, and I am enjoying my soup.
 13 SPIDER: (Thinks a moment. The reasoning approach isn't working; SPIDER tries scooting closer to VIRGINIA and uses a gruff, scary voice.) Aren't you even a little bit

1 at her. VIRGINIA giggles at these antics. SPIDER stops.)
 2 SPIDER: What's wrong with you?
 3 VIRGINIA: (Confused) Nothing. What's wrong with you?
 4 SPIDER: You're supposed to be terrified of me and run away screaming!
 5 VIRGINIA: I am? Why would I do that?
 6 SPIDER: Because ... (Points to himself or herself as if VIRGINIA should catch on to who SPIDER is.)
 7 VIRGINIA: (Still not recognizing him) Because ... why?
 8 SPIDER: (Exasperated) Don't you realize who I am?
 9 VIRGINIA: (Scrutinizes SPIDER's face for a moment and then gives up.) I'm sorry, I don't. Who are you?
 10 SPIDER: I'm the spider! (No reaction from VIRGINIA) You know – the spider! You are supposed to run away in horror the moment I sit down beside you!
 11 VIRGINIA: (Looks at SPIDER quizzically for a moment and then shakes her head.) Nope, sorry. Doesn't ring a bell.
 12 Would you like a pretzel?
 13 SPIDER: No, I don't want a pretzel! I want to scare you out of your wits!
 14 VIRGINIA: Oh, I see. OK. Well, why don't you try again? (Gets herself ready. SPIDER, certain of his or her expert skills, makes another full-out attempt at scaring her.)
 15 VIRGINIA lets out a weak little scream.
 16 VIRGINIA: Aaah! (Stops.) How was that?
 17 SPIDER: That was pathetic. You obviously didn't mean it.
 18 VIRGINIA: Really? Well, I'm sorry. (Nonchalantly) I'm just not afraid of spiders.
 19 SPIDER: Well, you certainly don't have a very good attitude about this, missy!
 20 VIRGINIA: Virginia. (Puts her hand out to shake.) My name is Virginia – Virginia Muffet. And you are?
 21 SPIDER: (Disappointed) Oh, for heaven's sake. I can't believe you still don't know who I am. I'm the famous spider who is supposed to scare you right off your