

The Web

Robert Moore, Jr.

The interconnection of things: a sticky trail leading from one thing to the next, but meeting another thing as you pass through. And do you go after that trail to yet another node? Another thing that connects to still more? Each one casting its net, catching you tight, a linked system weaving its way, penetrating everything, connecting it to everything. A glistening series of strands gathering dew and making you wonder where the connections came from, and where they will take you. How is the sonar system on a submarine like a rock? Waves, like sound, move back and forth, squeezing and applying pressure, which can generate electricity, to power a circuit. This is called the piezoelectric effect. Quartz is piezoelectric. An eclectic way of looking at the world and piecing it together. Pieces that seem to be alone, but thread through to everything else. Dew drops glistening on a summer day, catching the sunlight and flashing it back. See how it works? And in the middle of it all is the spider, waiting to catch you if you get too wrapped up in the web, caught in its beauty and complexity, itself a piece of the web: reaching out with its many legs to touch nodes in its own form of the pattern, and changing them as it goes, revealing new connections never seen before, revealed for the first time in an *ah-ha* moment as new connections flash blindingly over the horizon of what is known.

Robert Moore, Jr., is the lab manager for the Department of Physics & Astrophysics. He's also a student pursuing a certificate in writing, editing, and publishing. In his limited spare time, he writes, considering himself a storyteller and hoping others will join him around the fire and share a tale.