Drag the time expressions at the bottom to the gap they best fit.

_____ we watched our father take the jar out to the patio on the day we had been waiting for since he put the spider into it with its egg sac. It was a black widow spider which we knew never to touch in the garden and to know by the red bow on its belly. We'd been living in the country _____ our alien mother started calling the apartment from her orbit. Our father lay down near the jar, on his side. He was always showing us stuff around the farm. He said a lot about learning to take care of others as a part of growing up, and we watched him with eyes too big for our heads. We gathered around the jar and put our noses to it in turn, looking for the movement he said to look for in the egg sac, how you could see it was time by shadows crossing.

_____we were getting a little bored, the babies started to come out, just like he said. They were smaller than anything, and the big mother spider, you couldn't tell if she was paying attention. The babies were making their ways to the air holes punched in the lid. Our father just watched and commented for our benefit. Spiders crawl their whole lives. We watched, but some of our attention wandered. We were new to the countryside, new life surrounding us. _____, after the apocalypse, a brother of mine said, "Do you remember if you were nervous with all those poison spiders radiating from the jar? Do you remember that we didn't have any insect spray because we'd just moved out there, but he had a can of hairspray and that's what he sprayed on them, just as they were getting away? Why did we have hairspray? Was it hers?"

Adapted from *Miracles* by Lucy Corin

years after that day | ever since | that day | Just as

LIVEWORKSHEETS