

Teacher's Guide for Spider

October 2012

Teacher's Guide prepared by Teresa Nordheim

Teresa Nordheim works with elementary level children in the education field. She is also a freelance writer with well over thirty published magazine articles. She loves the challenge of making education for children enjoyable and fun.

Getting Started

This month's issue contains monsters, pumpkins, and ghosts. Why are these items appropriate for the month of October?

Spider's Mailbox

Math Connection (Determining Averages):

What is the average age of the person who wrote to Spider in October?

(W4, W5) Writing and Editing

Write a letter to Spider. Exchange this letter with one classmate. Proofread each other's letter and then rewrite them making the needed corrections. When your letter is perfected, mail it to Spider:

Spider's Mailbox

P.O. Box 300

Peru, IL 61354

Doodlebug & Dandelion

(RL/RI1) Remembering Details:

Who was dressed as Witch Hazel?

Who was dressed as Buzzard Boy?

Why was it difficult for the kids to get candy from the jars?

How many candies did each child get?

Did some children get more candy than others?

(W3) Writing a Narrative Story:

Do you celebrate Halloween or another holiday where you dress in costume? Write a narrative story telling about your favorite costume.

Spooky, Spidery Soaps

(L3) Following Directions:

Follow the instructions to make the soap.

(RL/RI3) Compare and Contrast:

Compare and contrast liquids and solids by performing experiments on water. Is water a solid, liquid, or gas?

Internet & Science Connection:

Watch the following video, which explains what happens to the chemicals in water when it's heated or cooled. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s-KvoVzukHo>

(SL5) Use Multimedia

As a class, make a list of different examples of a solid, liquid, and gas.

Wilderness Rescue

Geography & Art Connection: Drawing Maps

If you owned a campground what would it look like? Draw a map and label the different areas of your campground.

(RL/RI 3) Pros and Cons:

How did Megan mark the trail for her brother to follow? How else might she have marked the trail?

Discuss the pros and cons of each method.

Internet Connection:

Use the internet to research bears. How should a human respond if they find two baby bear cubs in a tree?

The Monster in the Lake

(L1) Recognizing Parts of Speech:

Use a highlighter pen to go through the entire story and mark all of the adjectives.

Art connection:

Draw a picture of a mysterious creature that may or may not exist.

(SL4, SL5) Research a Topic and Give a Speech:

Are there other creatures like the lake monster? Break into several small groups. Each group receives the name of a cryptid. Work together to predict what your creature looks like, where it lives, and what it eats, and is it dangerous. Then use books from the library or the internet to research your creature.

Present your information to the class. Choose from the following creatures:

- Sasquatch
- The Loch Ness Monster
- The Mothman
- Yeti
- El Chupacabra

Mapinguari: Beast or Myth?

Geography Connection:

Use a map to locate South America.

(W1) Writing an Opinion Piece:

Write a story describing an undiscovered creature. You may use one that you have heard about or create your own. Make sure to describe the appearance of the creature, where it lives, and tell why it hasn't been discovered yet.

(RL/RI1, RL/RI6) Answering Questions & Determining Meanings:

What did the scientist find when they studied the hair and feces that was collected?

What is a paleontologist?

Internet Connection:

Use the internet to discover other animals which people once thought were too strange to be true but later turned out to be real.

Slothology:

(RI/RI1, RL/RI4) Answering Questions & Analyzing Text:

What other animals hang upside down?

What happens to humans if they hang upside down? Why do you think this happens?

The poem is placed upside down in the magazine? Why do you think this is?

The Monster in the Cafeteria:

(L4) Vocabulary

Look these words up in the dictionary and write down their definition:

- Fierce
- Humongous
- Devour
- Bellows
- Greedy
- Blubbering

(RL/RI1) Answering Questions:

How much extra did the cook say it would cost to add children to the monsters meal?

Why didn't the monster have enough money?

What did he spend his money on?

Why do you think the monster always appears at lunchtime and then disappears after lunchtime?

(RL/RI6) Determining Author's Point of View:

"He knocks the music teacher through the bass drum like it's tissue paper." What does this phrase mean?

Autumn:

Art Connection:

Complete a leaf art project.

- Collect a wide variety of leaves.
- Place a leaf under a sheet of white paper.
- Rub the paper with the side of a crayon, and you will see the lines of the leaf appear.

(RI 3) Compare & Contrast:

Compare and contrast leaves during each of the four seasons: spring, summer, autumn, and winter.

How are they the same? How do they differ?

The Story of Heungbo:

Geography Connection:

Look up Korea on a world map.

(RL/RI) Recalling Details

What did Nolbo ask his brother to do when their father died? Why do you think he did this?

What did Heungbo do with the injured bird?

How did the bird reward him?

What did Nolbo do with the injured bird?

How did the bird reward him?

(RI/RI3) Compare & Contrast:

Compare and contrast the similarities and difference of the two brothers?

Ophelia's Last Word:

Art Connection:

Create and play the game.

(SL1) Collaboration, Prediction, & Interpretation:

Make a prediction of how many marbles/balls will go in the monsters mouth and then interpret your results.

Greedy Ghosts:

Math Connection: Prediction, Matching, & Counting

Predict which head will match to which body. Then complete the maze to see if you were correct.
How many crosses can you find on this page?
Can you match the two snakes on Medusa's head?

Pickin' Pumpkins:

Art Connection:

Cut out the game pieces and play the game on the page.

Math Connection:

Count the number of pumpkins on the game page. Count the number of leaves. How many more leaves are there than pumpkins? (Teacher note: There are 17 pumpkins and 53 leaves)