

Teacher's Guide for Spider

November/December 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:

(RL/RI2) Discovering Themes

Flip through the pages of this month's magazine. Do you notice any common elements?

(RL/RI7) Make Inferences

Why do you suppose there are many stories on Native Americans in the November/December issue?

Spider's Mailbox:

(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 ready, mail it to Spider:

Spider's Mailbox, P.O. Box 300, Peru, IL 61354

Doodlebug & Dandelion – The Gift Exchange:

(L4) Vocabulary

Use a dictionary to define the following words:

1. Intricately
2. Exchange
3. Prancing
4. Underneath
5. Parlor

(RL/RI10) Recalling Facts

What gift did Dandelion want to buy for her brother?

Why couldn't she buy the gift?

How did she raise the money she needed?

What gift did Doodlebug buy for his sister?

How did he raise the money he needed?

(RL/RI1) Draw Inferences

Once Doodlebug and Dandelion opened their presents, both found they couldn't use them. Why is this?

Reader Riots:

(W10, SL4)

Write a joke and present it to your class.

(RL/RI7) Make Connections:

Why might this issue have a "best of 2012" article?

Ayoka and Sequoyah – Writing Cherokee History:

(RL/RI10) Recalling Facts

What year was Sequoyah born?

Where was Sequoyah born?

(RL/RI3) Compare and Contrast

Compare and contrast the pros and cons of having your own, unique system of writing and communicating.

(RL/RI4) Determining Meaning

The author says, "The Cherokee called these treaties "talking leaves" because they thought the white man's promises dried up and blew away like leaves." What does this mean? Why did the author use this analogy to describe the treaties?

Internet Use

Use the internet to research information on the Cherokee writing system and look for samples.

http://www.native-languages.org/ Cherokee_alphabet.htm

(SL1, L5, W4, W5, W10) Writing & Planning

Break into several small groups. Each group must work together to form their own simple alphabet or method of communication. Use this writing system to write notes to others in your group. For added fun, pass your note to someone in another group and see if they can figure out what you said. (Remember, they won't know your super, secret writing method.)

Cherokee Marble Game:

Math Connection

If the current year is 2012, and this game was created 1,200 year ago, what year was it created?

The holes are each 5 feet apart. Which means the total game playing area is 15 feet by 5 feet. What is the square footage of the game area? (Hint: $15 \times 5 =$ ___ feet squared)

The Sacrifice of the Rainbow Bird - A Tale from the Leni Lenape:

(RL/RI1) Draw Inferences

Start by looking at all of the illustrations for the story. Why do you think the illustrator chose to make the drawings have a Native American feel and look?

(L3) Find Adjectives

Read through the story and find at least ten adjectives.

(RL/RI6) Author Purpose

What is the author's purpose in writing this story? Was it to entertain, inform, or both?

(RL/RI7) Make Inferences

The author tells us that Rainbow Bird came back with a black covering his wings and beak. His beautiful voice sounded like "a rusty door hinge". Have you seen a bird that might match this description? If so, is it a bird which you think of as a pest (eats garbage and makes a lot of noise) or a thoughtful and caring bird who loves to entertain people? Did the author change your view of this bird?

How to Keep Warm All Winter with One Stick of Wood:

(RL/RI3, RL/RI7) Make Inferences

How would following the author's instructions keep you warm? Compare and contrast this method of keeping warm in winter.

Internet Use

Sid Fleischman was a renowned author who passed away in 2010. Visit his website to learn more about his life and his work in the field of writing. Have you read any of his books?

<http://sidfleischman.com/booklist.html>

The Snow Ball:

Internet Research

What do you call two words which are spelled the same and/or sound the same but have different meanings? Use the internet to help you locate this answer. What are others samples of this type of word?

(RL/RI4) Determine Meaning

Define the word "ball" as it is used in this poem.

Christmas Fudge:

(W1) Write Opinions

Write a paragraph describing how you would feel about giving up your fudge. How would it make you feel? (Samples: happy, sad, angry, proud, hungry, good, bad) Write an opening sentence followed by at least three details. Finish with a concluding sentence.

(RL/RI4) Make Inferences

Why was Mama singing?

(SL6) Debate

Hold a debate. One person will be in favor of keeping the fudge for themselves, while the other will be in favor of offering it to the visitors. Debate for ten minutes and then hold a poll by asking students to raise their hands. Which side wins?

Spider's Corner:

(W10) Write a Poem

Send Spider a poem about your favorite holiday tradition.

Send your poems to: Spider's Corner, P.O. Box 300, Peru, IL 61354

Ophelia's Last Word:

Following Directions

If you have access to a microwave, complete the recipe for Ophelia's "Holiday Hooray" Fudge.

Make a Mokuk:

Following Directions

Follow the instructions to complete the Mokuk.

Internet Use

Use the internet to learn more about a Mokuk. http://www.hockingmaple.com/Maple_Syrup.htm