

# Teacher's Guide for Spider

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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) Flip through the pages of this month's magazine. Read the title of each story and look at the illustrations. Can you see a common theme?

## 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 perfected, mail it to Spider:

Spider's Mailbox

P.O. Box 300

Peru, IL 61354

## Doodlebug & Dandelion – The Polar Bear Club:

(W3) Writing Narrative

Many families have traditions. What about your family? Write one paragraph about a tradition which your family does each year. Make sure to include an opening sentence, at least three details, and a concluding sentence.

(L4) Vocabulary

Define the following words from the story:

1. Fiendish
2. Enthusiasm
3. Revealed
4. Milling
5. Exhilarating

(RL/RI1) Compare and Contrast

How would jumping in a frozen lake compare to a warm swimming pool? How does swimming during the summertime compare to swimming during the winter?

## Fabulous Facts: The Polar Bear Plunge:

(RL/RI10) Comprehension

How many times per year is the polar bear plunge done in Canada? Who was the founder of the Coney Island Polar Bear Club? What is a polar bear plunge? Can you wear a wetsuit when attending a polar bear plunge? How long can you stay in the cold water before your body starts to lose heat?

(RL/RI9) Comparing Themes

Are the facts stated on this page non-fiction or fiction?

## The Snowman Who Didn't Melt:

(W6) Internet Use

Use the internet to research the temperatures of which snow falls and the temperature of which snow melts. Write your information down in the form of a paragraph.

(RL/RI6) Point of View

What was the author's point of view? Did they write this story to entertain or teach? Do you think this story is fiction or non-fiction?

(RL/RI8) Evaluate Evidence

Do you believe the author? Do you think a snowman could survive the warm spring and summer months? Why or why not?

### **Snow Angel:**

(W1) Writing Opinion

Different seasons of the year allow us to participate in different activities. For example, during the winter you can make snow angels. During the fall you can jump in a pile of leaves. During the summer you can swim. During the spring you can plant flowers. Write one paragraph telling readers about your favorite seasonal activity and why it is the best activity.

### **The Enchanted Pool:**

Geography Connection

Use a map to locate Japan. Is it close or far away from the United States?

(RL/RI10) Recalling Information

What did the old man need to do each night so that his wife could prepare dinner?

Why didn't the wife believe it was her husband standing on the doorstep?

Why did he look different?

What did the old man find when he went to look for his wife by the Pool of Youth?

Use of Technology

Watch the following video titled: Ancient Mysteries- Quest For the Fountain of Youth on Youtube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ouri5f261oM>

### **Who Would I Be:**

(SL1, SL2) Break into groups of five. Have each person in the group write down the name of any type of animal. As a group, they must combine their animals to make one unique animal. Make a list of characteristics for the new animal and give it a name. Then each group presents their animal in front of the class.

### **Hobby Friday:**

(RL/RI10) Recalling Information

What hobby did Chris enjoy?

What was he planning to tell the class about his hobby?

What did Chris design?

Did the class like his designs? Why or why not?

How many bowling trophies did Brain say he had?

(W2) Writing Informative

What is your favorite hobby? Write an informative speech about your hobby and present it to the class. Remember to include an opening statement, at least three details, and a closing statement.

(RL/RI7) Make a Connection

Who is Albert Pujols? Watch a short Youtube video of his career highlights for 2012:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h7yXT06xiwc>

### **Recycled Calendar Puzzles:**

Art Connection

Use old calendar photos to make your own puzzles.

(RL/RI) Pros and Cons

Discuss pro and cons of using other items to make puzzles

### **Maps, Queens, and Jellybeans: A Puzzling History:**

(RL/RI6) Author Point of View

What is the author's purpose for writing this story? Is it non-fiction or fiction?

(RL/RI7, RLRI10) Make a Connection

Why were puzzles so popular during the Great Depression? Discuss the pros and cons to puzzles when you don't have a lot of money to spend.

(RL/RI10) Make a Connection

Why might a solid colored puzzle be harder than a multi-colored puzzle?

(L6) Vocabulary

Look up and define the following words:

Jigsaw

Dissected

Frenzied

Geography Connection:

Use a map to locate London, England.

Internet Connection:

Use the internet to locate information on Jackson Pollock. <http://www.biography.com/people/jackson-pollock-9443818>

Art Connection:

Use the following link and lesson plan to create an art lesson inspired by Jackson Pollock. You will need: white paper, tempera paints, marbles, salad bowls, teaspoons, and a cookie sheet or box lid.

<http://www.storyboardtoys.com/gallery/Jackson-Pollock-lesson-plan.htm>

### **Spider's Corner:**

Photography Connection

Send Spider a photo of you reading Spider Magazine in a weird or funny place. Your photos can be sent to: Spider's Corner, P.O. Box 300, Peru, IL 61354

### **Ophelia's Last Word:**

(RL/RI 10) Reading

Follow the recipe and make your own melting snowman cocoa.

{RL/RI3) Compare and Contrast

Compare and contrast your created cocoa mix to a real snowman. How are they alike? How are they different?

### **New Year's Ball:**

(L1) Understanding Language

What do you call two or more words that sound alike and are spelled the same, but have different meanings? What are the different meanings of the word ball? Can you think of other words like these?

### **Village Square Solitaire:**

Math Connection:

Look at the checkerboard of squares and count how many squares you can see. Does the number vary depending on who is counting? Why might this be?

Working in Groups:

Make copies of the board game and divide the class into small group. Play the game.