

Teacher's Guide for Spider

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Teacher's Guide prepared by Teresa Nordheim

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Getting Started:

(RL/RI2) Determine a Theme

Flip through the entire magazine from front to back cover. Read the title to each story and look at the illustrations. Do you see a common theme? Why do you think this theme might have been chosen for the February 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 perfected, mail it to Spider:

Spider's Mailbox

P.O. Box 300

Peru, IL 61354

Doodlebug & Dandelion:

(RL/RI1) Recall Information

Who and what was Fuzzerbee?

What is the name of Doodlebug and Dandelion's dog?

What did Don't and Fuzzerbee do on their date?

How did Choo-Choo cheer up Don't?

(L4) Vocabulary

Define the following words: exposing, twitched, yipping, plump, cautiously

Cat-and-Dog Delights:

(W3) Write a Narrative

Write a narrative piece about the time you adopted your dream pet. It can be a real experience or one that you made up. The pet can be something as common as a cat or dog. It can also be as wild as a hedgehog or unicorn.

(SL1) Engage in a Discussion

Could you replace the chicken baby food with fruit baby food? Why or why not?

Selim, Shadows, and the Sea:

(L4) Vocabulary

Define the following word: talent, ashamed generations, hollow, gust

(SL1) Engage in a Discussion & Internet Use

Is the roc a real bird or an imaginary one? Use the following internet site to help you discover the answer: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roc_\(mythology\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roc_(mythology))

(RL/RI1) Recall Information

How did the boys get down the river?

What did they use for a new mast?

Was the roc bird big or small?

What career did Ali think his brother might enjoy?

My Sister's Bedroom:

Searching for Items

See if you can find the following items in the illustration: soccer ball, straw, hairbrush, computer, pizza, domino, guitar, necklace, toothbrush, glue

(RL/RI1) Recall Information

What items are hanging from her light?

Where does she keep her mud ball?

Why can't you shut her door?

(W1) Write an Opinion

Write an opinion piece about messy rooms vs. clean rooms. Is it better to have a messy room? Why or why not? Do you prefer a clean room? Why or why not? Be sure to include many details and try to prove that your opinion is the correct answer to the question of which is best, messy or clean.

The Great Bunk Bed War:

(RL/RI1) Recall Information

What started the great bunk bed war?

What almost went up Bruiser's nose?

Why did Bruiser unhook the ladder?

What happened when the sheet came over the front of the bunk beds?

(L4) Vocabulary

Define the following words: somersault, nostril, yanked, reeling,

Winter Embroidery:

(RL/RI3) Compare and Contrast

The author compares the bird tracks to embroidery stitches. Compare and contrast these two items. How are they alike and how are they different?

Internet Connection

What is embroidery? Use the internet to learn more about this craft.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Embroidery>

(W4) Write a Poem

Write a poem about two items that are similar.

Frogs on Ice:

(RL/RI6) Author's Purpose

What is the author's purpose in writing this story? Is it to entertain or teach? Does this help to determine if the story is fiction or non-fiction?

Geography Connection

On a map locate the Arctic Circle and discuss the distance from your location. Is it close or is it far away?

(W2, W6) Research Via Internet and Write an Informative

Use the internet to research a type of frog. Write a detailed informative piece on the frog you have researched. Remember to include an opening sentence, at least three details, and a closing sentence. Draw a picture of your frog to go with your article and then present it all to the class.

(SL1, SL4) Research and Report

Can other animals freeze and still survive? Break into groups. Each group receives one animal name. They must then use library books or the internet to research their animal and determine if it can freeze and come back to life. The animals to choose from are: Snow Flea, Honey Bee, Humans, Goldfish, Snakes, Alligators, and Penguins

(RL/RI1) Recall Information

What is the name of the antifreeze used by frogs?

Where do Wood Frogs live?

What is the most common frog in the United States?

What sound does the Wood Frog make?

Internet Connection

Watch the following video to learn more about Wood Frogs:

<http://youtu.be/UvCdOXG2rPo>

Ice, Ice Baby:

(RL/RI2) Discussing Theme

Why do you think the word "ice" is used for the February magazine?

(SL1, SL4) Engage in a Discussion and Report

Break into small groups of five or less. Think of other words that end in "ice". Create a riddle for each of these words and then present them to the class.

Complete the riddles on the page.

Ribburta and the Run-Ragged Babysitting:

(SL1) Engage in a Discussion & Internet Use

"What do you mean I've got one hundred new brothers and sisters?!" cried Ribburta the frog." Would a human ever need to say this? What is the biggest number of humans born at one time?

<http://theophanes.hubpages.com/hub/Human-Reproductive-Records>

Internet Use & Video Viewing

What are the different stages of a frog's life? Watch the following video to learn more:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YCpfzI0B4M>

(RL/RI1) Recall Information

How did the small frogs scare away the snake?

How many brothers and sisters did Ribburta have?

Why did Ribburta need to babysit her siblings?

Why do you think it was so difficult to control her siblings?

Do you think Ribburta liked her brother and sisters? What information can you locate in the passage to support your answer?

Connecting Illustration to a Story

Look carefully at the illustration on the first page. Do you see small balls on the right hand side of the picture? What do you think these are?

Spider's Corner:

(W4) Writing

Send a Valentine to your favorite buggy at Spider. Spider's corner, P.O. Box 300, Peru, IL 61354

Ophelia's Last word:

Follow the directions on the page to make ice art.

Valentine Twins:

Help Marcy find the twin Valentines.

Math Connection

How many Valentines do you see on the page? How many hearts do you see? Subtract the number of cards from the number of hearts. Answers may vary.

My Froggy Valentine:

(W4) Write a Joke

Write your own knock knock joke and present it to the class.

Art Connection

Follow the instruction on the page to make a froggy Valentine for one of your friends. You will need scissors and glue.