

Teacher's Guide for Spider

March 2013

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?

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:

(L4) Define the Following: Plummeted, Contraption, Umpteenth, Ambled, Murmur, Applauded

(RL/RI 10) Recalling Information

What was the boy recording at the beginning of the story?

The story says the boy's mom was a teacher. What subject did she teach?

What were Doodlebug and Rudyard doing outside?

What was the real name of the boy they called, "wind freak"?

(RL/RI 7) Making a Connection

Look at the illustrations. What do you think the weather was like during the story?

March:

(RL/RI 7, Internet) Making a Connection / Internet Use

Who is Maurice Sendak? Watch the following PBS video learn more about the man and his contribution to children's literature. <http://youtu.be/GRZXX0rF1BE>

(W5) Write an alphabet poem using the letters: MARCH. With each letter, write a sentence that describes the month of March.

(RL/RI 4) Mr. Sendak says the wind "laps it up". What does this mean? How can wind lap soup off of the floor?

The Giant's Wife

Geography Connection

Use a map to locate Ireland. How far is Ireland from the United States?

(RL/RI 4, W5, SL1) Divide the class into five equal groups. Each group will receive a phrase from the story and must work together to determine the meaning, as well as, why the author might have decided to use the words to compare the two objects.

1. "howling like a banshee"
2. "That bully has more might than a thunderstorm"

3. "Does that mountain of muscle have a brain inside?"
4. "A shadow like a storm cloud darkened the doorway."
5. "grabbing a potato and peeling like a hurricane."

(RL/RI 10) Recalling Details

List in order, the tasks the wife asked Cuhullin to complete.

The Giant:

Math Connection

Count the number of birds in the illustration. Now count number of visible stitches on the giant's pants. Multiply the two numbers together. What is your answer? ($5 \times 7 = 35$)

Super Tulip:

(L3, SL1, SL2, SL3) Hold a Debate

Sometimes being different isn't fun, but other times we are blind to the positive qualities of an item. Just as Tulip was teased by her new glasses, she was able to turn the day around and find a positive ending. Divide into two equal groups. The first group will debate the pros of wearing braces. The second group will debate the cons. When you are done with your debate, take a poll and see which side won.

(RL/RI 10) Recalling Details

1. What did Gregory says Tulip looked like in her glasses?
2. Why wouldn't Missy toss the ball to Tulip when they were playing catch?
3. What did Scotty think the glasses could do?
4. What did Tulip tell the other kids she could do while wearing her glasses? Did the other kids believe her? Why or why not?

Art Connection

Draw a picture of what you might look like if you needed to wear glasses.

Invisible!

(L4) Define the Following: Cloak, vanished, eased, cylinder, infrared, fractals

Internet & Math Connection

Watch the following video on invisibility cloaks. <http://youtube/JpMJTJXf28>

(SL1, SL2) While a fractal is a complex mathematical set, it can be defined as the repeating of one shape. Think about the world around you. What items might contain fractals? (Clouds, trees, snowflakes, fault lines, mountain ranges, lightning bolts, crystals, DNA, broccoli, cauliflower, etc.)

Art Connection

You will need: paint, white construction paper

How to: 1. Fold the white construction paper in half and then open it back up. 2. Place one drop of paint in the center of one side. 3. Fold the paper in half again and press lightly. 4. Pull the paper open again. You will have fractal patterns on both sides of the paper.

Freaky Force Field

Following Directions

Prepare your own freaky force field by following the instructions on the page.

(SL1) Discuss the section on the lower right, "why it works" and discuss what other ingredients might have the same results.

The Tanner Mystery

(RL/RI7) Making a Connection

Who is Sherlock Holmes? http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sherlock_Holmes

(L4) Define the following: astute, gruff, intellectual, jealous, insecure, awkward

Recalling Information

How did the storyteller know Tanner had a tuna sandwich for lunch?

How did he know Tanner had powdered donuts for breakfast?

How did he know Tanner took a shortcut to school?

Who did the detective hat originally belong to and why was it special to Tanner?

Tanner said he would allow the storyteller to wear his hat, if he loaned him what item?

(W3) Write a Narrative

Pretend you are a world famous detective solving a case. What would the case be and how would you solve it? Make sure to have a beginning sentence, at least three details, and a closing statement. Take the reader on a journey with you while you solve the case. Are there clues? Who ends up being the bad guy? Does your hero save the day?

Spider's Corner

Write a Poem

Spider would like poems on superpowers. Write a poem about what superpower you would have if you could have any that you like. Send this to Spider's Corner, P.O. Box 300, Peru, IL 61354

Ophelia's Last Word

Reading a Recipe

Follow the recipe on the page to create Irish Potato Candy.

(RL/RI 7) Why might there be an Irish recipe in the March issue? What important holiday takes place in March?

Mrs. Pat and Her Big Red Hair

Can you help Mrs. Pat? How many animals can you see? How many methods of transportation can you see?

Detective Hat

Make your own detective hat by following the instruction on the page.