

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?

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, 10) Recalling Facts

In which sections of the store did Doodlebug and Dandelion work?

What items are kept in the produce section of a store? Name at least five items.

What items are kept in the foreign section of the store? Name at least five items.

What did Dandelion do to Miss Bugjoose to make her scream like a howler monkey?

(W1) Write an Opinion

What if you had a twin? Would you enjoy having someone who looks just like you or would it create problems. Would you want to dress alike and act alike or be your own person? Make sure to have an opening sentence, at least three details, and a closing sentence. Tell the reader how you and your twin would be the same and how you would be different.

(RL/RI3) Compare and Contrast

Compare and contrast the two ladies named Miss Bugjoose. How were they the same and how were they different?

Foiled Ya!:

Make a Prediction

If you were to play this joke on someone, would they fall for it? Have everyone vote and keep track of the results. After performing the experiment, interpret your results. Was your prediction correct?

(RL/RI 10) Follow a Recipe

Make the impossible drink and try to serve it to a friend or family member.

(W1) Write an Opinion

While jokes and pranks can be humorous, there are times when they can have the opposite effect. Have you ever been on the receiving end of a prank? How did this make you feel? Have you ever hurt someone's feelings after playing a prank on them? Give your opinion; are joke and pranks good or bad? Be sure to include an opening sentence, at least three details, and a closing sentence.

Quynh and the Golden Gate:

Geography Connection

Use a world map to locate Vietnam and China. How are they from the United States?

(L4) Vocabulary

Define the following: humility, fortunate, invades, marveled, slyly, malice,

Math Connection

The Chinese ambassador promised to leave the king at peace for three winters if the gate was impressive. How many years would this be?

(RL/RI1,2,10) Relating to Theme

How does this story fit in with the month of April? What trick does the King's advisor play on the ambassador?

Mystery Dinner:

(L1) Locate all of the adjectives in the poem.

(RL/RI6) Point of View

The author compares spaghetti to slurpy worms. Compare and contrast the two items. How are they the same? How are they different? Why might the author have used this comparison?

(W2) Write an Informative

Create your own sandwich. Describe your sandwich by including: smell, taste, texture, and what it looks like. What would you call it? Draw an illustration to go with your story. Present your sandwich to the class and teach them how to create your recipe.

The Blackbird and the Worm:

(L4) Vocabulary

Define the following: prowling, striking, ridiculous, smugly, obvious, precisely, shortsighted

(RL/RI 9) Compare and Contrast

Do you think this story is fiction or non-fiction? Explain your reasoning.

(RL/RI1, 10) Recalling Facts

What did the black bird see when he looked up at the clouds?

What did the worm see?

How did the worm trick the black bird?

Worm Charming:

Internet Connection

Watch the following video to see worm charmers in action. <http://youtu.be/OnwEJEDsWBc>

(RL/RI6, 9) Genre

Is this story fiction or non-fiction? What is the author's purpose of telling the story?

(RL/RI1, 10) Recalling Facts

Who is the youngest worm charming champion and how old was she when she first won?

How many worms did the current official record holder collect?

How many minutes do competitors have to collect worms?

Why does vibration make worms come to the surface of the ground?

How many worms might a professional worm charmer gather in one day?

Madcap Map: Funny U.S.:

(W7, SL5) Internet & Geography Connection

Use the internet to look up funny names in your home state. Locate these towns on a map and see how far they are from your hometown. Be sure to share these names with your classmate and see what kind of names they found.

(W3) Write a Narrative

If you were the mayor of a town what would you name it and why? Be sure to include an opening sentence, at least three details, and a closing sentence. Present your town to the class.

A Girl Called Porkchop:

(L4) Vocabulary

Define the following: ravine, squeal, muck, podium, symbolism

(RL/RI1, 10) Recalling Facts

Why did the main character get the nickname "Porkchop"?

How old was she when she decided she wanted to be called by her real name?

Name at least three people who she asked to stop calling her Porkchop.

What was the main character's real name?

How did they decide on the new name for the town?

What name was selected?

(RL/RI4) What did the author mean when they said, "The room buzzed like flies in a hogpen."?

Spider's Corner

Send Spider a picture of something wiggly. Send this to Spider's Corner, P.O. Box 300, Peru, IL 61354

Ophelia's Last Word

(RI/RL3, SL1) Hold a Debate

When growing a plant, which is more important: worms or fertilizer?