

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: Tree House

(L4) Vocabulary

Define the following words: rickety, decrepit, chortled, commotion, and annoyance

(W3) Write Narrative

Imagine what your dream tree fort would look like. Write a story using as many details as possible to describe what your tree house would look like on the inside and the outside. Be sure to include an opening sentence and closing sentence.

(RL/RI 10) Recalling Information

What day of the week was it when the boys were hanging out in Bog's yard?

What was the name of the paint gun the girls used to color the outside of the tree house?

What did Tomiko's dad invent for the girls?

What did the boys have to promise in order to use the water slide?

Ant's Journey

Write a poem using the A/B/A/B pattern. Every other sentence must end in a rhyming word. Example: "Scurry now, No time to waste. Hurry up, I'm making haste." What food item might you want to hurry up and eat?

The Traveling Watermelon

(RL/RI 10) Recalling Facts

Where was the first home of the watermelon? Locate this country on the World map.

Which came first, the pyramids or watermelon?

What countries did the watermelon travel to before coming to America?

Can you eat watermelon seeds?

Name some of the vitamins and minerals found in watermelon.

Where are watermelons most commonly grown today?

(SL5) Video Presentation

Square watermelons: <http://youtu.be/KjAFn6FTKZ4>

Watermelon Pops

Follow the recipe on page 13 to create your own watermelon pops. Discuss why these pops are more nutritious than some you can buy at the store.

Red Canoe

(RL/RI 10) Recalling information

Where does the story teller sit?

How do they find their way in the dark?

What do they listen to hear?

How does the illustration relate to the poem? Can you see any of the items listed in the poem, drawn in the illustration?

Gift of the Kiwi

(SL5 Video Presentation)

Kiwi birds: <http://youtu.be/4Be5XYhkEnI>

(L4) Vocabulary

Define the following words: examine, breeze, shelter, feathers, sparkling

(W1) Write an Opinion

Every creature on Earth has something which they love to do. The tui bird was proud of her singing voice. The huia bird was proud of her beautiful wings and the kokako was proud of her many children. Each bird refused to give up the one item that made them special, except for the kiwi bird. What is one action/hobby/talent which you wouldn't want to give up? If asked to give it up for the sake of others, would you? Or would you refuse. Be sure to have a strong opening and closing sentence. As well as, several detailed reasons for your choice.

(RL/RI 6) Author's Point of View

The author states: "Today, thanks to the kiwi, the forest of New Zealand remain lush and green, and the trees stand – proud and tall 0 far above the forest floor."

Do you think the author likes the kiwi bird or dislikes the kiwi bird? State your reasons.

Speak Like a Native

(SL1) Practicing Speech

Practice the ten words listed on the page. Then break into small groups and use the internet to look up five more words native to New Zealand. Each group must then present their words and teach the class how to pronounce them and what they mean.

Art Connection

Follow the link to instructions on creating an art native to New Zealand called Koru.

<http://www.kinderart.com/multic/koruart.shtml>

Remember...

Finding Parts of Speech

Locate all of the adjectives in this poem and circle them. Underline all of the verbs in this poem.

Talking Baseball

(RL/RI 10) Recalling Information

Did Adrian like sports?

Who did he go with to the baseball game?

Who was Rey?

Why did Rey have to sit on the bench for so long?

Did Rey's team win or lose?

How did they celebrate after the game?

(RL/RI6) Compare and Contrast

The author uses several phrases to compare baseball to other items in life. Take a look at each of these and discuss with a small group where these phrases might have originated from. See if you can come up with one of your own.

1. "smashing a tater in his last game"
2. "He's catching fungoes."
3. "Coach made him ride the pine for a few games."
4. "Check out that shoestring catch!"
5. "Whoa! That's a moon shot!"

Patriotic Puzzle

Follow the directions and complete the puzzle.

Summertime Jollies

Write your own joke and present it in front of the class.

Spider's Corner

Spider is looking for drawn pictures of your favorite summertime treat. Send this to Spider's Corner, P.O. Box 300, Peru, IL 61354