

# Teacher's Guide for Spider

November / December 2013

*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/RI9) Discovering Themes: Flip through the pages of this issue. Look at each illustration and read the story titles. Do you notice a theme? Why might this theme be appropriate for the months of November and December? What holidays arrive in these two months?

## **Spider's Mailbox:**

(W5) Editing and Revising: Write a letter to Spider. Exchange letters with classmates who will check for spelling and grammar errors. Make corrections if needed. Fill out an envelope with your return address and mail your letter to Spider's Mailbox, P.O. Box 300, Peru, IL 61354

## **Doodlebug & Dandelion:**

(L4) Define the Following: canopy, harness, reveal, thrashed, and stunned

(RL/RI1) Recalling Facts:

Where did they travel for their vacation?

What type of animal was Charles?

What happened to Charles when he traveled the zip line?

Was Charles hurt?

What animals were surrounding Charles?

Internet Connection: Watch the following video on zip lining at Borneo. (approx. 1 minute)

<http://youtu.be/AtuccbIx70E>

## **Reader Riots: Best Jokes of 2013:**

Write your own joke and then share it with your class. If it's really good, send it to Spider at [spidermagazinekids.com/jokes/you](http://spidermagazinekids.com/jokes/)

## **A Fishy Christmas:**

(RL/RI1) Recalling Facts:

Where did Walter live?

Why did his family move?

Which religion did most islanders practice?

What happened to Hamisi's father?

Compare and Contrast:

How would the winter holidays be different in America and Zanzibar?

Geography Connection: Locate Zanzibar on a world map.

## **A Taste of St. Croix:**

Prepare the recipe for Le Awe Go Shap! Enjoy sampling it together.

(W, SL) Write a Narrative & Present it:

What is a holiday treat in which your family enjoys? Prepare a sample at home and have a sharing day where everyone can sample your treat. Write a two paragraph narrative report on the history of this food and it's connection to your family. Present your information to the class.

**When It's Thanksgiving:**

(W) Write an Opinion:

The Thanksgiving holiday is filled with food, family, friends, and football games. Do you enjoy it or dislike it? Write at least two paragraphs on your thoughts of the Thanksgiving holiday.

**What Turkeys Eat for Thanksgiving:**

RL/RI1) Recalling Facts:

Do wild turkeys still live in North America?

What do wild turkeys eat? Name at least ten examples.

Do turkeys chew their food?

What does a gizzard do?

What do you call a baby turkey?

What is the year of the first Thanksgiving dinner and where did it take place?

Internet Connection:

Follow the directions of the following website to learn more about the first Thanksgiving:

[http://www.scholastic.com/scholastic\\_thanksgiving/](http://www.scholastic.com/scholastic_thanksgiving/)

**Candlepower:**

Geography Connection: Use a map to locate Turkey

(RL/RI1) Recalling Fact:

What was the item, which helped keep Hodja focused?

Did he really warm himself with the candle? Why or why not?

Why did it take so long to cook dinner?

**Meadow Vole:**

Write a Poem:

Write a short poem about an animal which you might find in your yard. Make sure every other sentence rhymes.

**The Walking Game:**

Play the walking game and take photos of your discoveries and fun. Send the photos to Spider at the address below.

**Spider's Corner:**

Send the photo of your family playing the Walking Piece game: Spider's Corner, P.O. Box 300, Peru, IL 61354