

Teacher's Guide for Spider

March 2014

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 month of March?

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: pebbles, silky, glide, sashimi, ajar, selkie

(RL/RI 3) Compare and Contrast: Compare Selina to a seal. How are they alike and how are they different? Make a chart and work together to discover why the kids might have thought she was a seal.

(RL/RI1) Recalling Facts:

Who were Doodlebug and Dandelion going to visit?

What color were Selina's eyes?

What did Dandelion find in the closet that made her suspicious of Selina?

Multimedia Connection: Watch the following video on the legend of the selkie:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GesiI57-UdU> (7 minutes long)

Laughing Leprechauns:

(RI/RI10) Work together as a group to see if you can solve the riddle in the poem. Then divide into small groups and write your own riddle poem. Present your poem to the class and see if they can solve the riddle. Be creative and have fun.

Nel's Golden Treasure:

(RL/RI1) Recalling Facts:

What did Nel always carry with her?

How many brothers did Nel have? Can you name them all?

What did Nel find?

What did she use to mark her trail back to her treasure and why couldn't she go all the way home with her trail?

(L4) Define the Following: petticoat, budge, knit, cottage, glimpse

Miro's Lucky Welsh Scones:

What country does your family originate from? Ask your parents about your great, great, great grandparents. Do you have a special family recipe? Ask your parents to help you create a treat from the country where your ancestors came. Then bring it into class and share it with the rest of the class. This

special event can be celebrated by telling your classmates about your delicious dish, where it comes from and why it is special to your family.

Fabulous Frederic:

(RL/RI1) Recalling Facts:

Name two of the magic acts, which Frederic performed.

What was the problem with his magic trick called "color switch"?

What was special about Frederic's brother and how did he help him with his magic show?

(W3) Write a Narrative

Have you ever performed in a talent show? If so, what did you do? If you haven't, what would you do if you had the chance to perform? What is your special talent? Use at least five details to describe your talent.

Magic Spell Card Trick:

Following Directions: Work as a group and complete the card trick.

Multimedia Connection: Jim Steinmeyer is one of the greatest magicians in the world. Learn more about him by watching the following video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wboU0PgDCp0> (12 minutes long)

See if you can be tricked by this haunted doll: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wT9QgjC-ZWw>

Tom Smackleby and the Rainbow Trout:

(W1) Write an Opinion: Have you ever been bullied or been the bully? How does it feel? Imagine for a moment that you are the President of the United States. What would you do to about the bullying problems at your school? What laws might you make?

Wishing Fish:

(RL/RI7, W10) Highlight all the adjectives in this poem. Underline all the verbs and circle all the nouns.

(W3) Write a Narrative: If you went to the wishing well, what would you wish for and why?

Spider's Corner:

Send Spider a copy of the story you wrote for the Wishing Fish project. Spider's Corner, P.O. Box 300, Peru, IL 61354