

Teacher's Guide for Spider

October 2014

Teacher's Guide prepared by Teresa Nordheim

Teresa Nordheim has worked 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. www.teresanordheim.com

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? Why do you think this theme might have been chosen for the October issue?

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 perfect, mail it to Spider:

Spider's Mailbox

P.O. Box 300

Peru, IL 61354

Doodlebug & Dandelion:

(RL/RI1) Answer the following questions from the story:

1. Where did Uncle Beasley take them?
2. What was covered in moss and sinking in the ground?
3. What is the first name Uncle Beasley read from a tombstone?
4. Why did people think Whiplash might be a vampire?

(L4) Define the following words: belfry, dusk, ancient, ancestors, rogue

Video Connection: Watch the following video on bats. (Approx. 2 minutes) <http://youtu.be/RLn33-5034U>

Miro's Moldy Cheese & Crackers:

(L1/2) Follow the directions on the page to complete the recipe.

Unmagical Cat

(W3,SL4) Show and spell you very own magical cat. Write a fictional piece. Imagine your teacher gave you a magical cat. What powers would your cat have? Describe your cat with at least five descriptive details. Draw a picture of your cat as well. Then present your project to the class.

(RL/RI1) Answer the following questions from the story:

1. Name a few of the different magical powers the classroom cats held.
2. Why did Maria want a refund for her cat?
3. What was the name of Maria's cat?
4. What magical power did her cat possess?

Scaredy Cat:

Watch the following video and learn why you can't out run a cheetah: (approx. 3 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V8vejiVgIHg>

(RL/RI1) Answer the following questions from the story:

1. How fast can a cheetah run?
2. How long does it take for a cheetah to go 0 to 70mph?
3. Why do you think there are fewer cheetahs today than there were a hundred years ago?
4. Do cheetahs get along well with dogs?
5. Are the cheetahs at the Zoo Safari Park in San Diego dangerous? What about wild cheetahs?

Bill the Monster:

Art Connection: Monster Bookmarks

You will need: paper, ruler, scissors, decorative paper, glue stick, googly eyes, optional (stickers, stamps, crayons, markers). For a good sample of this craft with photo instructions: <http://tallystreasury.com/2011/02/corner-page-bookmarks-3/>

Steps:

1. Draw a 2.5-inch square on a blank piece of paper. Draw two more squares, exactly the same size, so that your three squares form an "L" shape.
2. Using your ruler, draw a diagonal line across the uppermost square. This square will now be a triangle.
3. Do the same on the bottom right square.
4. Cut off the triangles, which you wouldn't be using. (It will now look a little like a Batman head.)
5. Use this plain paper as a model to trace the shape on decorative or colored paper.
6. Fold the two triangles inward to form one triangle. You will now have a diamond shape with a basic structure for a bookmark.
7. Decorate as you please.

Ndiyamasi:

Geography Connection: Use a world map to locate Tanzania.

(L4) Define the following words: hideously, chant, dim, frightened.

(W1) Write a story about your biggest fear. What is your biggest fear and why does it scare you? Have you always been afraid of this item or is there a reason for your fear? For example, are you afraid of elevators because you were once trapped in an elevator and couldn't get out? Use a strong opening sentence, at least five details, and a strong closing sentence.

Wullus:

(RL/RI1) Answer the following questions from the story:

1. What games is Wullus good at?
2. What games is he not so good at?
3. How did the main character get the mean shadow monster to go away?

(SL4) Highlight all the adjectives in the story.