

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? Why do you think this theme might have been chosen for the January 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 was Don't?
2. Why did Bog say that Don't shouldn't be feed?
3. Why was Don't upset?
4. Don't compared himself to several different animals. How many can you name?
5. Where did Don't go first? Second? Third? Fourth?

(L4) Define the following words: signal, slightly, gulp, traipsing, lashed

Dragon Games:

(W10, SL4) Write a poem about your favorite sport and read it in front of the class. Circle all of the adjectives in the poem.

Partners in Art:

(W1, SL4) Write an opinion piece. Have you ever been required to work in a group or with a partner? Did you like it? Write about your likes and dislikes or working with a partner. Be sure to include a strong opening sentence and closing sentence. In between those sentences, there should be at least three paragraphs filled with details.

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

1. Why didn't other students like sitting by Leon?
2. Who is the main character?
3. What is the author's name? What is the illustrator's name?
4. What type of farm did Leon draw?
5. What did Nimmy suggest to help Leon?

Art Connection: Follow the following link to a website which has a child friendly art project and unique look on landscape art. <http://paintedpaperintheartroom.blogspot.com/2012/02/folk-art-landscapes.html>

Partner Painting:

Follow the directions and complete the partner painting on this page.

Eudora Entwhistle and the Geese of Macadoodle-by-the-sea:

Video Connection: Watch the following video by National Geographic, which gives information on Canadian Geese. (Approximately 2 minutes and 32 seconds)

http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/goose_canada

(L4) Define the following words: cacophonous, fowl, flock, heard (as in group of geese), flock

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

1. Who was coming to town?
2. Why did everyone want Eudora to leave town when the special visitor arrived?
3. Where did the Mayor send her?
4. Where did Horace send her?
5. Where did Gert send her?

The author uses the phrase, "on a wild goose chase." Use the internet to see what this description means. Then discuss why the author may have chosen that phrase.

Sergei's Musical Stories

Geography Connection: Locate Russia on a map.

Watch the following video of Sergei Prokofiev's Peter and the Wolf: (Full video is 13 minutes in length and is the Disney version)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ot7m9i70JDg>

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

1. How old was Sergei when he wrote his first music?
2. Why did his father think he needed to change *The Giant* and did he change it? Why or why not?
3. Why did Sergei write Peter and the Wolf?
4. Which instruments represented the wolf?
5. Read over the animals and instruments. Why do you think he chose certain instruments to represent certain animals?

Mae and the Dragon Part 2:

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

1. Who is the main character?
2. What did the dragon like to eat?
3. What color did the dragon turn when Mae played Chopin nocturne?
4. Do you think the dragon was comfortable inside the piano? Why or why not?
5. Why did Mae go to Mrs. Young's house?

(L4) Define the following words: stucco, wisteria, faint, snuffled, tricky

(W4) Write a fun, fictional story about a magical creature. Where does it live? What does it eat? What does it look like? Be sure to include many details and adjective. Draw a picture of your creature and share both your story and drawing with the class.