

Teacher's Guide for Spider

February 2015

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 February issue?

Spider's Mailbox:

(W4, W5) Writing and Editing

Write a poem about music. 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. What was the shape of the hotel rooms at the hotel?
2. Why were the snow globe rooms special?
3. Who developed a crush on Doodlebug?
4. What was the name of the room where they met their parents?
5. What kind of war did they have at the end of the story?

(L4) Define the following words: reserve, gazing, amusement, sauna, familiar

Video connection: <http://youtu.be/nE2LUP4SyNU> Watch the following video to see a sneak peak at The Ice Hotel in Sweden. (Approximately 13 minutes in length)

Winter Trees:

(W10, SL4) Write a poem about winter and present it to your class.

Circle all of the adjectives in the poem.

Frost Crayons:

(W1, SL4) Write an opinion piece. The author compares frost to a piece of artwork. What do you think? Do you find beauty in the frosty, jagged designs or do you dislike frost? Explain your thoughts on this winter process. 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. What are the two main types of frost?
2. Which type of frost has jagged edges?
3. What do Jack Frost, Father Frost and Mother Frost have in common?
4. Is frost the same as all other forms of ice? Why or why not?
5. Name an item in which you might find frost covering on an early winter morning.

Science Connection: The following video shows a fun experiment with frost versus dew.

http://youtu.be/sA2vN4X_uZk

Very Berry Scandinavian Dessert Soup:

Follow the directions and complete the recipe on this page.

The Bones Brothers and the Frozen Fence:

(L4) Define the following words: coax, strenuous, lassoing, squalling, fierce

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

1. How would you describe Leroy?
2. How would you describe Slim?
3. What did they need to earn money to restock?
4. Who hired them to put up fence posts?
5. To what does the author compare the frozen ground?

Geography Connection: Locate Texas on a map.

The Magic Paintbrush

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

1. What was inside the package Liang received from the old woman?
2. What item did Liang first paint?
3. What happened when the painting was complete?
4. Name three of the items Liang painted for the people in the village.
5. What did the old woman tell Liang was the one rule for using the paintbrush?

(W4) Imagine you received the gift of the magical paintbrush. What items could you create to help out your friends, family, and neighbors? Write a story to tell about your adventures with a magical paintbrush. Be sure to include at least three examples of items you would paint. Also, use a strong opening and closing sentence.

The Reasons Why:

Write a love poem for one of your family members. It can be your mother, father, sister, brother, grandma, or grandpa. On the left side of the paper spell out their name in a vertical fashion. Then write one sentence telling them something that you love about them using each letter. Example:

S: silly

I: intelligent

S: special

T: talented dancer

E: excellent hugger

R: reads me stories at bedtime

Dreams of Freedom:

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

1. Why was the family driving to Washington DC?
2. What song did they sing to pass the time over the long drive?
3. Why wouldn't the builder sell a house to the Carter family?
4. Do you think this story is based on real events?
5. What is Jim Crow?

(L4) Define the following words from the story: sash, nation, choir, waded, content

Video Connection: Watch the following video with Martin Luther King Jr. and his famous speech.

(Approximately 17 minutes) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smEqnklfYs>