

# Teacher's Guide for Spider

May/June 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 May/June 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 the letter 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 body part was Mrs. Pinkley using to play her musical instrument?
2. What is the name of the elementary school?
3. Who voted for the winners?
4. How many winners would be selected?
5. Who were the winners?

(L4) Define the following words: hush, slunk, stifle, toga, handkerchiefs

(W1) Write an opinion piece. Imagine your school is holding a talent show, and it's featuring the parents of all students attending. How would you feel about your mom and dad entering the contest? Would you support them or would you be embarrassed, or both?

## Crazy Carnation:

Try this experiment at school. Try many different colors and monitor your flowers daily for one week. Document the daily changes. At the end of the week, discuss your results with the class.

## Dancing for Mama:

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

1. Name one of the special guests attending the festival.
2. Why did Mama need to go to the United States?
3. Mama named a specific time of day to think about her. What time was this?
4. How did Mama get to see Margarita?
5. What year did President Obama visit El Salvador?

(L4) Define the following: festival, bodice, procession, costume, palm leaf

Geography Connection: Locate El Salvador on a world map.

**Crossword with Dad:**

Take a copy of the crossword home and complete it with your dad, mom, or sibling.

**Fabulous Fathers:**

(RL/RI1) Answer the following questions:

1. What is the name of the fish in Central America that sucks its young into his mouth and then spits them out?
2. In the world of seahorses, who is pregnant with the babies? Mom or dad?
3. Name two ways a frog father might protect his young.
4. How many days must a mother Hornbill and her children stay in the protected nest?
5. How does the father penguin help keep the egg warm before it hatches and where does the mother penguin go during this time?

**Mickey Nickle:**

Write a poem with every other sentence rhyming.

**If a Pickle Could Talk:**

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

1. What country did Annie say she was doing a project on?
2. What did Annie first say her homework project was about?
3. Why did Petey think the pickles needed to be released from the jar?

(L4) Define the following: moments, shiver, doorway

Watch the following video to see a pickle harvest and packing farm. <https://youtu.be/-kT5PhKVC34>

**Head-Tipsters Tongue Twisters:**

Write a tongue twister. Select the first letter of your name and see how many words you can put together in a crazy poem/tongue twister. For example: If your name is Sam, your letter is "s". Present this tongue twister in front of the class.

**Meat of the Tongue:**

Geography connection: Locate Kenya on a world map.

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

1. How did the sultan show his bad temper?
2. What happened to the garden that brought the sultan such joy?
3. Name a few of the ways the sultan and his staff tried to revive the garden.
4. What is the "meat of the tongue"?
5. Did the sultan learn the trick of growing a garden?