

Teacher's Guide for Spider

July/August 2015

Teacher's Guide prepared by Teresa Nordheim

Teresa Nordheim is 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 July/August 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 were the boys planning to do for the day? And, why couldn't the girls go?
2. What were the girls planning to do for the day?
3. Why did Doodlebug get sick?
4. Did the boys catch any fish?
5. Name at least two events that happened on the Viking ship.

(L4) Define the following words: chortled, slung, sweltering, hale, ashamed

(W1) Write an opinion piece. How would you feel if you were on the ship when the storm arrived? Would you be scared, excited, or just plain sick like Doodlebug? Use a clear opening sentence, at least three details, and a complete closing sentence.

The Thunder:

Math connection:

Count the number of lightning bolts. Count the number of faces in the cloud. Multiply the two together. What is your total? Compare your answers. Why might some people come up with a different ending number?

Coconuts:

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

1. Who is Calvin?
2. Name five tasks that needed to be completed before Calvin arrived?
3. Why would it be important to clean up the coconuts?
4. What was Tony's job?
5. What did Jason do to get on television?

(L4) Define the following: pinwheel, deserted, except, globs, generator

Watch the following video on how hurricanes get their names: <https://youtu.be/ZgRoEj-JZu8>

Solar Oven Pizza:

Complete the recipe on the page.

The Terrible Storm:

(RL/RI1) Answer the following questions:

1. How many knots did Rabbit tie in the rope?
2. What did Lizard say about the storm?
3. How did Rabbit trick Tiger the first time?
4. How did Rabbit trick Tiger the second time?
5. Why did Rabbit trick Tiger?

Geography Connection: Locate Puerto Rico on the world map.

Home Improvement:

Write a poem with every other sentence rhyming.

Art Connection:

Egg Carton Crab: <http://www.freekidscrafts.com/egg-carton-crab/>

The Homecoming:

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

1. Name the beach where the sea turtle first showed up.
2. What did the Dutch name the sea turtle?
3. Name at least three ways to identify Kemp's Ridley sea turtles.
4. How much below the normal weight was "Johnny"?
5. How many eggs does a Kemp's Ridley sea turtle lay at one time?

(L4) Define the following: surf, odyssey, swept, export, tarmac

Watch the following video to see Johnny come home. <http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/video/kemps-ridley-sea-turtle-home-17683276>

The Ocean under my Bed:

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

1. Who brought the ocean inside the house?
2. What was stuck in the curtains?
3. Who helped find all of the sea stars?
4. Where did Buddy hide the ocean?
5. Did the kids enjoy the ocean or did they want it to go away? Did their parents agree?

Write a fictional piece:

At the end of the story, the author states that the main character dreamt of a rainforest. What might the next day be like? What animals might they see? What adventure might they have? Write your own story telling about the day of adventures.