

# Teacher's Guide for Spider

September 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](http://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 September 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. What is a re-gift?
2. What is the name of Doodlebug's favorite magazine?
3. What did the class think when they first saw the new teacher?
4. What did the teacher call the students?
5. Did the teacher like her re-gift? Why or why not?

(L4) Define the following: amulet, ado, hideous, snatched, barbarian

(W1) Write an opinion piece. Use a clear opening sentence, at least three details, and a complete closing sentence. Have you ever re-gifted or received a gift that has been re-gifted? What did you think about this re-gifting? Is it good or is it bad?

## Falling into Fall:

Math connection:

Count the number of red triangles and the number of yellow triangles. Add the two together. What is your total? Compare your answers. Why might some people come up with a different ending number?

## The Only Crow in Crickshaw:

(SL1) Perform a play.

Divided the class into groups of four. Assign a part to each person and practice reading the lines using expression. Make costumes and props. Have fun taking turns performing the play in front of the class. After everyone has performed, vote for your favorite.

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

1. What is the population of Crickshaw?
2. Is Crickshaw a large city or small town?
3. What is the special occasion?
4. Name some of Crow's friends.
5. How old is Sally?

(L4) Define the following: chipper, caws, twiddling, meditate, imaginary

### **Falling Leaves:**

Art Connection.

Follow the link to find instruction on how to make a Mason jar leaf candle.

<http://kidsactivitiesblog.com/19103/decoupage>

### **Silly School Jokes:**

(W1 / SL1)

Write your own joke. Draw a picture to go with it and then present it to the class.

### **Beware of Spider:**

Art Connection.

Follow the instructions on the page to create your own spider.

### **Apple Day:**

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

1. Where did Molly go to pick apples?
2. What is the full name of the apples they picked?
3. What color ribbon did the family applesauce win at the fair?
4. How did the apples on Sam's tree taste?
5. What was the missing ingredient and who found it?

(L4) Define the following: tumbles, skims, perks, gleams, goldenrod

Watch the following short video to learn more about McIntosh apples: <https://youtu.be/nGyZKb3eQEY>

### **Molly and Sam's Blue Ribbon Applesauce:**

With help from an adult, follow the recipe to create the applesauce from the story.

### **The Hungry Bird:**

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

1. What did the bird want to eat for breakfast?
2. Did he wake up early or late?
3. Why do you think it would be best to wake up early?
4. What did the worm do?
5. What is your favorite breakfast?

**Brother Crow:**

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

1. True or false: The crow is a songbird.
2. How intelligent are crows?
3. What do crows craft from leaves and twigs?
4. Do scarecrows scare crows?
5. Why do crows like to hang around with humans?

(L4) Define the following words: ancestors, raucous, warble, omnivorous, obstacle