

Spider®

THEME

Music flows through each of the selections covered in this Teacher Guide. Explore with students the importance of music and help them learn about character traits, author's purpose, and theme.

CONVERSATION QUESTION

What role does music play in our lives?

TEACHING OBJECTIVES

- Students will analyze how individuals, events, and ideas interact over the course of a text.
- Students will analyze how purpose shapes the content and style of a text.
- Students will determine central ideas or themes.
- Students will learn about music.
- Students will write arguments to support claims.
- Students will analyze cultures.



In addition to supplemental materials focused on core English Language Arts skills, this flexible teaching tool offers vocabulary-building activities, questions for discussion, and cross-curricular activities.

SELECTIONS

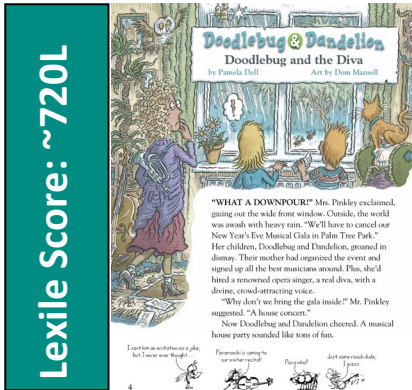
- **Doodlebug & Dandelion**
Fantasy, ~720L
- **Ice Music**
Expository Nonfiction, ~1060L
- **The Sacrifice of the Rainbow Bird**
Legend, ~810L

Spider® Teacher Guide: January 2021

Doodlebug & Dandelion

pp. 4–8, Fantasy

Use this story about a wild New Year's Eve party to teach students to identify character traits.



RESOURCES

- **Analyze Traits**

OBJECTIVES

- Students will analyze a short story.
- Students will explore how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact.
- Students will learn about music.

KEY VOCABULARY

- **gala (p. 4)** a public party or celebration
- **diva (p. 4)** the main female singer in an opera company
- **venue (p. 5)** the place where an event takes place
- **miffed (p. 6)** slightly angry or annoyed

ENGAGE

Conversation Question: What role does music play in our lives?

Invite students to share music that they like to listen to, identify instruments that they or family members play, and describe musical performances they have experienced. Share your own musical experiences. Then explain that this story is about a music festival that is a little odd.

INTRODUCE VOCABULARY

Post and read aloud the vocabulary words and definitions. Then display the sentences below and have students use the vocabulary words to complete them. Remind students to look for the vocabulary words as they read the story.

1. The Taco Tavern will be the _____ for my cousin's birthday party.
2. The famous _____ performed on stage at the opera house.
3. In December, our town celebrated winter with a _____ in the park.
4. I was _____ at my sister for taking my earbuds without asking.

READ & DISCUSS

After students read the story, use these questions to prompt discussion:

1. What problem do the Pinkleys have? How do they solve it?
2. What do you think the phrase "excitement filled the air" means?
3. What is your first impression of the diva?
4. Why does Doodlebug dislike the diva?
5. What do Doodlebug and the diva have in common?
6. Why do you think Doodlebug realizes opera is his favorite music?
7. What changes occur in this story?

SKILL FOCUS: Analyze Character Traits

INSTRUCT: Remind students that characters have traits, or qualities, just like real people (shy, imaginative, bossy, selfish, trustworthy, etc.). Explain that readers can learn a character's traits by paying attention to story details about the things characters do, say, and think. Display these words: *energetic*, *boring*, *shy*. Read aloud the text on page 4 and ask students which word they would use to describe Mrs. Pinkley. Have students point out story details that support their answer.

ASSESS: Distribute a copy of the *Analyze Traits* worksheet to each student. Have students work in pairs to complete the worksheet.

EXTEND

Music/Opera Remind students that Brunha is an opera singer. Point out that Brunha is based on the character Brunhilde, a female warrior from German myths and a character in Richard Wagner's famous opera, *The Ring*. Share images of Brunhilde and compare them to the story illustrations. Play a soundbite of Christine Goerke singing the role and invite students to share their reactions to the music and the character.

Character Traits

Identify two of Brunha's traits. Write them in the left column. Then find details in the story that demonstrate these traits and write them in the column on the right.

Brunha's Traits	Story Details that Demonstrate the Traits

Identify a trait of another story character. Write the character's name in the top of the chart. Then write the trait and the details in the story that demonstrate the trait.

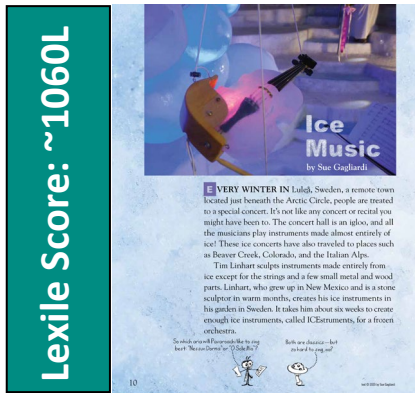
Character's name
Character's trait
Story Details that Demonstrate the Trait

Spider® Teacher Guide: January 2021

Ice Music

pp. 10–13, Expository Nonfiction

Use this article about a man who makes musical instruments from ice to give students practice in identifying an author's purpose.



RESOURCES

- **Author's Purpose**

OBJECTIVES

- Students will analyze a nonfiction article.
- Students will study how purpose shapes the content and style of a text.
- Students will write arguments to support claims.

KEY VOCABULARY

- **sculpt** (p. 10) to make something by carving or molding
- **traditional** (p. 11) based on a way of doing something that has been used by people for a long time
- **flexible** (p. 12) capable of bending or being bent

ENGAGE

Conversation Question: What role does music play in our lives?

Play internet recordings of different instruments (drums, guitar, violin) and have students guess the instrument that is producing each sound. Then play a brief recording of musicians playing ice instruments, also available on the internet. Ask students to describe the sounds—do they sound like traditional instruments or something different? Finally, preview the article and ask students to predict why the author wrote the article—to persuade, to inform, to entertain, or to describe. Record responses and revisit them after students read the article.

INTRODUCE VOCABULARY

Display and read aloud the vocabulary words and definitions. Have students work in pairs to write sentences that use the words correctly. Invite partners to share their sentences with the class. Correct errors. Then remind students to look for these words in the article.

READ & DISCUSS

After students read the article, discuss these questions:

1. Tim Linhart is a stone sculptor and a maker of ice instruments. How are stone sculptures and ice instruments similar and different?
2. Compare the sounds of ice instruments and traditional instruments. How are the sounds similar and different?
3. How are the instruments affected by the musicians and audience members? What is done to keep instruments from being damaged?
4. Why are the ice instruments lit up with LED lights?
5. What kind of text features are included in this article?

SKILL FOCUS: Author's Purpose

INSTRUCT: Remind students that the author's purpose is the reason an author has for writing. Distribute the *Author's Purpose* sheet and review the different purposes, definitions, and examples. Have students work in pairs to come up with one example of a text that was written for each purpose. Then have pairs share their examples with the class and explain their reasoning. Point out that, often, a writer has more than one purpose. For example, an author might express an opinion in a humorous way or explain something in an entertaining way.

ASSESS: Have students work in pairs to determine Sue Gagliardi's purpose(s) for writing "Ice Music." Remind students to look at the photos and captions to help them identify purposes. Instruct partners underline text details that helped them identify purposes. Have partners share their ideas with another pair and review their predictions.

EXTEND

Music Play a short video about ice music and ice instruments for students (available on the internet). Then have students view a live or online musical performance and write a review of it.

Author's Purpose

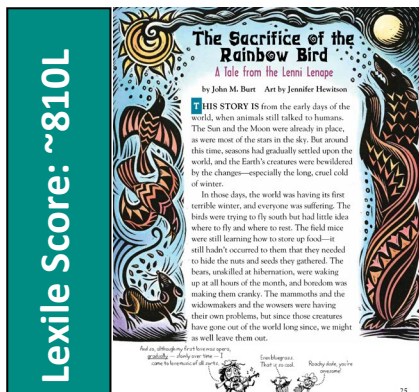
Author's Purpose	Definition	Examples
To persuade	The author writes to convince readers to think or act in a certain way.	advertisements, reviews, editorials, speeches
To inform	The author writes to explain something, give directions, or give information to readers.	textbooks, nonfiction books, biographies, recipes, encyclopedia articles
To entertain	The author writes to amuse readers, scare them, make them laugh, or help them understand someone's feelings.	plays, poems, stories, novels
To describe	The author wants readers to be able to visualize a person, place, thing, or event.	descriptive articles and essays

Spider® Teacher Guide: January 2021

The Sacrifice of the Rainbow Bird

pp. 25–31, Legend

Give students practice in identifying theme using this legend about a bird that sacrifices the beauty of its feathers and song to help others.



OBJECTIVES

- Students will analyze a legend.
- Students will determine central ideas or themes of a text.
- Students will analyze cultures.

KEY VOCABULARY

- **bewildered** (p. 25) confused
- **summit** (p. 26) a meeting between leaders
- **mesmerized** (p. 29) so amazed by something that you don't notice anything else

ENGAGE

Conversation Question: What role does music play in our lives?

Ask students to think about whether music is important in daily life. Then have small groups discuss the question and jot down 2-3 reasons to support their answers. Invite student to share their ideas.

INTRODUCE VOCABULARY

Display the following context sentences and underline the vocabulary words. Have students work in pairs to predict the meaning of each vocabulary word based on the context. Then reveal the definitions and have students check their predictions. Finally, remind students to look for the vocabulary words as they read the story.

1. I was bewildered by the boardgame's complicated directions.
2. Ten world leaders held a summit to discuss global warming.
3. My dog was so mesmerized by the squirrel that didn't she come when I called her.

READ & DISCUSS

After students read the story, use these questions to prompt discussion:

1. Give three examples of the suffering caused by the first winter.
2. What do you think "widowmakers" and "wowers" are?
3. Why did humans suffer the most?
4. Why do you think Rainbow Bird insisted on going to North Wind?
5. Why do you think others protested Rainbow Bird's leaving?
6. Compare North Wind and Snow Maker. How are they alike and Different?
7. Is the Supreme Being kind? Explain your answer.
8. What happened to the rainbow bird?

SKILL FOCUS: Analyze Lesson or Theme

INSTRUCT: Discuss what a sacrifice is (the act of giving up something you want in order to get something else or to help someone). Discuss familiar sacrifices: sacrificing free time to help someone; sacrificing a fun time to study for a test; sacrificing our wants by letting someone else have the last cookie; etc. Then discuss things that are given up in the story (Rainbow Bird gives up his beauty and song) and what the world gets in exchange (warmth, survival). Discuss the meaning of the last paragraph in the story.

ASSESS: Display this question: What lessons does the story teach about sacrifice? Have students work in small groups to answer it, using story details to support their ideas. Have students share ideas with the class.

EXTEND

Social Studies Have students learn more about the Lenni Lenape people by looking at books and websites. Have students search for information about traditional and contemporary lifeways of the Lenape.