

Monday: Read *Doodlebug and Dandelion: Bats in the Belfry* on page 4.

1. New words: (trace and write)

belfry

ancient

ancestors

evergreen trees

hideous

waiting

mischievously

fled

2. Who were the characters in the story?
3. What is the setting of the story?
4. How did Rudyard pull off the best Halloween joke ever?
5. After reading the story, why was Cousin Rudyard “bouncing excitedly in the front seat,” when he arrived with Uncle Beasley to pick up Doodlebug and Dandelion?
6. What do you think a “shaggy old tree” looks like? Draw one here:
7. What does it mean if your “heart is thumping”?
8. How did Doodlebug and Dandelion feel after the Halloween joke?

Tuesday: Make Miro's Moldy Cheese and Crackers on page 9. Munch on the moldy cheese while reading *Unmagical Cat* on page 10.

1. Do you think this story is fiction or nonfiction?

Fiction = not real

Nonfiction = real

2. How did you come to that conclusion?
3. Let's see how many silly things we can find in this story! Discuss the silly parts aloud.
4. What are the other cat's powers?
5. If you have a pet, write his/her name below. What kind of super power would you like your pet to have? Tell or write a story about your super pet. If you don't have a pet, use your imagination!

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-
6. Draw a picture of your super pet:

Wednesday: Read *Wullus* on page 30.

1. What is the shadow's name?
2. What was the shadow's potential name?
3. Why are shadows bad at the teeter-totter and at playing catch? (discuss)
4. Where were the child and his shadow during this story?
5. What did the child buy at the hardware store?
6. How did the child get rid of the big shadow?
7. Is this story fiction or nonfiction?
8. **Do the Silhouette Selfie on page 34 and talk about shadows.**

You'll need: tape, construction paper, flashlight, pencil, scissors

Tape the construction paper to the wall in a dark room. Shine the flashlight on the paper and have your child sit (or stand) between the flashlight and the paper, creating a shadow on the paper. Trace the outline of the shadow then take down the paper and cut out the silhouette.

Thursday: Read *Bill – The Perfectly Rotten Monster*

1. Why was Bill a rotten monster?
2. Trace, and then connect the rhyming words with a line. (hint: two pairs will have two lines!)

lad

hit

wild

bad

brothers

child

dad

hullabaloo

knew

bad

bit

others

3. Write a poem of your own using some of these rhyming words.

4. Tell the jokes on page 35 then make the project in **The Fun Zone** (the fold out pages in the back of the book).

Friday: Read *Scaredy-Cat* on page 17.

1. Trace.

A cheetah can go from 0 to 70

miles per hour in four seconds.

2. A cheetah's light, thin body is made for: (trace all the words and circle the answer)

fighting speed swimming

3. Animal trainers use, what type of animal, to help keep cheetahs calm around other people? (circle one)

- a. parrot b. giraffe c. hedgehog d. dog

4. What kind of test does a dog have to pass to be a cheetah companion? (circle one)

- a. They have to be bigger than a cheetah.
b. They have to run as fast as a cheetah.
c. They have to stay calm when other dogs are barking.

5. Trace.

A century ago there were one
hundred thousand cheetahs, today
that number has dwindled to only
twelve thousand.

100,000

12,000

6. Print and color the cheetah mask at <http://www.spidermagkids.com/trythis/cheetah-mask>

Direct PDF: <http://www.spidermagkids.com/files/spider/cheetah%20mask%20sp.pdf>

Answer Key with discussion prompts

Monday:

1. Belfry - a bell tower or steeple housing bells
ancient - belonging to the very distant past and no longer in existence
ancestors - a person, typically one more remote than a grandparent, from whom one is descended
evergreen trees - a tree that has leaves in all four seasons
hideous - ugly or disgusting to look at.
wailing - give a cry of pain, grief, or anger
mischievously - causing or showing a fondness for causing trouble in a playful way
fled - run away from a place or situation of danger
2. Who were the characters in the story? **Doodlebug, Dandelion, Uncle Beasley, Cousin Rudyard**
3. What is the setting of the story? (Where did the story take place?) **The Pinkley home, in the car, abandoned church, graveyard**
4. How did Rudyard pull off the best Halloween joke ever? **He snuck away and changed into a vampire bat costume to scare Doodlebug and Dandelion.**
5. After reading the story, why was Cousin Rudyard “bouncing excitedly in the front seat,” when he arrived with Uncle Beasley to pick up Doodlebug and Dandelion? **Rudyard was anticipating the Halloween joke he and his father, Uncle Beasley were about to play on Doodlebug and Dandelion.**
6. What do you think a “shaggy old tree” looks like? Draw one here: **What do the descriptive words mean to your child?**
7. What does it mean if your “heart is thumping”? **A quickly beating heart is your body’s response to fear or excitement.**
8. How did Doodlebug and Dandelion feel after the Halloween joke? **They thought it was a funny joke.**

Tuesday:

1. Do you think this story is fiction or nonfiction? **Fiction**
Talk about the meanings: Fiction is an entertaining, make-believe story that is not real. Nonfiction is true information that gives you facts to explain something.
2. How did you come to that conclusion? **The silly parts in this story show the reader this story is fiction.**
3. Let’s see how many silly things we can find in this story! **Discuss the silly parts aloud.**
4. What are the other cat’s powers? Turn any color, breathe fire, control the weather

Wednesday:

1. What is the shadow’s name? **Wullus**
2. What was the shadow’s potential name? **Biscuit**
3. Why are shadows bad at the teeter-totter and at playing catch? **Shadows don’t have any weight for the teeter-totter and aren’t strong enough to play catch.**
4. Where were the boy and his shadow during this story? **At the park, then the hardware store, at his house.**
5. What did the boy buy at the hardware store? **A flashlight.**
6. How did the boy get rid of the big shadow? If you shine a light on a shadow, the shadow disappears. **The boy used the light from the flashlight**
7. Is this story fiction or nonfiction? **Fiction**

Do the Silhouette Selfie on page 34 and talk about shadows. **Shadows are made when an object blocks light.**

Thursday:

1. Why was Bill a rotten monster? Bill was gentle, tidy, and good. Monsters are supposed to be scary, wild, and bad
2. Trace, and then connect the rhyming words with a line. (hint: two pairs will have two lines!)

lad - bad

dad - bad

wild - child

knew - hullabaloo

brothers - others

bit - hit

Friday:

2. A cheetah's light, thin body is made for: (trace words and circle one)

speed

3. Animal trainers use, what type of animal, to help keep cheetahs calm around other people? (circle one)
d. dog
4. What kind of test does a dog have to pass to be cheetah companion? (circle one)
c. They have to stay calm when other dogs are barking.