

Diary of a Spider

Analyze a Spider's Point of View

TIME

PRIMARY SKILL

OBJECTIVE

STUDENT EVIDENCE

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

30 minutes full · 15 minutes short Explain what a narrator can know and tell Identify details that belong in this story because Spider is the narrator, and explain why a human narrator could not give those details in the same way.

Two spider-only details plus an explanation of narrator access.

What can Spider tell us that a human narrator could not?

Before teaching

Read or play the complete book before the timed lesson. Mark the gym and vacuum-safety entries, plus one ordinary family or school moment.

Materials:	The book; Student Evidence page; pencil.
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Mark these moments: catching wind during gym · vacuum safety drill · one family/school entry

Lesson sequence

4 min	Who is telling? Confirm that Spider tells the story. Ask what that lets the reader know directly.
6 min	Model narrator access Use the gym entry. Separate the event from the detail that depends on Spider's body and experience.
10 min	Find spider-only details Collect the gym and vacuum examples. For each, ask why a human narrator would describe the event differently.
10 min	Test a contrast Choose one ordinary moment and imagine it told by a human. Identify what information or emphasis would change.

TumbleTA | ELA Skill Lesson | Grade 3 | Diary of a Spider Page 1 ELA SKILL LESSON · TEACHER SUPPORT · GRADE 3

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Access routes	
SOLO	Record two spider-only details and explain why each depends on Spider being the narrator.
SUPPORTED	Use the frame: "Spider can tell us ____ because ____." Complete it for gym and the vacuum drill.

LISTENING	Replay the marked entries. Explain orally what Spider knows from his own body or experience; an adult may scribe.
EXTEND	Rewrite one spider-only detail as a human observer might report it, then explain what is lost.

Teacher guidance

Keep the lesson on narrator access, not on a general comparison of what frightens Spider and what Spider frightens. The useful question is what information becomes available because Spider is the one telling.

Assessment

- Names Spider as the narrator.
- Identifies the silk/wind gym detail as spider-specific.
- Identifies the vacuum drill as spider-specific.
- Explains why a human narrator would not have the same first-person access.

Short route · 15 minutes 3 min - identify narrator. 5 min - analyze the gym detail. 7 min - analyze the vacuum detail and complete the exit check.

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STUDENT EVIDENCE · GRADE 3

Diary of a Spider

What Spider Can Tell

Name _____ Date _____ Record two details that belong in the story because Spider is the narrator. Then explain what would change with a human narrator.

SPIDER-ONLY DETAIL 1

What happens? Why can Spider tell it this way?

SPIDER-ONLY DETAIL 2

What happens? Why can Spider tell it this way?

HUMAN NARRATOR

Choose one detail. How might a human observer tell it differently?

EXIT CHECK

Spider being the narrator matters because _____.

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Diary of a Spider

Analyze a Spider's Point of View

Strong response

Spider can directly describe spider-specific experiences such as catching wind on silk during gym and treating a vacuum cleaner as an emergency. Those details come from Spider's body, scale, and daily dangers. A human observer might see the same events, but would not experience or emphasize them in the same way.

Expected evidence

- Gym: catching wind / moving on silk.
- Safety drill: vacuum as a danger or emergency.
- Explanation: the narrator has direct access to Spider's own experience.

Watch for

- Turning the lesson back into a fear-list comparison.
- Naming unusual events without explaining why narrator access matters.

Independent success

The student identifies at least two details whose meaning or emphasis depends on Spider being the narrator.

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