

On-line Lesson Plans for APPLESEEDS: *Ins and Outs of the Internet*

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Teacher's Guide created by Peggy Epstein, Language Arts Teacher with 25 years experience in the Hickman Mills School District, Kansas City, Missouri. Epstein has a Master's Degree in Instruction and Curriculum from the University of Missouri at Kansas City.

Note: These lesson plans are designed for classrooms that do not necessarily have computer access.

Begin by Reading "Spider Woman Weaves a Map of the Universe" (pgs. 10-12)
After discussion, ask students to brainstorm reasons why the editors of the magazine decided to include this particular story in an issue devoted to the Internet.

Central Activity for this Issue:

Students will each design and create for themselves an individual guide to the Internet (titled, for example, "My Personal Guide to the Internet"). The guide can take any one of many possible forms (and students may have additional ideas): a small spiral or loose-leaf notebook, a set of 4x6" cards (3x5 may be a little too small), a series posters divided into sections, or, of course, a file, organized into sections, on the computer for students who have access to one.

Working in pairs or small groups, ask students to sort information from the following articles into the appropriate categories below:

"The Good, the Bad, and the Just Plain Awful" (pages 6-9)

"Detectives" (pages 13-15)

"Navigating the Information Highway" (pages 16-19)

"Is it Real or Virtual" (pages 20-21)

"Emoticons" (pages 26-27)

"A Different Kind of Encyclopedia" (page 29) Note: only the last Q & A

Students will organize their guide into three basic sections:

To Do: good places to find information, tips for using the Internet, etc.

Not to Do: what to avoid when using the Internet

Good to Know: other factual information

Providing students with three colors of highlighters to use while reading through articles will add interest to the project and will help with organization.

Ending Activity: Looking to the Future:

1. Read with students and encourage discussion of the following articles:

"Amazing Cosmic Powers" (pages 24-25)

"The Future of the Internet" (pages 30-31)

2. Ask students to picture themselves ten years from this exact date (suggesting, perhaps, that they will be college students) and to then create a page from their journal on that future date, one that will show in detail all the ways they use the Internet from the time they wake up in the morning until the end of the day.

3. Encourage students read their compositions aloud, illustrate them, display them in the classroom, or, when possible, post them on a site your students regularly access.