PICTURE BOOKS AND FICTION FOR PRESCHOOL-GRADE 3
“Buggy About Books” Summer Reading Program 2004

BUGS IN GENERAL
(AND MISCELLANEOUS BUGS)

**Ackamarackus:** Julius Lester's Sumptuously Silly Fantastically Funny
0590489135. $17.95.
Grades K-3 BUGS
This collection of six original fables features Bernard the bee, who learns to play the bongo after he loses his buzz; a school of flies, who learn to fly on airplanes; and Anna the angry ant, who bites off more than she can chew.

0671866311. $11.87.
Toddler-Preschool BUGS
Familiar objects (umbrella doughnut, hammer, etc.) are transformed into insect-looking creatures that children discover when they lift flaps and pull tabs.

0689818637. $10.47.
Toddler-Preschool. BUGS
Join the two lively jitterbugs in this delightful pop-up bedtime book that includes a mini-pop-up book and a glow-in-the-dark twinkle bug.

**Bedbugs** by Megan McDonald. Illustrated by Paul Brett Johnson. Scholastic, 1999. 0531331938. $16.99.
Preschool-Grade K BUGS
As Susan takes her bath and then goes to bed, she is disturbed by a sequence of troublesome and scary creatures.

Grade K-2 BUGS
With detailed, interesting illustrations, this chain-reaction tale shows how such a little event as a bug's sneeze can cause the cataclysmic sinking of the huge ship Mary-Lou.

Grades K-3 BEETLES
In this tongue-in-cheek story inspired by Kafka's “The Metamorphosis,” Gregory Sampson wakes up one morning and finds that he has become a giant beetle. Nobody notices the change except his best friend Michael. Children will relate to Gregory's dilemma of not being noticed and will laugh at his antics when he tries to get the attention of his parents and teachers.
Preschool BUGS
A variety of different bugs compare their relative sizes while going on parade.

Grades K-3 BUGS
In this rhyming tale about an insect celebration in a city park, Grasshopper is master of ceremonies, Cicada plays the drums, Centipede plays the piano, and Cricket plays the fiddle. But the Sow Bug despairs, because she thinks she cannot dance.

The Big Bug Dug (My First Hello! Reader) by Mary Serfozo. Illustrated by Jeffrey Scherer. Scholastic, 2002. 0613505921. $11.55.
Preschool-Grade 1 BUGS
Looking for a quiet place to sleep, a big bug digs down past a snake, a slug, a worm, and down even more. The book includes punch-out game cards and skill-building activity pages.

Preschool–Grade 2 BUGS
Directional concepts of left, right, forward, and backward are included in this story about Coach Caterpillar, who teaches the bugs how to dance. Humorous cartoons of the bugs are the highlight of this slight story. Related activities are appended.

Grade 2-4 MEALWORMS
This early chapter book tells the story about second-grader Richard who has to cope with oversized purple pants while portioning out mealworms into petri dishes. Information about mealworms is skillfully woven into the text.

Grades 2-4 BUGS
Wordplay fun with offbeat illustrations and zany definitions depict insect words inside other words, such as BEEfy, stAGNAtE, and TICKlish.

Bug in a Rug by Jamie Gilson, Illustrated by Diane de Groat. Clarion Books, 1998. 0395866162. $15.00
Grade 2-4 MEALWORMS
This early chapter book tells the story about second-grader Richard who has to cope with oversized purple pants while portioning out mealworms into petri dishes. Information about mealworms is skillfully woven into the text.

Preschool-K BUGS
Brightly colored, three dimensional illustrations of frightening, nighttime creepy crawlies, such as Dracubug, the Frankenbug and the Haunted House bug pop up at the reader.
Grades K-3 BUGS
When a little boy swallow a bug named Buz along with his cereal, he is given two pills to get rid of the bug. What follows is a hilarious Keystone cops chase through the boy’s body.

Grades K-3 BUGS
All the insects in the garden, including ten little black ants, nine noisy mosquitoes and two praying mantises get involved in moving a fallen cucumber. It’s the one flea that provides the last big of strength needed to move the cucumber. They all celebrate with cucumber soup (recipe included). Full-color illustrations and facts about each insect are included.

Toddler-Preschool BUGS
A collection of 12 textured insects includes a glittery bug, a wrinkly bug, etc.

Toddler-Preschool BUGS
Fifty-eight lift-the-flap riddles about bugs are included in this funny book that includes a giggling sound clip.

Preschool BUGS
In brief rhyming text, all types of insects that the narrator likes are listed.

Preschool BUGS
Simple text and repetition of the letter “b” help readers lean how to use this sound.

Grades K-3 BUGS
Amanda loves bugs: she collects them, protects them and imitates their behaviors. Nobody understands her until she meets a classmate who loves reptiles. Excellent, accurate illustrations of insects are included.

Grades K-3 BUGS
A troop of tiny doodle bugs fight the evil Spider Queen and are saved by the Leaf Man in this unique, magical story.

Preschool-K **BUGS**
This story about a wingless little bug searching for his identity was first published in 1945. It has been shortened and given stylized digital illustrations that will fascinate today’s young readers.


Grades K-3 **BUGS**
Ms. Frizzle and her students get on the Magic School Bus and learn about the world of insects.


Preschool-Grade K **BUGS**
A young girl and her friends spend a rainy day dressing up and acting like the flowers, insects and other animals that live in the garden.


Preschool-Grade 2 **BUGS**
Over in the garden, mother insects and their children enjoy various activities from morning sun to evening moon. Brilliant close-up paintings of the insects fill each page.

**Quick as a Cricket** by Audrey Wood. Turtleback Books, 1982. 0859533069. $13.14. (Board Book is entitled *I'm Quick as a Cricket.*)

Toddler-Preschool **BUGS, CRICKETS**
The sing-song phrases and the large, endearing illustrations of a boy mimicking animals (cricket, snail, ant, whale) is a favorite with young children.


Grades K-2 **BUGS**
This rhyming story about a parade of 25 beetles who march before the queen provides an entertaining math lesson.


Grades K-3 **TERMITES**
Roberto goes off to the big bug city to become an architect like Hank Floyd Mite. Quirky collage illustrations and witty text tell his success story as he builds a community for all his friends.


Toddler-Preschool **BUGS**
Snug Bug uses numerous delaying tactics during his bedtime ritual.
Preschool-Grade 2 BEETLES
A clumsy young click beetle learns to land on its feet with encouragement from various animals and a wise old beetle. An electronic chip with a built-in battery creates clicking sounds to accompany the story.

POETRY ABOUT BUGS

Grades K-4. POETRY
Repulsive things to do with bugs are celebrated in this rhyming text. The disgusting activities will make young readers shutter with delight. Munsinger’s clever illustrations capture the gross humor.

Bugs for Lunch by Margery Facklam. Illustrated by Sylvia Long. Charlesbridge Publishing. 0881062723. $15.95.
Preschool-Grade 3 POETRY
Rhyming text introduces bug-eating animals such as geckos, trout, or even people.

Grades 1-4 POETRY
A collection of 15 poems (some gross, some funny) about insects with bizarre personalities.

Grades K-5 POETRY
Florian blends whimsy and science in this exquisite volume of 21 insect and spider poems.

Grades 1-5 POETRY
Written to be read aloud by two voices—sometimes alternating, sometimes simultaneously—this collection of poems celebrate the insect world.

Grades K-3 BUGS, POETRY
Short, delightful rhymes describe an assortment of insects in this wonderfully creep-crawly collection of poetry about insects, including termites, gnats, beetles, grasshoppers, lice, and flies.

Grades K-4 POETRY
A collection of witty poems about the activities of a variety of different bug that flourish in a garden from early spring to late fall.
Grades K-3 POETRY
A collection of silly poems about bugs illustrated with cartoons.

ANTS

Grades 2-3. ANTS
In this rhyming, cumulative beginning reader, the number of ants doubles each time they take a new treat from a picnic lunch.

Preschool-Grade K ANTS
This illustrated version of the traditional song includes a discussion of its folk origins, music and the words to ten verses.

The elephant is the kindest animal in the jungle, rescuing the giraffe, lion, and rhino, but who will return the favor when the elephant needs help?

Grades K-3. ANTS, GRASSHOPPERS
This version of Aesop’s fable about the industrious ants and the lazy grasshopper, who does not prepare for winter, is set in China.

Grades K-3 ANTS
When Lucas tortures the ants, an ant wizard shrinks him to their size and forces him into hard labor with the worker ants. Illustrations are outstanding.

Grades 2-5 ANTS
This inventive picture book for older children features the names of people and concepts that contain the word “ant.”

Toddler-Preschool. ANTS
This humorous, rhyming story describes Jacob’s difficulty getting dressed, because there are ants in his pants, geese in his fleece, and kittens in his mittens.
Preschool-Grade 1 ANTS
This story is one of the Predictable Readers series by Louisiana author Janie Gill.

Grades 2-4 ANTS
In this chapter book Bear Country is overrun with “super-ants” when a science experiment goes awry.

An army of angry ants march across and around all sorts of items that begin with the letter “a.”

Grades K-4 ANTS, COCKROACHES
In this epic adventure beneath the foliage, Crickwing the cockroach and the leafcutter ants go head-on with a swarm of ferocious army ants. This lovely, thoughtful book about acceptance is beautifully illustrated.

Preschool-Grade K ANTS
Effie the ant has a voice like thunder, which saves the day when an elephant is just about to crush the tiny ants.

Preschool-K ANTS
This story/song is presented as a dialogue between an ant and a boy who is about to squish it. Music is provided, so kids can sing and play the roles.

Grades 2-5 ANTS
The title is one of the four stories in this book about second-grader Horrible Harry. This series is excellent for readers just graduating from easy readers. In “Ant Invasion” Harry is put in charge of the ant farm, but loses his position of ant monitor when he is bitten.

Grades K-2 ANTS
Ants increase by multiples of ten as they march up the hill toward a tall cake.

Grades 1-3 **ANTS**  No summary.

Grades K-3 **ANTS**
In this Mexican tale, sprinkled with Spanish phrases, a tiny ant seeks help from other animals, but they all have excuses. Eventually the little red ant realizes that she can carry the crumb herself.

Grades 1-4 **ANTS**
This story set in long-ago China is about a family that earns their living by selling orange ants to farmers who use them to protect their orchards from other destructive insects. When war is declared Ma Jiang, the quick-witted heroine, her mother and baby brother are left to fend for themselves.

Preschool-Grade K **ANTS**
A man is granted wishes by a magical ant named Sadie and is undone by his own greed.

Preschool-Grade K **ANTS**
McDuff the dog and his family go to the lake for a picnic, but when ants consume all of their food, it’s up to McDuff to find something for them to eat.

Preschool-Grade 1 **ANTS**
Rhymed verse and sophisticated art combine to provide a math lesson.

**Sarah’s Story** by Bill Harley. Illustrated by Eve Aldridge. Tricycle Press, 1996. 1883672201. $15.95.
Grades K-3 **ANTS, BEES**
Sarah has quite a story to tell in school when she goes down an anthole and must find something for the queen ant to eat. A bee helps by providing honey for Sarah’s peanut butter sandwich.

Grades K-3 **ANTS, GRASSHOPPERS**
Thirteen Aesop’s Fables are cleverly retold in verse. “The Ant and the Grasshopper” is included.

Grades K-3 **FLIES, SPIDERS**
Howitt’s 1829 poem is stunningly illustrated in the style of a black and white movie, giving it a deliciously spooky quality.

Preschool-K ANTS, GRASSHOPPERS
In this simple story an ant travels over stones, across a leaf and under branches until she meets her grasshopper friend. The two play and dance together, then the ant returns home.

There’s an Ant in Anthony by Bernard Most. Turtleback Books, 0606013245. $11.10.

Grades 2-5 ANTS
Youngsters are invited to search for words within words.


Preschool-Grade 3 ANTS
Two ants who decide to stay behind in the sugar bowl after a crystal-gathering expedition are nearly drowned in a cup of coffee, roasted in a toaster, and blown apart in a garbage disposal before they find their way home again.


Preschool-Grade K ANTS
A pesky black fly buzzes around a farmyard bothering the animals in this lively story.

BEES and WASPS


Preschool. BEES
Silly looking farm animals all catch the flu from a bee, so their usual noises change to sniffles and snorts. This humorous book will be a storytime winner.


Grades K-4 BEES
A young French honeybee learns the rules to keep the honeycomb strong, to make the best honey, and to keep the bees safe. End pages feature factual information about bees and France.


Toddler-Preschool BEES
Using visual puns, this new series of stories in rhyme introduces the Bee Attitudes, wise little critters who each present an important lesson.

Toddler-K **BEES**  
This story begins a long time ago, when all bees were just plain black. Spider has a brilliant idea. She sets to work knitting different sweaters until the bright yellow and black ones fit and the bees are never the same again.


Grades K-3 **BEES**  
This beautifully descriptive story about a girl and her grandfather tending the bees is illustrated with soft oil paintings.


Preschool-Grade 3 **BEES**  
With rhyming text and warm, expressive paintings, this lovely picture book takes the reader through a year of beekeeping from the point of view of a little girl helping her beloved grandpa, who's known in town as the Beeman.


Preschool-Grade 3 **BEES**  
The Bee-Man and his bees live well together until the Junior Sorcerer tells him that he has been transformed. The Bee-Man is now determined to find out what he was before.


Grades 1-4 **BEES**  
This comic American folk tale about a poor old Bee-man who must leave his beloved hives to search for his true identity is brought to new life with enchanting illustrations by award-winning artist P.J. Lynch, and concludes with a final, satisfying twist that says much about fate and the captivating power of bees.


Grades K-3 **BEES**  
Polacco has created a rollicking adventure to illustrate the virtues of reading and of enjoying a break. Young Mary Ellen wants to be outdoors running and playing, so her grandfather takes her out to chase a bee to its far-off hive.


Toddler-K **BEES, BUTTERFLIES**  
Beatrice Bee and Bella Butterfly land on the same flower and they don't want to share. This giant board book has spectacular illustrations and sparkle areas on every page.

**Preschool-Grade 1 BEES**
This 1959 poem about an active bumblebee is now in a board book format with bright sculptured illustrations.

**Bumblebee, Bumblebee, Do You Know Me?** by Anne F Rockwell. HarperCollins, 1999. 0060282126. $15.89.

**Preschool-K BEES**
A series of riddles gives the descriptions of various flowers, then reveals their names.


**Toddler-Preschool BEES**
Buzz along with Busy Bee as he shades the ants with his wings and baby-sits the smaller bees. This wonderful, simple story of friendship is enhanced with a felt-trimmed cover accenting bee’s wings.


**Toddler-Preschool BEES**
Buzzy bee is busy. He visits every flower. Working hard from dawn to dusk, no matter what the hour. The cover and pages of this board book are shaped like a bee.


**Preschool-Grade 1 BEES**
This concept book explores the sounds of a child’s daily life with the recurring “buzz” of the bee.


**Preschool-K BEES**
A chain reaction set off by a bee leads to many humorous situations.


**Preschool BEES**
As one animal sits on another in an accumulating progression, the reader learns the sounds each animal makes.


**Preschool-Grade 2 BEES**
When he reads that bumblebees cannot fly, Buzzy suddenly doubts himself and forgets how.
Cathy Caterpillar and Betty Bee by Sally Rippon. Rourke, 1982. 0865927901. 
$6.50.
Preschool-Grade K BEES, CATERPILLARS
Often impatient with her friend's slowness, Betty Bee is amazed and delighted when Cathy Caterpillar turns into a butterfly.

Grades K-2 WASPS
In this compelling Native American folktale, Wise Old Coyote steals fire from the greedy Yellow Jacket Sisters while Eagle, Cougar, Fox, Bear, Measuring Worm, Turtle and Frog work together to help.

Grades K-3 WASPS
When four million wasps fly into their village, the citizens of Itching Down make a giant jam sandwich to trap them.

Preschool-Grade K BEES
After gathering nectar and making its way safely home, a lone honeybee saves the day when a bear attacks the hive. Originally published in 1981, the book is now revised to be smaller and include pull-outs and pop-ups.

Preschool-Grade 1 BEES
Honeybee does not let anything distract her as she gathers nectar from the summer flowers to make into honey. The book features a separate honeybee that weaves its way through die-cut pages.

Preschool-Grade 3 BEES
The “Amazing Butterbees” inherit the gifts of both bees and butterflies. They “float like butterflies and buzz like bees!” Children are presented with a wealth of positive values that enhance self-esteem and increase social awareness.

Preschool-Grade 3 BEES
Written in verse, this cause-and-effect tale relates the chaotic events that occur after a bee lands in a tree in the garden of an Italian restaurant.
0590446843 $14.00.
Grades K-4 BEES
Ms. Frizzle takes her class on a field trip to a beehive in her magic school bus.

1550376632. $12.95.
Toddler-Preschool BEES
The Mole Sisters set out to do nothing at all. But when a busy bee buzzes by, they follow him and end up in a lovely meadow of flowers. The Mole Sisters begin smelling and their noses become covered in pollen. With a couple of big sneezes, they unwittingly help the busy bees with their work.

Mr. Bumble by Kim Kennedy. Illustrated by Doug Kennedy. Paperback.
Hyperion, 1999. 0786813539. $5.99.
In this enchanting story, by a Louisiana author/illustrator team, Mr. Bumble, the clumsiest bee in his hive, learns how to gather pollen gracefully.

The Rose in My Garden by Arnold Lobel. Illustrated by Anita Lobel.
Preschool-Grade 3 BEES
In this cumulative story many different flowers grow near the hollyhocks that shade the bee that sleeps on the only rose in the garden.

Toddler-Preschool BEES
Rosie the hen takes a leisurely stroll around the farmyard, oblivious to the fox who is chasing her. Luckily, the fox encounters many obstacles, including a swarm of angry bees.

1883672201. $15.95.
Grades K-3 ANTS, BEES
Sarah has quite a story to tell in school when she goes down an anthole and must find something for the queen ant to eat. A bee helps by providing honey for Sarah’s peanut butter sandwich.

0689851162. $15.00.
Grades K-2 BEES
When Pip the Mouse floats off with Otto the Robot's balloon, Otto and Zee the Bee go to the rescue.

1890817511. $15.95.
Preschool-Grade 1 BEES
A little bear and her father trace the origins of honey from the jar all the way back to the bees who produced it.
Preschool-Grade 3 **BEES**  
This story relates what happens to a hard-working, dependable bee named Rigel and the lazy bees that tease her.

Preschool-Grade 3 **BEES**  
Easy-reader author Krensky has adapted this Milne classic into a new format without compromising any of the charm, gentle humor, and distinctive touch of the original.

**BUTTERFLIES, MOTHS AND CATERPILLARS**

Grades K-3 **BUTTERFLIES**  
After choosing a husband for his sweet singing voice, a beautiful butterfly mourns the fact that he is swallowed by a fish, until a king in his underwear reunites the two. Sierra has blended two Spanish folktales to create an intriguing story with a satisfyingly happy ending.

Toddler-K **BEES, BUTTERFLIES**  
Beatrice Bee and Bella Butterfly land on the same flower and they don't want to share. This giant board book has spectacular illustrations and sparkle areas on every page.

Grades K-3 **BUTTERFLIES**  
With the help of her grandfather, a little girl makes a house for a larva and watches it grow.

Preschool-K **BUTTERFLIES**  
In this animal tale a butterfly tries to find a home where its kiss will be accepted. The tiger, elephant, crocodile, stork, rabbit, bat and cow refuse the kiss, but the child accepts it.

Grades K-3 **CATERPILLARS**  
Impressed by the proud caterpillar's boast that she will turn into a butterfly when she grows up, a polliwog determines to watch the caterpillar very carefully and turn into a butterfly too.

**Cathy Caterpillar and Betty Bee** by Sally Rippon. Rourke, 1982. 0865927901. $6.50.  
Preschool-Grade K **BEES, CATERPILLARS**  
Often impatient with her friend's slowness, Betty Bee is amazed and delighted when Cathy Caterpillar turns into a butterfly.
**Charlie the Caterpillar** by Dom Deluise. Illustrated by Christopher Santoro. Aladdin Library, 1993. Paperback. 0671796070. $5.95.

Preschool-Grade 2 CATERPILLARS
In this heart-warming story about the meaning of true friendship, Charlie the Caterpillar meets one group of animals after another playing together, but they won’t let him join in, because he is ugly. When Charlie later emerges as a beautiful butterfly, they all want to be his friend, but he puts them in their place.


Preschool-Grade K CATERPILLARS
Clara Caterpillar, who becomes a cream-colored butterfly, courageously saves Catisha the “catty” crimson-colored butterfly from a hungry crow.


Preschool-Grade 2 BUTTERFLIES No summary.


Preschool-Grade K CATERPILLARS
A small boy watches a caterpillar munch through the tall, tall grass, meeting many creatures along the way.


Preschool BUTTERFLIES
A protected lamb and an independent butterfly discuss their different ways of living.


Preschool-Grade K CATERPILLARS
A caterpillar eats a great deal and then spins its cocoon. Counting, days of the week, and a science lesson are all incorporated into this book that has become a storytime favorite.


Preschool BUTTERFLIES, NATURE
In this classic nature story, the author’s rhythmic text explores what happens to various animals when it rains.


Grades K-3 CATERPILLARS
This Masai tale is presented in the form of a play, in which the frog gets the job of getting a monster out of the rabbit's house after the leopard, elephant, and rhino bungle the job. The “monster” turns out to be a little caterpillar. This make a fun skit.
This original tale is about when the world was young and butterflies were chatty, noisy creatures dressed in dull colors. After a thunderstorm they became silent and colorful.

COCKROACHES

Grade K-3 COCKROACHES
When a giant cockroach named Max escapes from their mother’s bug laboratory, Leo and his brother receive help from a mysterious stranger who advised them to think like a bug in order to recapture the runaway roach.

Grades K-4 ANTS, COCKROACHES
In this epic adventure beneath the foliage, Crickwing the cockroach and the leafcutter ants go head-on with a swarm of ferocious army ants. This lovely, thoughtful book about acceptance is beautifully illustrated.

Grades 1-3 COCKROACHES
Leo Cockroach, who secretly tests toys for the bug-hating president of a toy company, seeks a job with the competitor across the street and finds himself worse off than before.

CRICKETS AND GRASSHOPPERS

Grades K-3 ANTS, GRASSHOPPERS
This version of Aesop’s fable about the industrious ants and the lazy grasshopper, who does not prepare for winter, is set in China.

Grades K-2 CRICKETS
On Christmas Eve, a little cricket finds its way into a house where its singing is thought to be of an angel.

Preschool-Grade 2 CRICKETS
Cricket loses his zest for living after a frog tells him that he is ugly. The other insects try to persuade him that he is fine just the way he is and finally the wise old spider convinces the cricket to sing again.
Grades 1-2 GRASSHOPPERS
Inspector Hopper is a grasshopper with a feel—and feelers—for mysteries. He and his partner McBug, the bug-sized super sleuth solve the mystery of missing Mrs. Ladybug and the disappearing boat.

Preschool-Grade 1 CRICKETS
Old Cricket doesn’t feel like helping his wife and neighbors to prepare for winter, so he pretends to be sick. Snappy dialogue accented with the phrase, “You don’t get to be an old cricket by being a dumb bug,” adds character to this humorous trickster tale.

Quick as a Cricket by Audrey Wood. Turtleback Books, 1982. 0859533069. $13.14. (Board Book is entitled I’m Quick as a Cricket.)
Toddler-Preschool BUGS, CRICKETS
The sing-song phrases and the large, endearing illustrations of a boy mimicking animals (cricket, snail, ant, whale) is a favorite with young children.

Grades K-3 ANTS, GRASSHOPPERS
Thirteen Aesop’s Fables are cleverly retold in verse. “The Ant and the Grasshopper” is included.

Preschool-K ANTS, GRASSHOPPERS
In this simple story an ant travels over stones, across a leaf and under branches until she meets her friend a grasshopper. The two play and dance together, then the ant returns home.

Preschool-Grade 1 CRICKETS
A newly hatched cricket has a problem getting his wings to chirp until he meet a very quiet girl cricket. A chip is included in the book that makes a very accurate cricket sound.

FIREFLIES

Preschool-Grade 2 FIREFLIES
In this counting book, numbers from 1 to 20 are introduced during a family’s summer trip to Maine. The book contains lots of details about the activities (including counting fireflies) of this high-spirited, warm-hearted family.
Preschool-K **FIREFLIES**  
A young boy is proud of having caught a jar full of fireflies, but as the light begins to dim he realizes he must set them free or they will die.

Grades K-3 **FIREFLIES**  
A refrain from a Native American lullaby inspires this nocturnal visit to a swamp where turtles play, bullfrogs leap and other animals swim.

Preschool-Grade K **FIREFLIES**  
Full-color paintings illustrate this cozy story about an African-American boy and his grandfather catching fireflies at their rural home.

Preschool-Grade 2 **FIREFLIES**  
In this revision of a 1963 title a young girl learns interesting facts about fireflies from her grandfather.

Preschool-Grade 2 **FIREFLIES**  
This reissue of the 1970 classic is about a young firefly who irritates all the forest creatures with his incredibly bright light.

Preschool-Grade 1 **FIREFLIES**  
This poem inspired by Longfellow’s “The Song of Hiawatha” tells of a young Chippewa girl who follows fireflies through the night as they illuminate various animals.

Preschool-Grade 2 **FIREFLIES**  
Leo goes off by himself when he cannot glow like he wants, but eventually he learns to glow and to laugh.

Grades K-2 **FIREFLIES**  
Sam the owl teaches Gus the firefly to write words in the sky. Suddenly cars crash, movies are free, and hot dogs are cold.
Preschool-Grade 1 FIREFLIES
The rhymed text and luminous, atmospheric illustrations capture the excitement of a brother and sister playing outdoors on a summer night.

Preschool-Grade 2 FIREFLIES
One night a very lonely firefly goes off in search of friends. He sees a lantern, an owl’s eyes, headlights, candles and fireworks, but none of them are fireflies. Finally everything quiets down and other fireflies flash their lights and the little firefly isn’t lonely anymore. The fireflies actually illuminate at the end of the book.

Grades K-3 FIREFLIES
A young girl describes the family reunion at her grandmother’s house, from the food and baseball and photos to the flickering fireflies on the lawn.

Grades K-2 FIREFLIES
This magical summer evening of children catching fireflies is captured in rhythmic language and beautiful full-color illustrations that darken until only the fireflies and the moon glow.

FLEAS

Grades K-3 FLEAS
Two flea brothers live on a huge dog, but bad Fred wants the dog all to himself, so he fakes illness to stay when the dog starts scratching. Gleeful caricatures of the fleas illustrate the rhymed text.

Grades K-3 FLEAS
In this humorously illustrated fable a fox tells a dog to go down to the pond to get rid of his fleas. The fox then steals off with the chickens that the dog was guarding. In a satisfying turn-about, the dog ultimately outwits the fox, who ends up with the fleas.

Grade K-2 FLEAS
Two fleas, one who loves to travel and one who prefers to stay home, decide to go their separate ways.
Rollicking rhythms, rhymes and repetitions tell the story of the flea whose sneeze startles all the animals in the barn.

In this cumulative tale, a wakeful flea atop a number of sleeping creatures causes a commotion, with just one bite.

The Old Man and the Flea by Mary Elizabeth Hanson. Illustrated by David Webber Merrell. Northland, 2001. 0873587766. $15.95. Grades K-3 FLEAS
An elderly man purchases a “pedigreed flea” to keep as a pet. When the old man begins talking to his new pet, the neighbors, who are unable to see the flea, think he is crazy and call the police.

Herman the flea describes the perils that he and his many brothers and sisters face after making their home in the fur of Goldie, a family pet.

A twist on the Three Little Pigs in which puppies are warned by their mother to watch out for the big, bad flea.

FLIES and DRAGONFLIES

This book is in the Predictable Readers series by Louisiana author Janie Gill.

In this classic reader a fly goes by, followed by a frog, who’s chased by a cat, who’s chased by a dog in a humorous cumulative tale.

Preschool-K FLIEx
When Bertha Bear’s birthday party is interrupted by a pesky fly, she races off in pursuit of it and disturbs a number of animals along the way.


Preschool-Grade 1 FLIEx
In this classic cumulative tale, the old lady swallows a fly and doesn’t stop there. A die-cut expanding wheel rests on top of the old lady’s stomach, inviting children to give it a whirl.


Grades K-3 FLEIx
This cleverly designed book includes a CD with Gollub’s narration and danceable music. The story is about a drummer fly who needs to come up with a fresh sound to please the Queen Bee.


Preschool-Grade 1 FLEIx
This fun, rhythmic, rhyming alphabet book describes the 26 awful things Old Black Fly did one day. This memorable chant ends with a satisfying “Swat!” on the last page.


Preschool-Grade K DRAGONFLIEs
A young frog in search of adventure meets up with a dragonfly, who, luckily, is always on the lookout for trouble.


Preschool-Grade 3 FLEIx
Taback’s ingenious illustrations of this familiar song include a hole where the old lady’s stomach should be, so the readers can see where all the animals end up. Clever details and humorous asides take this song to new heights.


Toddler-Preschool FLEIx
In this brightly illustrated version of the familiar song, a little mouse tries all kinds of antics to stop a pesky fly from bothering him.


Grades 1-5 FLEIx
This is a whole collection of fly jokes.

Grades K-2 FLIES
A young child puts off cleaning the bedroom, but the sudden arrival of a zooming fly mysteriously gets the job done.

LADYBUGS


Toddler-Preschool LADYBUGS No summary.


Preschool-Grade 2 LADYBUGS
This new, larger format edition with brighter, more colorful pages was issued for the 20th anniversary of the title. A grouchy ladybug, looking for a fight, challenges everyone she meets, regardless of their size or strength.

Ladybug at Orchard Avenue by Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld. Illustrated by Thomas Buchs. Soundprints, 1996. 1568992572. $15.95.

Preschool-Grade 2 LADYBUGS
Ladybug rambles through the garden, up and down rose stems in search of her favorite food, aphids, instinctively using her natural defenses to escape from threats.


Preschool-Grade 1 LADYBUGS
In this adaptation of the familiar nursery rhyme, Ladybug encounters a variety of animals while rushing home to her children.


Toddler-Preschool LADYBUGS
In this interactive picture book, children move a vinyl ladybug down a delightful garden path.


Preschool-Grade 2 LADYBUGS
Ladybug plans a party with only two friends in her small house, but as more and more insects show up, she is sure her birthday is ruined.

Little Buggy by Kevin O’Malley. Gulliver Books, 2002. 0152163395. $16.00

Preschool-Grade 2 LADYBUGS
A young male ladybug is determined to learn how to fly and, with the help of his father, he succeeds. This warm and hilarious father-son story is told in dialogue balloons and illustrated with friendly and inviting cartoons set against a lush background.

0152165509. $16.00.
Preschool-Grade 2 LADYBUGS
Little Buggy has a fight with Big Buggy and runs away, with help for some ant friends.

Toddler-Preschool LADYBUGS No summary.

Preschool-Grade K LADYBUGS
Persephone the Ladybug finds herself taken to the city, where she discovers a new life among friends in a teashop. How Persephone escapes the rats and returns to her mother forms the climax of this enchanting story.

Toddler-Preschool LADYBUGS
One by one, ten tactile ladybugs disappear. Young ones will love to feel their way through the sturdy, colorful pages of this innovative book.

Preschool-Grade 1 LADYBUGS
A lazy ladybug who never learned how to fly decides she wants to go somewhere, so she tries hitching onto different animals. Finally, when she meets an elephant, she is forced to learn to fly on her own.

MOSQUITOES

Preschool-Grade K MOSQUITOES
Farmer Brown desperately swats at an unseen mosquito whose tiny, whiny humming is keeping him awake, demolishing his bedroom in the process.

Grades K-3 MOSQUITOES
Mosquitoes silly lie to an iguana sets in motion a cumulative series of events. This story is fun to act out with masks.

Zzzng! Zzzng! Zzzng!: A Yoruba Tale by Phillis Gershator. Illustrated by Greg Henry. Scholastic, 1997. 0531095231. $15.95
Grades K-2 MOSQUITOES
When Ear, Leg and Arm refuse to marry Mosquito, she shows them that she is not to be ignored.

NATURE
Preschool-Grade 2 NATURE  
A box turtle hunts worms, tries to catch grasshoppers and survives the day in this beautifully designed nature study.

**I Wonder** by Tana Hoban. Harcourt, 1999. 0152023550. $10.95.  
Preschool NATURE  
While walking through the park, a child sees a wondrous variety of animals.

Preschool NATURE  
Full-page mixed-media color paintings illustrate such imaginative possibilities as worms with wheels, butterflies in clothes, and whales in outer space.

Preschool-Grade K NATURE  
Little bunnies crouch beneath a hedge where they watch the rain and share their shelter with other wild creatures as they watch honeybees fly between the raindrops.

Preschool BUTTERFLIES, NATURE  
In this classic nature story, the author’s rhythmic text explores what happens to various animals when it rains.

### SNAILS, SLUGS AND WORMS

Grades K-3 SNAILS  
When young Snail tries to be the teacher’s helper, a water fountain overflows into a whirlpool, the fire extinguisher blasts off into outer space and musical instruments walk themselves to class.

Preschool-Grade 2 SNAILS  
A young snail, desiring a larger shell, receives fatherly advice and decides that small accommodations are an asset in regaining his mobility.

Grades K-2 WORMS  
A bird (who eats seeds and berries) and a worm walk south for the winter together and meet up with a fox who offers them a ride.

**SNAILS**
The snail’s friends help when his eggs are threatened by heavy rain.


**WORMS**
Cronin (author of *Click, Clack, Moo*) has written an hysterical journal about the daily life of a worm, who is not unlike a human, except he eats his homework and his head looks like his rear end.


**SNAILS**
When Celerina the bunny moves into a new house, she doesn’t realize that there was already a snail living there—a snail that can magically repair anything.


**SNAILS**
Harry the turtle wants a friend, but Buster Bunny, Stan Badger and Sarah Mouse are all in such a hurry. Then Harry meets Sam Snail and they become fast (or, rather “slow”) friends.


**SNAILS**
A young child take walks to different places and wonders about the amount and variety of things seen on the way.

**Inch by Inch** by Leo Lionni. Astor-Honor, 1962. 0839230109. $15.95.

**WORMS**
When the birds demand that he measure them, he finally escapes when they tell him to measure length of a nightingale’s song.


**SNAILS**
Everyone offers free advice on how Mr. Carey can rid his garden of snails, but he keeps saying, “I see it in a different light.”

**Sluggy Slugs (Thingy Things)** by Christopher Raschka. Hyperion Press, 2000. 0786805846. $3.99

**SLUGS**
The Thingy Things series by Raschka appears to be simple, but the abstract illusions may confuse young readers. Sluggy Slug won’t budge, not even when lured with a pink lollipop.
These gruesome poems about slugs will delight most children and disgust most adults.

The Portable Pets series are board books shaped like the animal they depict.

Grandma tells the story about the day the children shrank down to a tiny size and went to live in a snail house. Details of the miniature world will fascinate young readers.

This early reader is a realistic snail’s eye-view of the garden. Slimy Snail sets out on a trail, which turns out to be an obstacle course.

This beautiful picture book is a captivating story about a boy who shrinks to the size of a snail and experiences the world from that perspective.

The Thingy Things series by Raschka appears to be simple, but the abstract illusions may confuse young readers. Snaily Snail shows the nature of unconditional love.

An appealing, self-assured slug slithers up a slope against the advice of the other creatures. The alliterative text and realistic, detailed illustrations are sensuous and precise. Children will enjoy the surprise ending.

Don Carlos likes to do everything in a big way, but his idea to serve lots of snails in his restaurant nearly destroys the whole village.
Preschool-Grade 1 WORMS
The Thingy Things series by Raschka appears to be simple, but the abstract illusions may confuse young readers. Wormy Worm “wiggles and woggles” to such a degree that it’s difficult to see “which end is front” and “which end is back.”

SPIDERS

Grades K-4 SPIDERS
In this retelling of a Liberian folktale, “The Magic Hoe,” Anansi the Spider steals Hyena’s magic stick so he won’t have to do the chores, but when the stick’s magic won’t stop, he gets more than he bargained for. Children will enjoy the chaotic slapstick and can join in the rhythmic chant, “Hocus pocus, Magic Stick…”

Grades K-4 SPIDERS
Anansi the trickster discovers a magic rock that makes animals pass out, and then he steals their food. Clever little bush deer turns the tables on the greedy spider.

Grades K-4 SPIDERS
In this adaptation of an African folktale, Anansi the Spider, who is stuck inside a melon, tricks all the animals into believing that the melon can speak. Kimmel has written another surefire hit with perfect pacing, repetition and surprising reversals. Stevens’ comic illustrations capture the furious animals in all their ridiculous contortions.

Grades K-4 SPIDERS
In this variation of a West African tale Turtle turns the tables on the trickster spider by getting him to do all the work of fishing. This makes a great skit.

Grades K-2. SPIDERS
This African folktale, illustrated with bold folk-style images, explains that the moon stays in the sky because Anansi and his sons quarreled.

Grades K-3 SPIDERS
Clovis Crawfish must protect his bayou friends when the evil Simone Spider spins her web in their midst and begins looking for someone to snare with it.
Preschool SPIDERS
The traditional song is expanded to include many delightful adventures for the spider beyond the drainpipe.

Preschool-K SPIDERS
The itsy-bitsy spider encounters a fan, a mouse, a cat and a rocking chair as she marches up to the top of a tree to spin her web in this extended rhyme based on the familiar song.

Grades K-3 SPIDERS
A spider who lives in a head of lettuce is saved when the lady who finds her puts her back in the garden. The descriptions of the spider's life are fascinating and the message that all life has value is powerful.

Board. Scholastic, 2003. 0439543150. $5.99.
Preschool-Grade 1 SPIDERS
On her very first day of life, Little Miss Spider searches for her mother with the help of Betty Beetle.

Preschool-Grade 1 SPIDERS
Miss Spider starts school and soon finds she is failing leaf chewing, flying, and stinging. However, she does well in climbing and spinning.

Preschool-Grade 2 SPIDERS
Miss Spider and her husband go shopping for a car.

Preschool-Grade 2 SPIDERS
Miss Spider likes Holley, but her friend sets her up with the cad Spiderus Reeves, who tries to do away with Holley. But love triumphs. The long rhyming text is a bit ponderous, but the illustrations are intense and captivating.

Preschool-Grade 2 SPIDERS
No one wants to accept Miss Spider's invitation to tea for fear of being eaten.
Toddler-Preschool SPIDERS
A spider pops up all around the bathroom: in the sink, under the soap, behind a towel. The book features a separate spider that slips through holes and pop up behind flaps.

Grades K-3 FLIES, SPIDERS
Howitt’s 1829 poem is stunningly illustrated in the style of a black and white movie, giving it a deliciously spooky quality.

Preschool-Grade 2 SPIDERS
This is an illustrated version of Raffi’s song about a mischievous spider.

Grades K-3 SPIDERS
In this retelling of a tale from Ghana, a wondrous spider shows two Ashanti weavers how to make intricate, colorful patterns in the cloth that they weave.

Grades K-2 SPIDERS
To overcome their fear of spiders Caitlin and her mother and grandmother capture the biggest, blackest spider in the whole world.

Preschool-Grade 1 SPIDERS
A spider spins its web in this striking picture book, which includes an embossed web that brings a tactile dimension to the artwork.