



*Bugs, Butterflies, Worms,
and Spiders*

Additional Reading
Adventure Reviews

Anansi the Spider: A Tale from the Ashanti, adapted and illustrated by Gerald McDermott.

Anansi, an African folk hero, is rescued by his six sons and sets the moon in the sky as a thank you gift. The excitement of the adventure story is complemented in this Caldecott Honor book by the bold dramatic illustrations with its brilliant colors that include traditional African design patterns.

Henry Holt & Company, 1987, paperback, school & library binding

Bugs!, written by David T. Greenburg, illustrated by Lynn Munsinger

A poetry book that celebrates the disgusting and gross things a creative imagination can do with bugs. Illustrations of oversized insects interacting with the child narrating the story poem are sure to engage readers with their cheerful humor.

Little, Brown, and Company, 1997, paperback

Breakout at the Bug Lab, written by Ruth Horowitz, illustrated by Joan Holub

Two brothers have an adventure when their pet, a Madagascan hissing cockroach, escapes from their Mom's bug lab on a big celebration day. This easy-to-read chapter book will hold the attention of bug fans with a fast-paced plot twist.

Dial Books for Young Readers, 2001, paperback, hardback

Diary of a Worm, written by Doreen Cronin, illustrated by Harry Bliss

With clever tongue-in-cheek creativity, a boy worm in a red baseball cap tells his story of life on, and underground, for a family of worms that will produce laugh-out-loud chuckles. The cartoon-like illustrations expand the storyline with a multitude of humorous details that make rereading delightful. Spend time with the end papers that depict a scrapbook style collection of worm photos and memorabilia.

HarperCollins Publisher, 2003, hardcover, audio cassette, audio CD

Eye Wonder: Bugs, written and edited by Penelope York

Insect information is organized in an appealing and accessible way that combines the basic information with the more bizarre trivia. Vivid close-up color photographs of insects make this reference book for children a visual treasure trove of fascinating facts.

DK Publishing, 2002, hardcover

Ghost Wings, written by Barbara M. Josse, illustrated by Giselle Potter

The annual migration of monarch butterflies to Mexico is the backdrop for a family story of love and remembrance, illustrated with soft watercolors. After her grandmother's death, the Days of the Dead celebration and the return of the monarchs comfort a little girl. The book, designed to be shared, includes resources on the Days of the Dead and monarch butterflies, in addition to discussion questions and activities on feelings, memories and butterflies.

Chronicle Books, 2001, hardcover

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Insects Are My Life, written by Megan McDonald, illustrated by Paul Brett Johnson
Amanda, a budding insect scientist, has a hard time with people at school and at home understanding her interest in insects. Until she makes a new friend, named Maggie, who has just as strong an interest in reptiles.
Orchard Books, 1995, paperback

Miss Spider's Tea Party, written and illustrated by David Kirk
Miss Spider, a vegetarian, does not understand why the other insects are afraid to come to her party. When she rescues a rain-soaked moth, the other insects realize that they are indeed the guests and not the meal. Airbrush oil on paper vividly illustrates this story told in rhyme, which also has a counting theme (one spider, two beetles, three fireflies).
Scholastic Press, 1994, hardcover, toy

100 Things You Should Know About Insects and Spiders, edited by Amanda Learmonth and Jenni Rainford
The 100 facts on insects and spiders are grouped by chapter categories for easy reference. Colored illustrations in a variety of inks and paints support the detailed text descriptions. Short activities and self-check quizzes are scattered through out the book and appear on textboxes in the shape of leaves and large green beetles.
Barnes & Noble Books, 2004, hardcover

The Spider and the Fly, written by Mary Howitt and illustrated by Tony DiTerlizzi
This cautionary poem from 1829 shares the sad fate of a fly taken in by a spider's flattery. The black, white, and silver illustrations of this Caldecott Honor book have a retro 1920's look that salute the silent film genre as well as giving the book its spooky creepy details.
Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 2002, hardcover, paperback (out of print)

The Very Busy Spider, written and illustrated by Eric Carle
Spider is too busy to interact with a variety of farm animals, but children will be able to interact with this book that features touchable pictures, which let children feel as well as see the web develop. Be sure to notice the "pesky fly" that appears in most of the painted tissue paper collages.
Philomel Books, 1984, hardcover, board book, paperback (out of print)

Waiting for Wings, written by Lois Ehlert
Boldly colored cut paper collages and creatively cut pages along with a rhymed text present the life cycle of butterflies in an engaging way that will encourage rereading. Extra information on identifying butterflies, butterfly friendly flowers, and growing a butterfly garden is included at the end of the book. The large format and book print also lend itself to group read-alouds.
Harcourt, Inc., 2001, hardcover

Wiggling Worms at Work, written by Wendy Pfeffer, illustrated by Steve Jenkins
A non-fiction book on how worms live, eat, move, and work the soil is illustrated with textured paper collage. Follow up activities are included at the end of the book.
HarperTrophy, 2004, paperback

