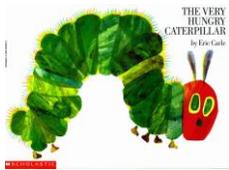


## Bugs Read-Aloud Outline

There is something fascinating about bugs. This time of year, they are difficult to ignore, buzzing and crawling all around us.

Your Read-Aloud could focus on the books of Eric Carle, who has written about caterpillars, crickets, spiders and fireflies, or it could focus on one particular bug, like butterflies. If you choose the latter, combine fiction and nonfiction books or just stick to nonfiction. There are so many book choices available, you could have several different Read-Alouds about bugs.

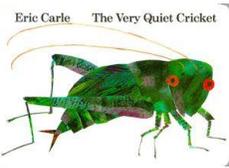
### Fiction books about bugs



#### ***The Very Hungry Caterpillar*** by Eric Carle

Ages 2 and up

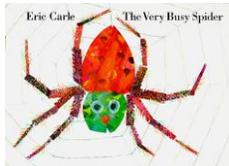
This classic book is colorful with finger holes and pages of graduated sizes. In explaining the metamorphosis of a caterpillar to a butterfly, it also covers days of the week and many fun facts.



#### ***The Very Quiet Cricket*** by Eric Carle

Ages 2 and up

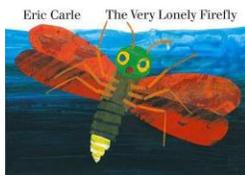
The young cricket tries to make sounds like the other insects. Finally, he discovers he is able to chirp when he see a female cricket! An electronic chirping mechanism is activated by turning the last page. Test the chirp mechanism to be sure it still works.



#### ***The Very Busy Spider*** by Eric Carle

Ages 3 and up

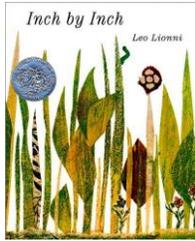
While the other farm animals want to eat or play, the spider is very busy building a web. Page by page, you see and *feel* the web become more intricate.



#### ***The Very Lonely Firefly*** by Eric Carle

Ages 3 and up

The small firefly discovers many other lights in the night before finally finding other fireflies. On the last page, an electronic mechanism lights up several small fireflies. Check your book to make sure it works.

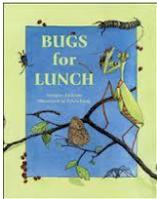


***Inch by Inch*** by Leo Lionni

Ages 3 and up

A small green inchworm is proud of his skill at measuring anything — a robin's tail, a flamingo's neck, a toucan's beak. Then one day a nightingale threatens to eat him if he cannot measure his song. Children will enjoy the clever inchworm's solution and will delight in finding the tiny hero on every page. Every inch the classic, this was the first of Lionni's books to win the Caldecott Honor.

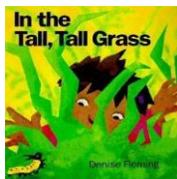
**Nonfiction books about bugs**



***Bugs for Lunch*** by Margery Facklam

Ages 4 and up

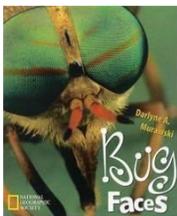
Children learn about insectivorous creatures (creatures that eat insects), presented in simple verse with large illustrations.



***In the Tall, Tall Grass*** by Denise Fleming

Ages 4 and up

Bold colors and 4 to 5 words per page make this book visually appealing. The children will enjoy making the different sounds or different movements as they join various animals moving through the tall grass.



***Bug Faces*** by Darlyne A. Murawski

Ages 3 and up

This book has large, full-page, close-up photos of common insects that appeal to both kids' curiosity and love of the "yuck" factor.

**More nonfiction books**

***A Monarch Butterfly's Life*** by John Himmelman

Ages 4 to 10

***Butterflies and Moths*** by Nic Bishop

Ages 5 to 10

***What's That Bug? Everyday Insects and their Really Cool Cousins*** by Nan Froman and Julian Mulock

Ages 8 to 12

## Activities

1. Many nursery rhymes and finger plays include bugs. The following website has a comprehensive list of nursery rhymes, including the ones listed below: <http://www.nurseryrhymes.com/>.

- *The Itsy Bitsy Spider*
- *Little Miss Muffet*
- *There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly*
- *I'm Taking Home a Baby Bumble Bee*

2. Snack ideas:

- Make "ants on a log" from celery, peanut butter, and raisins.
- Make spider cookies with chocolate sandwich cookies, black string licorice, and tiny M&Ms. Use icing for glue.



3. Compare insects and arachnids (spiders). How are they alike? How are they different?

4. Create a bug to take home. The following website has ideas for bees, butterflies, beetles, and more: <http://www.dltk-kids.com/crafts/insects/crafts.htm>.



5. Go outside, and turn over a log. Lots of bugs like this dark, cool environment. Put a couple bugs in jars, and bring them inside to examine.

6. Run insect races.

- Have 3 kids hold hands and create a 6-legged insect.
- Have 4 kids hold hands and create an 8-legged spider.
- Let the kids pretend they are winged insects by flapping their wings as they run.

7. Purchase roll-up party horns. These resemble the mouth of a butterfly. Turn them upside down, so they roll down like a butterfly proboscis.



8. Play "Crazy Critters." You can either cut and paste your bug, or draw it on paper. Each child needs a sheet of paper. With their first turn, each player rolls a die to see what shape their bug will have. The second roll will determine the face. The third roll is for the antenna, and the fourth roll will decide the type of legs. The following link provides an illustration of how to play: [http://www.expressivemonkey.com/Bug/Crazy\\_Critters.pdf](http://www.expressivemonkey.com/Bug/Crazy_Critters.pdf).