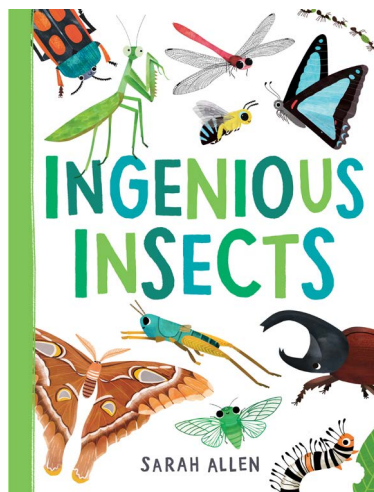




Teacher Notes

Ingenious Insects

by Sarah Allen

Teacher notes prepared by Bec Kavanagh.

Publication details

Publisher: Affirm Press
ISBN: 9781923022003
Size/format: 280 x 210mm, 32 pages, HB
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Reader ages: 3-7 years

Themes

- Insects
- Nature
- Habitats
- Survival
- Science

About the Book

Step through the seasons with some of Australia's most interesting insects. Say hello to chirping cicadas, flashing fireflies, sneaky stick insects and burrowing bees in this adorable introduction to our unique and charming bug life.

About the Author/Illustrator

Sarah Allen is an illustrator and designer based in Victoria, Australia. The natural world is her biggest inspiration. Through her art, she hopes to share her love of this beautiful planet, with a special focus on Australian flora and fauna.

Her first book with Affirm Press, *Busy Beaks*, was shortlisted for the CBCA Early Childhood Books 2021.

Before Reading

- What does 'ingenious' mean? What ingenious insects can you think of that might be in the book?
- What kind of book do you think this is? What do the clues on the front and back cover tell you?
- Where might you find ingenious insects? Look at the inside covers – where are some of the insects hiding?

Comprehension questions

- What is an insect?
- Where would you find a cicada?
- How do grasshoppers move?
- What do Rhinoceros beetles do with their spare time?
- Who moves "in a hurry"?
- Which insects make a type of sugar?
- How many of the insects in the book can fly?
- How many have antennae?
- How many live in the garden?
- Make a list of the insects that you might find in your own backyard.
- What are some of the useful insects in the book? How are they useful?
- How do ants stay warm in winter? What do other insects do?
- What is a 'scientific name'? Find three examples in the book.
- Do all insects have six legs?

Literacy

- **Vocabulary:** make a list of any new words you encounter in the story. Look them up and write down the meaning. Try to practice using them at least three times throughout the week.
- **Sensory descriptions** - writers use all of their senses to bring a story to life. Can you find examples of sound, scent, touch, taste and sight in the book? Come up with two of your own sensory descriptions for three of the insects in the book.
- **Fact and fiction.** What's the difference between a fiction book and a non-fiction book? What kind of book is this? How can you tell? Explore the following elements that are common to non-fiction books – find examples of each from the book.
 - Categories
 - Scientific names (technical terms)
 - Accurate descriptions/diagrams
- **Muscular verbs.** A 'muscular verb' is when we use one very descriptive word to show the reader how something is being done (for example, instead of saying 'run quickly', we might say 'sprint'). Find five examples of muscular verbs in the book. What basic action are they describing? Why might writers use muscular verbs in the work?

Final reflections

- How do you think the author of this book feels about insects? Why?
- What are three things you learned from the book?
- How did you feel about insects before reading the book? Have your feelings changed? Why?

Creative Activities

- Bug-watching! Spend some time in your school yard. How many insects can you observe? Draw a picture of where you find each one and/or make notes about what this tells you about them and their habitat.
- Butterfly art! How many butterflies have you come across? Pay really close attention to the next one you see, and draw a picture – can you use your picture to find out the scientific name of the butterfly you've found?
- List-making! Make a list of some of the helpful insects that live in your garden. What jobs are they doing? How can you make sure your garden is a welcoming place for them to live?
- Make a bug hotel! (See this video for inspiration: <https://youtu.be/AmwbZGWY8NU>) What else can you do to look after the insects in your school or garden? Watch your bug hotel for a month and take note of who comes to stay during that time!
- Storytelling! Imagine that you're one of the insects in the book and write a short 'day-in-the-life' scene from their perspective.