

Goals								
A	Concepts of general entomology (what an insect is, what metamorphosis is, etc)							
B	Insect diversity---introduction to different types of insects							
C	Insect "entertainment"---books that use stories to instill an interest in insects							
D	Teaching activities---hands-on projects that parents or K12 teachers can use to teach kids about insects							
All listed books are good, but our favorites are in yellow.		Age ranges based on reviews posted on Amazon.			Available at the Fayetteville Public library?			
Title	Author	Ages	Goals Met	Comments	Call Number	Can be read aloud?	Has a story?	Pictures
Becoming butterflies	Anne Rockwell	preschool thru grade 2	A, C	Tells the story of a classroom project to raise Monarch butterflies	J 595.789 Roc	yes, especially good for younger children	yes	child-like drawings
Ladybugs and Other Insects (Scholastic First Discovery)	Gallimard Jeunesse	preschool thru grade 2	A, C, and to a lesser extent B	Explains metamorphosis and what an insect is, and gives facts about ladybugs. Kids may like transparent overlay pages that are used to show transformation, or what is inside/outside. BUT FYI, it has a picture of mating ladybugs, which not all parents may like.	not available	yes	no	bold, colorful, but accurate drawings
What is an Insect?	Susan Canizares	preschool thru grade 2	A	Very simple, clear way to explain what is and is not an insect. Gives kids a chance to guess what is and is not an insect.	not available	yes	no	photos
Bugs are Insects	Ann Rockwell	preschool thru grade 2	A, B	Little text and pretty artwork by Steve Jenkins. The only down-side is that readers must refer to a legend at the back of the book to find out the names of the insects in the pictures.	J595.7 Roc	yes	no	detailed, colorful collages
Hey Little Ant	Phillip Hoose	preschool thru grade 2	C	A story about a boy deciding whether or not to step on an ant. The story is set to music. It does not contain much entomological information, but does encourage kids to look closer and recognize the living creatures around them.	J782.4216 Hoo	yes, especially good for younger children	yes	child-like drawings
Miller the Green Caterpillar	Darrell House	preschool thru grade 2	C	Introduces the concept of metamorphosis, as demonstrated by the story of a tiger swallowtail named Miller.	found in children's picture books, filed under "H"	yes, especially good for younger children	yes	cartoon-like, anthropomorphic drawings
How to Hide a Butterfly	Ruth Heller	preschool thru grade 2	B, C	Teaches children about insect camouflage. Children can make a game of finding the insect in the illustrations. Few words.	found in children's picture books, filed under "H"	maybe, if it is passed around	no	color illustrations
Insect Coloring Book	Jan Sovak	preschool thru grade 3	B,C	Detailed line drawings of different insects in their habitats, with explanatory captions.	not available	No	no	scientific illustration

Anna Aphid	Christine Goppel	preschool thru grade 3	C	This clever but not very entomological book is one of my favorites because it features an aphid. Score one for diversity; do we really need another book about butterflies or lady bugs? But on the down side, the book features Anna's "father" and "brothers," despite the fact that she is probably part of an all-female clonal population.	found in children's picture books, filed under "G"	yes	yes	cute cartoon-like drawings
Honeybees: Jump into Science	Deborah Heiligman	K thru grade 3	B, C	This book tracks a honeybee's progress through the many jobs she assumes over the course of her life. Visually appealing artwork.	595.799 Hei	yes	yes	child-like, colorful artwork
Butterfly time	Alice Goudey	K thru grade 3	B, C	Gentle story about 2 kids observing butterflies over the course of the summer. Introduces kids to 12 common species and what they feed on. Out-of-print, but available used on Amazon. Would be nice to pair with cards with photos of the 12 butterflies featured in the slightly faded illustrations.	not available			
<i>On Beyond Bugs: All About Insects</i>	Tish Rabe	K thru grade3	A,B, C	Introduces what an insect is, what the body parts are, and interesting facts about many common insects. The rhyming text written in the style of Dr. Suess is especially good for reading aloud. Best paired with a photo book, since the illustrations are not very informative.	not available	yes, very entertaining	yes	Dr. Suess-style drawings
Big bug surprise	Julia Gran	K thru grade 3	C	An entertaining story featuring a girl entomologist. Shows that it can be useful (not just nerdy) to know about insects. Best paired with a photo book.	found in children's picture books, filed under "G"	yes	yes	comic drawings (not intended for accuracy)
Insectlopedia	Douglas Florian	K thru grade 3	B, C	Creative poems about different types of insects. Pair with photo book.	811.54 Flo	yes	poems	atmospheric, stylized paintings
Honey in the Hive	Anne Rockwell	K thru grade 3	B	Short, succinct text and beautiful illustrations. Touches on swarming, bee dances, honey-making, nectar guides.	J595.799 Roc	yes	no	Detailed illustrations of bees & their environs

Have you seen bugs?	Joanne Oppenheim	K thru grade 3	B, C	The main draw of this book is the gorgeous, detailed artwork by Ron Broda. The brief, poetic text is meant to stimulate interest and wonder more than provide many facts, although the book does introduce the concepts of camouflage, aposematism, and the diversity of insect habits. readers must refer to the legend at the back of the book to find the names of the insects pictured, and the layout makes it difficult to use the key.	J595.7 Opp	yes	rhyming text	elaborate collages
Insect Detective	Steve Voake	K thru grade 3	C, D, and to a lesser extent A	This book encourages kids to go outside and observe insects directly. It gives examples of some behaviors they can observe, and also gives instructions on how to make a pit fall trap or a light trap. There are items here and there that might be a bit misleading. For example, the book discusses solitary bees in a way that might lead kids to conclude that all bees are solitary. Overall, though, this is an unusual and charming book.	J595.7 Voa (Farmington)	yes	no	stylized drawings
Butterflies in the Garden	Carol Lerner	K thru grade 3	B	Very attractive watercolors. Introduces 5 common butterfly families, as well as general information about butterflies and the flowers that attract them.	595.789 Ler	yes	no	moderately-detailed watercolors.
Where's that Insect?	Barbara Brenner	K thru grade 3	B	The pictures in this book are puzzles in which children must find the insects. The brief rhyming text also presents some facts about a cross-sample of interesting insects.	J595.7 Bre	Maybe, but only if book can be passed around so the kids can examine the insects up close	no	large, colorful illustrations
Lady bug lady bug fly away home	Judy Hawes	K thru grade 3	C	Introduces various facts about ladybugs by way of explaining the (somewhat gruesome) nursery rhyme quoted in the title. Out of print but available used via Amazon.	J595.7 Haw (Farmington)	yes	yes?	dated 70's style graphics
Amazing World of Butterflies and Moths	Louis Sabin	K thru grade 3	B, to some extent A (explains metamorphosis)	Nicely explains some differences between moths and butterflies, and has beautiful illustrations. The down-side is that the book doesn't identify most of the insects in the illustrations. There is also a confusing sentence that seems to imply that all moths and butterflies occur worldwide.	J595.7 S (Farmington)	yes	no	color illustrations

Butterfly House	Eve Bunting	K thru grade 3	C, D	Story about a girl raising painted lady butterflies. Has instructions at the end about raising butterflies.	found in children's picture books, filed under "B"	yes	yes	rather blurry paintings
Crickets in the Dark	Doreen Gnzales	K thru grade 3	B	This book has an excellent layout for reading aloud, and is also good for beginner readers. It focuses solely on crickets---so it is limited in scope, but offers an alternative to one more book about butterflies or ladybugs.	J 595.7 Gon	yes	no	photos
I Watch Flies	Gladys Conklin	K thru grade 4?	B	This book, written in 1st person from the perspective of a child who likes to observe nature, introduces readers to >20 kinds of flies. I like this book because of its focus on an often-ignored or maligned insect group. Out of print but available used on Amazon.	J 595.7 C	yes	no	detailed, charming, 70's era drawings
I didn't know that some bugs glow in the dark	Claire Llewellyn	grades 1-3		The best feature of this book is that it includes true/false questions and picture puzzles (find the hidden insect) to engage young readers. It also explains what an insect is, and covers some basic examples of interesting insect biology (metamorphosis in butterflies, luminescence in fireflies, stink bug defense, etc).	J 595.7 Lle (Farmington)	Maybe, but the page layout is a bit busy for this and the pictures are better under close examination	no	color illustrations. Little bit busy page layout.
Ants	Deborah Hodge	grades 1-3	D, & to a lesser extent A, B	This brief book introduces a few very basic facts about ants (eg. the parts of the body, the life stages), and suggests a few simple hands-on activities (eg. Making a model of an ant, testing what foods ants prefer).	J 595.796 Hod	maybe, but more valuable as a guide for activities	no	photos
Why am I an Insect?	Greg Pyers	grades 1-4??	A	Uses the dragonfly as an example to illustrate many basics of insect physiology and behavior. Also introduces what an insect is, and the general concept of classification/taxonomy.	J 595.7 Pye	maybe. Large print, relatively simple layout. But a little dry, and lacking in visual appeal.	no	photos

The Life and Times of an Ant	Charles Micucci	grades 1-4	B	to quote another reviewer: "This (book) offers succinct text and an impressive amount of information presented in an attractive, picture-book format. Micucci discusses (ant) longevity ..., communication techniques, social structure of the colony, body parts, habitats, variety among ants, and the species' role in recycling. Topics are presented on illustrated double-page spreads comprising a main block of text and numerous, captioned illustrations. Most of the artwork is realistic, although the author anthropomorphizes in a few drawings (an ant wearing a hard hat...). Overall, the presentation is informative, stimulating, and attractive, with just enough humor to reel in the intended audience. A good choice for report writers and for browsers." <i>Kay Weisman</i>	J595.796 Mic	Yes, although the reader may need to skim over some of the numerous captioned illustrations to keep things moving.		drawings, some humorous
Insects (Make it Work! Science)	Andrew Haslam	grades 1-6	D	Classroom activities featuring insects. Some of the activities are good, while others seem too laborious.	J595.7 Has			
The big bug book	Margery Facklam	grades 1-6	B	Covers 12 large insects, several of which are likely to be in insect demos (eg. hissing cockroaches, Atlas moths, giant waterbugs)	J595.7 Fac	Yes, but perhaps a bit wordy/dry for younger kids.	No	Life-size illustrations
Do you know about bugs?	Buffy Silverman	grades 1-6?	A, B	Simple and informative; good for beginner readers. Uses the terms "larvas," antennas" etc	J595.7 Sil	yes. Large pics and little text	No	Photos
What is an Insect?	Robert Snedden	grades 1-5?	A, B	This informative book contains much of the same info as an introductory entomology textbook, and includes subjects such as internal anatomy not usually covered in kids' books. At times it is not as clear as could be desired, but basically sound. The photos and diagrams are informative but not visually appealing.	J595.7 Sne	A bit long/dry	No	Photos + diagrams
Insect Almanac: A year-round activity guide	Monica Russo	grades 1-6?	A, B, D	Gives tips for observing insects, with tips on what to look for in each of the 4 seasons. Activities include trapping and rearing insects as well as observing them in nature. Might be useful for developing science projects.	J595.7 Rus	No	No	Some color photos; mostly black and white photos or line drawings
<i>Bugs and Bugsicles: Insects in the winter</i>	Amy S. Hansen	grades 2-5	B,C, and to some extent D	discusses how 9 different insects adapt to winter. Includes 2 teaching activities. Interesting topic not typically covered in other books.		yes		color illustrations

Hey there stinkbug	Leslie Evans	grades 2-6	B, C	a series of poems about interesting insect facts. The back of the book also explains the type of verse used for each poem (haiku, etc).	595.7 Bul	yes, although the pictures are small	poems	stylized drawings
Everything Bug: What kids really want to know about insects and spiders	Cherie Winner	grades 3-5	A, B	A series of 1-page essays answering interesting questions (how do fireflies make light, etc). Easy to read and entertaining	J 595.7 Win	maybe. A bit long	no	photos
What's that Bug	Nan Froman	grades 3-6	B	Covers 9 common orders, with examples that are either common (eg. Monarch butterfly) or famous (eg. blue Morpho)	J 595.7 Fro	Maybe, if the reader skims the text. The illustrations are great.	no	realistic color illustrations
Bugs up close	Diane Swanson	grades 3-6	A, B	Covers many basics of insect biology, and big, gorgeous photos of a diverse group of insects.	595.7 Swa	yes, although perhaps a bit long/dry. The huge pages & great photos are a big plus.	no	color photos
The Insecto-Files	Helaine Becker	grades 3-6	D, also A, B	This is a book of insect-related science activities. It also offers basic facts (what is an insect, etc) and many "gee whiz" examples.	J 595.7 Bec (Farmington)	No	No	Cartoon-like, graphics
Amazing Beetles: Eyewitness Juniors	John Still	grades 3-6	B	If we wish to compile a collection of books covering different insect groups, this offers decent coverage of beetles. Like all Eyewitness books, it features excellent photography, and the page layout is relatively clean/simple compared to other Eyewitness books.	J 595.7 Sti	Probably not; better for browsing	no	Photos and drawings
Simon and Schuster Children's Guide to Insects and Spiders	Jinny Johnson	grades 3-6	A, B	Similar to a field guide. The oversized pictures are a plus	not available	No	No	some photos, mostly color illustrations

Complete Guide to Insects and Spiders	Jinny Johnson	grades 3-6	A, B	The huge size of the pages (12"X14") and the excellent photos make this book very appealing. It is also a bargain at ~\$11 on Amazon.	J 595 Jon (Farmington)	Maybe. It is too long and detailed to be read cover to cover, but the large size of the picture would allow it to be skimmed for examples.	no	color scientific illustrations and photos
Insectigations: 40 Hands-on Activities to Explore the Insect World	Cindy Blobaum	grades 3-6	D	Classroom activities featuring insects.	J 595.7 Blo	No	No	Black-and white line drawings & photos
Insect: Eyewitness books	Laurence Mound	grades 3-6	A, B	Like all Eyewitness books, this has great photos. Lots of detailed information about insect biology and diversity. I am not of a fan of the busy page layout, which makes the book better for browsing than reading cover-to-cover. Comes with a CD of clip art.	595.7 Mou	No. Busy layout, small pictures, and lack of narrative do not lend itself to reading aloud.	No	color photos and diagrams