

Fiction

Aardema, Verna. **Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears: A West African Tale.** *Puffin, 2004.* ISBN 978-0140549058. An award winning classic tale which might be a jumping off point for how insects impact us humans. *K+*

Ayelsworth, Jim. **Old Black Fly.** *Henry Holt, 1995.* ISBN 978-0805039252. This is an outrageous alphabetic flight of housefly behavior. It could spark a good discussion of how germs spread...*K-1*

Carle, Eric. **Very Quiet Cricket.** *Penguin, 2008.* ISBN 978-0399243684. "A cricket is born who cannot talk! A bigger cricket welcomes him to the world, then a locust, a cicada, and many other insects, but each time the tiny cricket rubs his wings together in vain: no sound emerges... The colorful cut-paper illustrations are simply gorgeous" *Richard Farr. PreK-K*

Also by Carle: The Very Clumsy Click Beetle. Penguin 2008. ISBN 978-0399243684

Very Busy Spider. *Philomel.* ISBN 0-399-22919-1

The Very Lonely Firefly. *Philomel, 1995.* ISBN 978-0399227745

The Grouchy Ladybug. *Harper Trophy, 1996.* ISBN 978-0064434508

A Very Hungry Caterpillar. *Philomel, 1986.* ISBN 978-0399213014

These are all PreK-K readers with Carle's trademark collage art.

Cronin, Doreen(auth)Bliss, Harry(illus) **Diary of a Worm.** *Joana Cotler, 2003.* ISBN 978-0060001506. This is a humorous tale of a young worm told from his perspective. A blend of humor, loose fact, and great illustrations, it could be an engagement piece for slightly older elementary or a beginning reader for younger students. *Gr. 1+*

Also by this team: Diary of a Fly

Van Allsberg, Chris. **Two Bad Ants.** *Houghton Mifflin, 1988.* ISBN 978-0395486689. The story of two lazy ants has two science strong points: point of view from the small scale, and the idea of colony vs. individual. Both are good discussion points for children older than picture book age. *K-5 depending on how you use this book...*

Non-fiction

Anderson, Bridet. **Animals Without Backbones.** *Lickle Publishing 2003.* ISBN 978-1890674144. A general resource for elementary students, covering the major phyla of invertebrates. *Elem. readers*

Cole, Joanna. **The Magic School Bus Inside a Beehive.** *Scholastic, 1998.* ISBN 978-0590257213. “When Ms. Frizzle's students board the magic school bus for a class trip to watch a beekeeper, no one should be surprised when the bus turns into a beehive and the children morph into bees. Still recognizable despite their bee suits, wings, and antennae, Arnold and his classmates visit flowers to gather nectar and soon gain admittance to a nearby hive. There Ms. Frizzle leads them on an informative tour and explains bee communication, hive making, honey production, social structure, mating, development, and metamorphosis.” *Carolyn Phelan - Gr. 1-4*

Lunis, Natalie. **Squirting Squids (No Backbone! the World of Invertebrates).** *Bearport, 2007.* ISBN 978-1597165136. This is a new series for early readers. The other titles are:

Crawling Crabs
Goey Jellyfish
Helpful Ladybugs
Squishy Sponges
Smelly Stinkbugs
Hungry Cockroaches
Hidden Walkingsticks
Killer Bees
Prickly Sea Stars
Leaping Grasshoppers
Deadly Praying Mantises
Slimy Sea Slugs
Bloodthirsty Mosquitoes
Beautiful Butterflies
Speedy Dragonflies

All from Bearport Publishing and geared for the Gr. K-2 early reader.

Johnson, Jinny. **Children’s Guide to Insects and Spiders.** *Simon and Schuster, 1997.* ISBN 978-0689811630. This large-format book identifies families of insects in short paragraphs of text accompanied by large-scale, full-color paintings and photographs. Well-labeled diagrams identify the body types and parts common to many insects and spiders. *grades 3-5*

Pallotta, Jerry. **The Icky Bug Alphabet Book**. *Charlesbridge Publ.*, 1993. ISBN 978-0881064568. Learning the alphabet while learning invert facts...what a deal! *K-1*

See also: ***The Icky Bug Counting Book*** and

The Butterfly Alphabet Book

by Jerry Pallotta

Rockwell, Anne. **Bugs are Insects**. *Harper Trophy*, 2001. ISBN 978-0064452038. Its nice to have a more elementary reader for the topic. Overall, it is well regarded, but a small criticism is that phyla are not well described. *Early readers*

Solway, Andrew. **Spiders and Other Invertebrates**. *Heinemann*, 2006. ISBN 978-1403482303. A basic science resource with emphasis on how animals adapt to their surroundings. *Gr. 2-4*