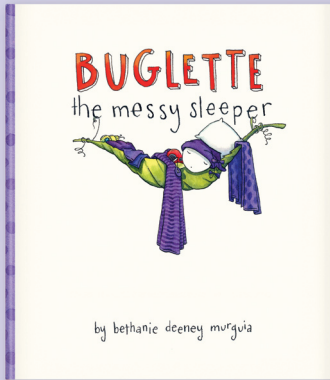


Discussion and Activity Guide



Buglette the Messy Sleeper is a picture book for the youngest readers. Whimsical watercolor illustrations of a ladybug family and an endearing story about being different, dreaming big, and learning to be brave will appeal to children—messy sleepers or not.

Praise for *Buglette the Messy Sleeper*

“A small creature becomes the big hero in this picture book about a bug who saves the day. Children...will savor the little bug’s final, victorious standoff.”—*Booklist*

“I LOVE this book and so does my granddaughter. The text and illustrations suit each other perfectly. A book that appeals to both kids and adults is a delight and a treasure.”—*Mary Azarian, Caldecott Medalist*

By Bethanie Deeney Murguia
Random House Children’s Books
randomhouse.com/kids

Create your own character

This exercise in character development gives children basic tools for creating their own stories. The Buglette character was created by the author of the book. While Buglette has some characteristics in common with a ladybug, the author used her imagination to draw Buglette and tell Buglette’s story.

Students can stretch their imaginations by creating their own bugs. Provide crayons, glue sticks and shapes for collage—circles, semi-circles, squares, long rectangles. Encourage children to think about different kinds of insects as they create their characters. Perhaps they will combine parts of a beetle and a butterfly? Will their characters have wings? Antennae? What colors will they use?

Once they have created their bugs, ask students simple questions about their characters. For example:

1. What is your bug’s favorite food?
2. What does your bug do for fun?
3. What is your bug afraid of?
4. What is your bug’s name?

...and so forth



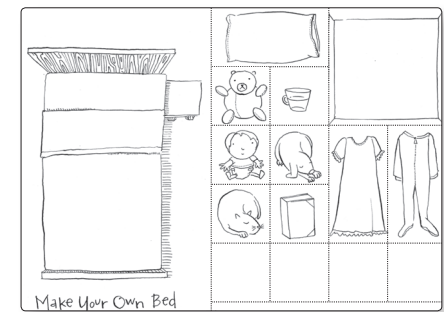
Downloads

The following art activities are available for download on Bethanie’s site: aquapup.com/activities.html



Color your dreams coloring page

Color Buglette as she sleeps on her leaf. Fill the dream bubble with a new dream for Buglette or one of your own.



Make your own bed coloring project

What do you keep in your bed? Special blankets? A doll? Your favorite pajamas? Color, cut and use glue to make a bed with all of your favorite things.

Discussion topics

1. What helps you to sleep at night? (Blankets, stuffed animals, night lights, a glass of water, etc.)
2. What makes it hard for you to sleep at night? (Noises, feet sticking out of the blanket, etc.)
3. Discuss the perfect bed or bedroom. What do you like to have with you when you sleep?
4. Buglette is a messy sleeper. Are you a messy sleeper? When are you messy? When are you neat?
5. What does it mean to be brave? Can you remember a time when you were brave?

Ladybugs and crows

This story is about a make-believe ladybug and a make-believe crow. However, there are plenty of fun facts to learn about real life ladybugs and crows. Here are a few:

Ladybug facts:

- Ladybugs are beetles.
- Ladybugs hibernate in the winter.
- Ladybugs eat aphids.
- A ladybug's spots fade as it gets older.
- A ladybug's wings beat 85 times a second when it is flying.
- There are over 400 different kinds of ladybugs in North America. The number of spots and their pattern can help to identify the type of ladybug.
- Most people think ladybugs have red bodies and black spots. This is true, but there are many other types as well: orange with black spots and black with red spots for example. Some even have stripes.
- In many countries, ladybugs are thought to bring good luck.

Crow facts:

- Crows are very adaptable. This is probably why crows can be found throughout the world (with the exception of South America and Antarctica).
- Crows are exceptionally smart. They sometimes make and use tools, for example, using a cup to carry water to dry food.
- Crows have their own language and they have learned how to imitate the sounds made by other animals.
- Crows are omnivorous. They eat whatever is available to them.
- A group of crows is called a murder.
- Crows are generally thought to be black, but there are many different variations, including: black with white, gray and/or brown.
- Crows can be recognized by their call: *caw, caw*.

