

## Suggested Readings

Brimner, Larry Dane (1999). *A True Book: Cockroaches*. New York: Children's Press.

Brimner's book offers a wealth of information about cockroaches. The bulk of the text talks about what cockroaches look like and gives information on the functions of individual body parts. Additionally, the text provides data on the history of cockroaches, the birthing process, and various types of cockroaches.

Carle, Eric (1990). *A Very Quiet Cricket*. New York: Philomel Books.

This book is story about a cricket learning how to use his wings. The young cricket goes through a journey of figuring out how to communicate with other crickets. He soon learns by watching other crickets and produces the most beautiful chirping sounds.

Deedy, Carmen Agra and Austin, Michael (2007). *Martina, the Beautiful Cockroach*. Atlanta: Peachtree Publishers.

This is a Cuban folktale about Martina, a cockroach, who is looking for love and finds it an unusual way with the help of her grandmother's wise advice.

Goldish, Melish and Brown, Victor Brian (2008). *Hungry Cockroaches*. New York: Bearport Publishing.

This book describes the eating habits of cockroaches. Photos and easily read text is provided for beginning readers and will keep students engaged as they learn about the behavior and characteristics of cockroaches.

Green, Emily K. (2007). *World of Insects: Cockroaches*. Minneapolis: Bellwether Media.

This book provides the reader with the most basic information about cockroaches.

However, it could be a useful tool for introducing students to cockroaches and not bombarding them with too much information all at once. The best part about this book is all the great pictures of cockroaches.

Green, Emily K. (2007). *World of Insects: Crickets*. Minneapolis: Bellwether Media.

This book is a great introduction to crickets, and answers a lot of questions that students may first have regarding the insect. The pictures are very useful for depicting what the text is talking about. The basic glossary at the back could be a useful tool for students.

Hartley, Karen and Marco, Chris and Taylor, Phillip (1999). *Cockroach*. Des Plaines, Illinois: Heinemann Library.

This book is an introduction to the physical characteristics, diet, life cycle, predators, habitat, and lifespan of cockroaches.

Himmelman, John (2001). *A Mealworm's Life*. Danbury: Children's Press (CT).

Himmelman's book utilizes beautiful images and basic text to convey the life cycle of a mealworm. This is a great book to use to begin the Mealworm Stimuli lesson plan.

Howe, James and Young, Ed (1987). *I Wish I Were a Butterfly*. San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich.

This is a story about a cricket who wants to be a butterfly because he doesn't think there is anything special about a cricket. A wise dragonfly helps the cricket realize that he is special in his own way. This is a good book to teach diversity and acceptance to young children.

McGinty, Alice B. (2002). *The Library of Spiders: The Tarantula*. New York: The Rosen Publishing Group's PowerKids Press.

This book is presented in a very user-friendly manner, and will be one that captures students' attention. The pictures are really captivating and the amount of text is neither too basic nor overwhelming. The fact that the book is broken into various thematic sections will help students to find the information they are in search of.

Montgomery, Sy (2004). *The Tarantula Scientist*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company.

Montgomery's book is deemed a Robert F. Sibert Honor Book for good reason. The text is unique in that it primarily relies on a narrative format to teach students about tarantulas. The text is fairly advanced and lengthy, so you may want to only highlight specific portions of the book for students.

Riley, Joelle (2008). *Hairy Tarantulas*. Minneapolis: Lerner Publications Company.

This book is a more basic introduction to tarantulas than Christy Steele's book. However, the text still provides the reader with great facts about tarantulas and uses a lot of pictures to engage the reader. This book would be a great way to introduce students to the topic of tarantulas.

Salas, Laura Purdie (2009). *From Mealworm to Beetle: Following the Life Cycle*. Minneapolis: Picture Window Books.

Salas' book uses captivating illustrations to educate the reader about the lifecycle of the mealworm and how it eventually becomes a beetle. The amount of text is well chosen and isn't overwhelming for younger readers. This would be a great introductory book for a unit on mealworms.

Schneider, Howie (2006). *Wilky, the White House Cockroach*. New York: Putnam Juvenile.

This is a story about a cockroach that lives in a pizza parlor in D.C., but wants to live a better life and sets out on a new adventure to find it. The cockroach ends up at the White House where he must struggle to survive as he is being chased by Bug Czar. This is a humorous book for young children.

Steele, Christy (2001). *Tarantulas*. Austin: Steadwell Books.

Steele's book provides a lot of useful information about what tarantulas look like, where they live, and their interaction with human beings. The text provides a lot of great pictures of different kinds of tarantulas, and the glossary at the end of the book is a useful tool for students.