

Bugtown Boogie

by
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Paintings by Steve Johnson & Lou Fancher

Summary

A young boy wandering through the woods one evening, sees something flashing at the bottom of a tree. He discovers that bugs of every shape and size have come to dance the night away.

Ideas for Family & Classroom use

Discussion questions - encourage children to find examples from the story to document their answers.

What does it mean to “boogie?” Have you done it before?

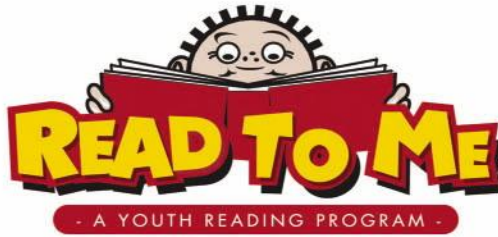
What are some of the bugs you recognize enjoying the Bugtown Boogie? What sounds do some of those bugs make?

Do you think any of the bugs noticed the boy watching the festivities?

What happens to make the music halt and each and every bug go silent?

How does the Queen Bee react?

How do the bugs know when it is time for the party to end?



Responding to the Story

Insect Research and Art

Encourage children to choose an insect that appears in Bugtown Boogie that they don't know very much about. Invite them to find a picture in a book or on the internet (with parental assistance, of course) of the insect to use as they learn how to sketch and put it in its natural habitat. When the sketch is done, invite children to use colorful paints, like those used in the Bugtown Boogie, to create a lively insect scene.

A great listing of kid-friendly websites for insect research can be found at the following link:

<http://www.kathimitchell.com/insects.html>

Bugtown Boogie Art variation

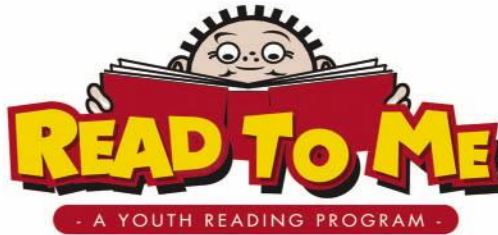
After children do the research above, encourage them to paint their chosen insect adding any appropriate attire to the insect for the Bugtown Boogie event. Invite them also, to add other insects of their choice to create their very own Bugtown Boogie dance scene. At the website below you will find a nice example of a lively and colorful insect scene:

<http://www.kinderart.com/drawing/bugslife.shtml>

Music

Plan your own "Classroom or Home Boogie"

Bring some musical hand instruments into your classroom (from your school's music room) such as little cymbals, maracas, shakers or triangles, or invite children to bring in simple instruments from home. Better yet, if you have time, assist children in making their very own simple instruments. Read the story of Bugtown Boogie, inviting children to play instruments at the times when the verse indicates a bug sound, such as "Buzz-a-ruzz-a-buzz-a ruzz," or "Grick grack." "Grick grack."



The following website has some great ideas and instructions for making simple musical instruments, such as bottle-cap tambourines, kazoos, Mardi Gras noise makers, and maracas:

<http://www.artistshelpingchildren.org/musicalinstrumentsartscraftsideashandmadekids.html>

To hear some real insect music, go to this site:

<http://www.musicofnature.com/songsofinsects/index.html>

Plan your very own Bugtown Party

After completing some of the bug (insect) research and using various art and musical ideas above, encourage children to plan and then participate in their very own “Bugtown Boogie Classroom or Home Party.” Divide your children into committees to plan

- the music that they’ll boogie to
- décor for the party, including use of the buggy art they created
- buggie food and drinks
- games and activities

Bugs are such a popular party theme, be sure to explore all of the bug party goods, decorations and games that are available at many stores and on-line. For just a few Bug Party ideas, you might check out the following links:

<http://www.kids-birthday-party-guide.com/bug-birthday-party.html>

<http://www.coolbugstuff.com/>

♥*Lesson created by Val Hornburg, Portland, OR, 2009*