

## Teaching Guide

### **The Bug That Plagued the Entire Third Grade**

By Lori Calabrese, illustrated by Chet Taylor

Dragonfly Publishing, Inc.

Color Hardcover ISBN#: 1-936381-04-4

Color Paperback ISBN #: 1-936381-05-2

#### **2009 DFP Awards: Best Children's Book**

#### **Reading Level**

Reading Level: Grades 2-3

Interest Level: Grades K-4

Guided Reading Level: N

#### **Themes**

Germ, Bugs, Extinction, Environment/ Nature

#### **National Standards**

LANGUAGE ARTS

Reading for Perspective;  
Participating in Society

SCIENCE

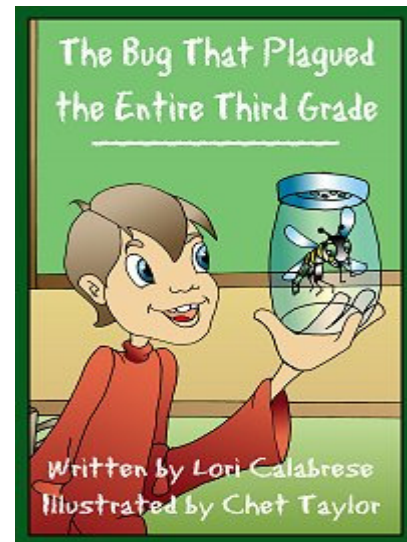
Personal and Social Perspectives

PHYSICAL EDUCATION  
AND HEALTH STANDARDS

Health promotion and disease prevention;  
Reducing health risks; Setting goals for good  
health

#### **Synopsis**

Hoping to win the upcoming Bug-A-Fair, Matt pries a strange bug off the grille of Dad's car. But as the fair nears, Matt catches a different kind of bug: a cold. Will Matt become student of the year or will he create a third grade epidemic?



## Background

There are many endangered or threatened animals in the world. Some are in danger of becoming extinct. If an animal becomes extinct you will never see them again. Endangered animals really are serious. They are animals or plants whose numbers are so few they are in danger of becoming extinct. The extinction of animals is not new. It's been happening for millions of years. New species evolve and others become extinct. Remember the dinosaurs or the dodo?

Four main reasons why animals become endangered are:

- Habitat loss
- Illegal hunting
- Pollution
- Introduction of a foreign species

There are more species alive right now on Earth than there have been at any other time. But because humans have destroyed and changed their habitat, more species are being threatened with extinction than ever before.

Most of the world's animal species are insects and we don't even know some of them exist. Scientists estimate that many insect species are becoming extinct, including the dragonfly in this book.

### Teaching Tip

Since *The Bug That Plagued the Entire Third Grade* is a story told in verse, you may wish to feature this book as part of your celebration of National Poetry Month in April.

## BEFORE READING:

### Prereading Focus Questions

Before introducing this book to students, you may wish to develop background and promote anticipation by posing questions such as the following:

1. Why do you think the phrase "I've caught a bug" has come to mean "I have a cold" in our modern language?
2. The Hines Emerald Dragonfly is nearly extinct. What does that mean?
3. What does a dragonfly look like? How does it differ from other insects?
4. Why do you think dragonflies might be worth studying?

5. What other animals can you think of that are endangered?

### Exploring the Book

Display the book and discuss the title with students. Ask them what they think the title means. What might the book be about?

Draw attention to the cover illustration. Ask them what type of insect is on the cover. Point out that the Hines Emerald Dragonfly is the only dragonfly listed on the endangered list.

### VOCABULARY:

Discuss the power of words and how language is used for different purposes. Ask students what a pun is. Explain that a pun is a word that has more than one meaning. There are many puns and creating your own can be lots of fun.

Why do we use them? How do we learn words we don't know?

Ask students to come up with more puns. Write their ideas on the chalkboard. Use these to get them started:

1. Our social studies teacher says that her globe means the **world** to her.
2. A dog not only has a fur coat, but also **pants**.
3. A boiled egg in the morning is hard to **beat**.
4. What did the toy store sign say? Don't feed the animals. They are already **stuffed**.
5. Why is a fish easy to weigh? Because it has its own **scales**!
6. Why did the turkey cross the road? To prove he wasn't **chicken**!

### AFTER READING:

#### Discussion Questions

After students have read the book, use these or similar questions to generate discussion, enhance comprehension, and develop appreciation for the content. Encourage students to refer to passages and illustrations in the book to support the responses.

1. What does the author mean when she says Matt caught a bug?
2. Why is it important to protect endangered animals?
3. Why is it important to have national parks for animals?
4. What can you do to help endangered animals?
5. List ten ways your teachers bug you. List 10 ways you bug your teachers.

6. Which part of the book is your favorite? Why?

### Reader's Response

The following questions or similar ones will help students personalize their responses to the book. Suggest that students respond in reader's journals, in oral discussion or in drawings.

1. What did you like about this story? Why?
2. What questions do you have about the characters that the story doesn't answer?
3. If you were to catch a bug for your school's 'Bug-A-Fair,' what would it be and why?
4. Have you ever caught a bug? If so, what was it and what did you do with it?

## PROJECTS ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

### Language Arts/ Writing

1. Point out to students that the lines in this book rhyme, then challenge students to identify the rhyming words. Follow up by having students write their own bug poem. They can use Lori Calabrese's poem for inspiration but choose a new situation at school or home. Share!

2. The word "dragon" comes from an ancient Greek word meaning "to see clearly." Why might this be an appropriate popular name for this insect?

3. Design a picture book for young readers about finding, saving, or observing a dragonfly. Indicate what sorts of illustrations the book would have. Write captions for the illustrations. The book should be scientifically accurate.

### Art

1. Create a collage with your poem, photographs of your bug.

2. Since most schools won't allow bugs in for visitation, create a poster about your favorite bug. Include such information as the bug's color, favorite food, height, weight, and favorite game. Introduce the posters to each other.

### Science

1. Create a three-dimensional bug out of whatever materials you find around the house. (construction paper, cardboard, Styrofoam, pipe cleaners) Ask that they label the body parts. They can create a new kind of insect or ask that they all make insects they are familiar with like a firefly, cicada, lady bug or praying mantis.

Then, list five facts about that bug on an index card. Turn in both!

2. Write a bug report. After reading about your bug, take notes on key information, such as where your animal lives (its range), how big your bug gets, what it looks like, what it eats, what eats it, how long it lives, etc...

### Social Studies

What varieties of dragonflies live in your neighborhood or state? Are any of them endangered?

### Reading

As you read the book aloud, ask students to raise their hand when they hear the names of different bugs.

### Math

1. Have students take a survey about their friends' and family's favorite bug, and then graph the results.

2. Long, Longer and Longest: Have a collection of several insects for your students to measure. The students can use a chart to keep track of their measurements.

3. In prehistoric times, dragonflies had wingspans of 80 centimeters and were the largest insects known. Today, dragonflies are smaller, with wingspans up to 14 centimeters. Expressed in inches, what were the wingspans of prehistoric dragonflies? How many times larger were the wingspans of prehistoric dragonflies than the wingspans of today's dragonflies?

### Musical/ Rhythmic

1. Lori Calabrese, the author, uses rhyme to enhance the rhythm of the story. Find the part that you like best, and memorize it. Then, try to write a couple of lines about your favorite bug using that same rhythm.

2. Find the rhyming pairs throughout *The Bug that Plagued the Entire Third Grade*. Then, try to list at least one more word that would rhyme with each pair. Can you make another sentence that would fit in with the storyline?

3. Sing this song to the tune of "Frere Jacques":

*Big bugs, small bugs, big bugs, small bugs,  
See them crawl on the wall?  
Creepy, creepy, crawling, never, never falling.  
Bug, bugs, bugs, bugs, bugs, bugs.*

### **About the author**

Lori Calabrese is an award-winning children's author. Her first picture book, *The Bug That Plagued the Entire Third Grade*, was named Dragonfly Publishing Inc.'s 2009 Best Children's Book. She writes for various children's magazines, is the National Children's Books Examiner at [Examiner.com](http://Examiner.com), and enjoys sharing her passion for children's books at festivals, schools and events. Visit her website to learn more, [www.loricalabrese.com](http://www.loricalabrese.com).

### **About the illustrator**

Chet Taylor is a Navy veteran and a graduate of Oklahoma City University with a degree in fine arts. As well as having had a career in newspaper, radio, and television sales, he has over twenty years experience in 2-D animation for television commercials. He has illustrated over a dozen children's books and continues to work in animation. Chet and his wife Jan have one son and three grandchildren.

### **BOOK INFORMATION:**

\$24.99 average retail price, HARDCOVER (8.5X11 Casebound)

ISBN: 1-936381-04-4

24 pages

\$11.99 average retail price, PAPERBACK (8X10 Perfect-Bound)

ISBN:: 1-936381-05-2

24 pages

\$5.99 Average Retail Price, PDF Ebook Download

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## RESOURCES ON THE WEB

Learn more about The Bug That Plagued the Entire Third Grade and find more activities at:

<http://www.loricalabrese.com>

## Order Information:

On the Web:

<http://www.dragonflypubs.com/dfp/thebug.html>

For wholesale discounts on Color Hardbacks, contact the [publisher](#). Color Paperbacks are available wholesale to vendors through both [Createspace Direct \(see listings\)](#) and [Ingram Book Group \(see listings\)](#).

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