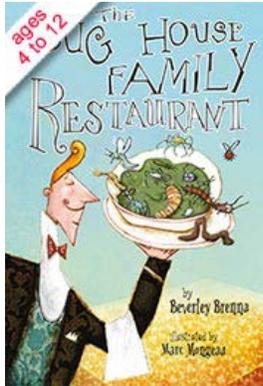


Teachers' Guide for Bev Brenna's poetry collection *The Bug House Family Restaurant*

Recommended for ages 4-12



Summary:

Ever thought about eating bugs?

Instead of thinking bugs are gross

Please don't be too suspicious.

With half a chance, and one good chef

They could be quite delicious.

This light hearted look at bug cuisine, in poetry form, offers fare from mosquito steaks to bug surprise.

Served up in an illustrated collection by Tradewind Books.

A **hilarious** book of poetry, reminiscent of *Alligator Pie*...Montreal artist Mongeau adds to the fun of the book with humorous black-and white illustrations”

— Helen Norrie, *Winnipeg Free Press*

There is no set formula for the poems, with each being different than the last. Brenna's language is appropriate for young readers and includes techniques like rhyming and alliteration. The author writes about insects and bugs that any young child would be familiar with-mosquitoes, spiders and lady bugs, but bug species that may be new to them, such as gnats, are also included. Words like “caterwaul” and “entomology” help to build vocabulary and engage with the poems on a deeper level. I think this book would be excellent to use in a classroom as the content is engaging and offers a variety of examples of what a poem can look like. **Highly Recommended**

— Gillian Green *CM Magazine*

Bibliography: Brenna, B. (2014). *The Bug House Family Restaurant*. Ill. by Marc Mongeau. Vancouver, BC: Tradewind Books.

Questions to Ask Before Reading:

- What bugs can you think of? Brainstorm a Master List of Bugs.
- What are your favorite bugs? Why?
- What are your favorite things to eat? Do we all like the same foods? Why/not? In Canada, people don't commonly eat bugs; in what other countries are some bugs considered food? Do you think we'll ever eat bugs in Canada? Why/not?
- What is a poem? If you were teaching someone to write a poem, what would you say?

Suggestions for Reading Poems Aloud from the Collection:

- Direct students in the choral reading of a poem by asking particular groups to practice and then contribute various lines, with variations in volume and pitch (introducing the term *dynamics*); "Bug House Commercial" is a good one to use for this purpose.
- Give 7 groups of students a different stanza from "Daily Specials" and have them practice and then present them chorally in sequence.
- After students become familiar with the poems, ask small groups to select their favourite to present chorally in class, using lots of interesting dynamics.
- Teach the chorus to "Provincial Ingredients" and some corresponding actions (cross crawls with the arms left, right left, then right, left, right, & repeat) and have the students chant it alongside the teacher's recitation of the stanzas.
- Read the poems to younger children and ask them to chime in by predicting the rhyming words; this is a good activity to support phonemic awareness. "Hervis and Eddy", "When Michael Eats Ladybug Soup", and "Just Dessert" are especially good for this type of activity.
- Read a title ("The Gift" would be a good choice) and ask students to predict what the poem will be about; conversely, read the poem aloud to the students and ask them to predict a good title.
- Separate the stanzas from "Uncle Partridge's Collection" and ask groups of students to put them in an order that makes sense, and then read them aloud as rehearsed oral reading.

Response Activities:***Writing:***

- Have students add to the master list of "bugs". Select particular bugs on which to write and illustrate original poems. Focus on a few styles of poetry to model, and then invite the children to explore each of them in first draft form and then choose one of these poems for revision and illustration in order to "publish" a class "bug book". Acrostic, diamante, rhyming couplet, tanka and shape poem are examples to try.
- Provide a pattern from one of the poems, such as "Kate Eats Bugs." Ask students to fill in original words (see next page for template).
- Ask students to select a poem that tells a story and write it as a story, adding whatever details they wish.
- Create recipes for the pies submitted to "The Bug House Pie Contest."

_____ Eats _____

by _____

_____ eats _____.

She/he told us so.

She/he said,

"There's something you should know..."

I like them _____

I like them _____

I like them _____

I like them _____.

I can't seem to get enough.

'Cause catching _____ is really tough!"

Art:

- Create a magazine/internet photo bug collage in a soup bowl.
- In partners, have the students interview each other about an experience they have had with bugs. Then... create pieces of art to represent their partner's experience.
- Make a mobile such as might decorate a real Bug House Family Restaurant.
- Divide the poems among the students and assign each the job of creating a new color illustration on a sheet of paper from a sticky pad. Attach into a class copy of the book.

Drama:

- Develop improvised scenes between partners A and B where:
 - A is a parent or caregiver receiving the chocolate covered ants, and B is the giver (based on "The Gift"). Then reverse roles.
 - A is an interviewer and B is Michael, whose favourite food is "Ladybug Soup".
 - A is an entomologist interviewing B, the "Millipede of the New Millenium."
 - A is one of the bugs from "The Bug House" menu, and has escaped to tell B, a journalist, of the adventures.

Health:

- Research the nutrients in particular bugs. Create add campaigns to market new "buggy" food.
- Identify which North American foods use color products made from bugs, and sample some.

Social Studies:

- Explore information about countries where people do eat bugs, and how these bugs are served.

Related Websites:

Bev Brenna's website:

www.beverleybrenna.com

Other poetry-related websites:

<http://canpoetry.library.utoronto.ca/lee/>

<http://janeyolen.com/poetry/>

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

<http://kariwinters.com/math>

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poets/detail/michael-rosen>

<http://lionandunicornpoetryaward.blogspot.ca/2012/02/2011-honor-book-city-kids.html>

Related Books:***Children's Poetry:***

- Barner, Bob (1999). *Bugs! Bugs! Bugs!* San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books (Distributed in Canada by Raincoast Books).
- Dahl, Roald (2005). *Vile Verses*. New York, NY: Penguin.
- Fleischman, Paul (2002). *Joyful Noise: Poems for Two Voices*. HarperCollins.
- Heidbreder, Robert (2003). *See Saw Saskatchewan: More Playful Poems from Coast to Coast*. Toronto, ON: Kids Can Press.
- Heidbreder, Robert (2014). *Black and Bittern Was Night*. Toronto, ON: Kids Can Press.
- Hamilton, Jen (2005). *Canadian Poems for Canadian Kids*. Vancouver, BC: Subway Books.
- Lesynski, Loris (1999). *Dirty Dog Boogie*. Willowdale, ON: Annick Press.
- Kanedo, Misuzu (2016). *Are You an Echo? The Lost Poetry of Misuzu Kaneko*. Seattle, WA: Chin Music Press (Distributed in Canada by Consortium).
- Little, Jean (2003). *I Gave My Mom a Castle*. Victoria, BC: Orca Books.
- Merriam, Eve. (2001). *Low Song*. New York: Margaret K. McElderry Books.
- Sherrard, Valerie (2008). *There's a Cow Under My Bed*. St. John's NL: Tuckamore Books.

Sample Non Fiction Books about Bugs:

- Arnold, Nick (2009). *Ugly Bugs* (Horrible Science). Toronto, ON: Scholastic Canada.
- Bergeron, Alain, Quintin, Michel, & Sampar (2013). *Do You Know Spiders?* Markham, ON: Fitzhenry & Whiteside.
- Kalman, Bobbie & Sjonger, R. (2006). *Everyday Insects*. St. Catharines, ON: Crabtree.
- Kneidel, Sally (2015). *Creepy Crawlies and the Scientific Method: More Than 100 Hands-On Science Experiments for Children* (2nd ed). Golden, CO: Fulcrum (Distributed in Canada by Codosat, Canada).
- Winters, Kari-Lyn (2012). *Buzz About Bees*. Markham, ON: Fitzhenry & Whiteside.