

Family Book Discussion - Bugs

Enjoy a family book club right from the comfort of your own home. Download the book and listen to it or read it together. We'll provide activities and additional reading to encourage your discussion. Happy reading!

Read:

Download [The Girl Who Drew Butterflies: How Maria Merian's Art Changed Science](#) by Joyce Sidman

Questions to help your discussion:

1. Maria had a hobby as a child that most people didn't think was suitable for a girl. What hobbies do you have?
2. Is there any hobby you enjoy so much that you can imagine making it into a career when you get older? What sort of jobs do you think that hobby relates to? What hobbies do you enjoy doing just for fun?
3. Throughout history there have been a lot of things that certain people were prevented from doing based on their gender, race, or social class. What are some things you do everyday that would have not been possible 50, 100, or 1,000 years ago?

Things to do:

- Make a bug observation jar and go for a hunt. Take a glass or plastic jar out of the recycling. Poke holes into the lid - your bug still needs to breathe while you observe it!
- Safely capture a bug in your box or jar and study it. Note its color, number of legs, body segments, and where you found it. Draw a picture of the bug. Release the bug safely back to its home. It lives there for a reason!
- Use an online identification source to research what you found.
- Research a native garden to create in your backyard or in a planter. What plants can you plant to encourage butterflies, bees, and other pollinators?
- Over the next few weeks, observe your outside surroundings for signs of butterflies. Check out the books below to help you with identification.

Other bug books to enjoy:

- [Butterflies](#) by Grace Hansen
- [You're Invited to a Moth Ball](#) by Loree Burns and Ellen Harasimowicz
- [Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt](#) by Kate Messner
- [A Butterfly is Patient](#) by Dianna Hutts Aston
- [Insects Close-Up series](#)