

CHILDREN/YOUTH BOOKS (PAFF Resource list)

Read-Aloud Fiction & Science Books for Kids

1 – 3 years

Carle, Eric. **The Very Lonely Firefly**, Philomel Books, BoardBook Edition 1999, 16 pp. A very lonely firefly goes out into the night searching for other fireflies and after many other discoveries, finally finds what it was seeking. A gender-neutral charmer, with colorful collages. Firefly LEDs light up at the end of the story. n.b.: replacement batteries cost several dollars. See also *The Very Lonely Firefly*, Penguin Younger Readers, Level 2, 2012, for kids age 6 – 8.

1 – 3 years

Gatt, Elizabeth. **In the Firefly Night (Who Comes Out?)**, Random House Children's Books, BrdBk Edition 1994, 18 pp. A great little reference board book showing nocturnal animals & their young in a friendly light.

1-5 years

Snider, Grant. **What Color is Night? (Night is not just black and white)**, Chronicle Books 2019, 40 pp. Illustrations and descriptions of a closer look at the colors of night. The colors of fireflies are only noted once, but the book inspires readers to observe the environment in darkness.

2 – 4 years

Barkan, Joanne. **Firefly's First Flight**, Reader's Digest, 2005, 12 pp. As evening falls, Little Firefly grows nervous, as the sky grows dark. Readers can help Little Firefly glow by pressing the special light module built into the book. The story offers a gentle, reassuring message about not being afraid of the dark.

2 – 6 years

Thong, Roseanne. **Ten Friendly Fireflies: A Light-Up Counting Book**, Piggy Toes Press, 2007, 20 pp. A board book with LED lights that light up for each new firefly added at the turn of every page.

3 – 6 years

Ochiltree, Dianne. **It's a Firefly Night Blue**, Apple Books, 2013, 32 pp. Part science, part counting book. Lilted rhymes chronicle a little girl's capture and release of fireflies, one by one, capped off by a collection of fascinating firefly facts.

3 - 6 years

Hawes, Judy. **Fireflies in the Night**, HarperCollins Publishers, 1991 (pprbk), 1963 (hrdcvr), 32 pp. A Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science 1 book. On the farm, a young girl learns some interesting facts about fireflies from her grandfather.

3 – 6 years

Drachman, Eric. **Leo the Lightning Bug** Kidwick Books, 2005, 32 pp. Some editions have Audio CD. Fiction. A young firefly gains self-confidence. The book received several awards and gets great reviews

3 – 8 years

Pfeffer, Wendy. **Firefly at Stonybrook Farm (A Smithsonian's Backyard Mini-book)**, Soundprint, 2004, 32 pp. A wonderfully illustrated and informative little book, written from the firefly's perspective.

3 - 8 years

Rylant, Cynthia. **Night in the Country**, Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 1991, Pprbck: 32 pp. A beautifully illustrated Caldicott Medal winner: night creatures in the countryside, including fireflies.

4 – 7 years

Sturges, Philemon. **Ten Flashing Fireflies**, NorthSouth reprint, 1997, 32 pp. Lyrical, expressive, varied, and excellent for reading out loud. An accompanying craft suggestion: make jar and firefly (paper cut-outs) – kids count up and down in pace with the story. At the end, you decide how many fireflies you want in your jar.

4 – 8 years

Dunn, Mary R. **Fireflies (Nocturnal Animals)**, Capstone Press, 2011, 24 pp. Non-fiction. Flying through the night, fireflies flicker their lights to find partners. These glowing fliers are adapted to life at night. Learn more about these blinky nocturnal animals in Fireflies.

4 – 8 years

Hall, Margaret. **Fireflies (Bugs, Bugs, Bugs!)**, Capstone Press, 2006, 24 pp. Text and photographs describe the physical characteristics of the insect known as the firefly.

4 – 10 years

Green, Emily. **Fireflies (Blastoff Readers: World of Insects)**, Bellweather Media, 2006, 24 pp. Non-fiction. Science for early readers, with large color photographs. Contents and index.

5 years and up

Third Grade Students of Willow Lane Elementary School. **Ibi's Fireflies**, (Kids Are Authors Award Winner) Scholastic Books, 2016, 31 pp. A non-fiction recount of the day Ibiyinka Alao, the United Nations Ambassador of Art visited the class of third graders. They retell his story about the fireflies he caught as a child growing up in Nigeria. Illustrated by the children, and photos documenting the authors and the day Ibi visited the class.

5 – 8 years

Brinkloe, Julie. **Fireflies! Story and Pictures**, Aladdin Books, 1986, 32 pp. A young boy is proud of having caught a jar full of fireflies, like moonlight of his very own, but as the light begins to dim he realizes he must set the insects free or they will die.

5 – 8 years

Rockwell, Anne. **Bugs are Insects** HarperCollins Publishers, 2001, 40 pp. A Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science 1 book. Learn how to tell what an insect is and isn't and discover the fascinating world of the tiny creatures who live in your own backyard. Kids even enjoy it as a non-fiction read-aloud book.

6 – 8 years

Carle, Eric. **The Very Lonely Firefly**, Penguin Younger Readers, Level 2, 2012, Hardcover 32 pp. The younger readers' edition features male and female fireflies, runs twice as long as the board book version, and does NOT have light-up fireflies at the end of the story.

6 – 8 years

Bryant, Megan E. **Fireflies**, Penguin Books, 2008, 48 pp. Penguin Young Readers, Level 3, Interesting facts for kids about fireflies, including how to make your yard firefly-friendly.

FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES

5 – 10 years (and up)

Morgan, Emily. **Next Time You See a Firefly... NTSA Kids (Nat'l Sci. Teachers Assn)**, 2013, 32 pp. Designed to be used by kids with adults. Good reference text covers life stages and firefly facts, and includes links to downloadable educational activities and websites for more information.

8 – 12 years (and up)

Ortler, Brett. **The Fireflies Book: Fun Facts About the Fireflies You Loved as a Kid**, Adventure Publications, 2014, 104 pp. A handy, thorough, well researched guide to fireflies, complete with fun facts, engaging text and simple projects and experiments.

8 – 12 years (and up)

McGavin, George C. **Smithsonian Handbook: Insects DK 2nd edition**, 2002, 256 pp. Like the Eyewitness Series books, the Smithsonian Handbooks have amazing photographs and a good mix of fascinating detail and illustrative photographs. One page with firefly mention.

Other Non-fiction & Reference Texts

4 – 8 years

Selsam, Millicent. **How to Be a Nature Detective**, Harper Coll, pprbck revised ed., 1995. 32 pp. How to read animal tracks and be observant.

6 – 10 years

Arnosky, Jim. **Crinkleroot's Guide to Walking in Wild Places**, Simon & Schuster Childrens' Publishing, 1990. 32 pp. Good preparation for kids to go hiking. Full of practical tips and helpful illustrations.

6 – 12 years

Burger, Melvin. **Buzz! A Book about Insects (Hello Readers! Science Level 3)**, Scholastic, 2000, 40 pp. Buzz! packs a wealth of facts into a few pages, touching on the characteristics of insects, the metamorphosis from caterpillar to butterfly, and the inner activity in the beehive, and more.

6 - 12 years

Butler, Daphne. **First Look in the Forest**, Gareth Stevens Publishers, 1991, 32 pp. A simple introduction to forests and the life they contain.

8 – 12 years

Burnie, David. **Bug Hunter (Eyewitness Explorer Series)**, DK Children, 2015, 72 pp. A useful text on other bugs (not fireflies), with suggestions for hands-on science activities.

8 – 12 years

Mound, Laurence. **Insect (DK Eyewitness Books)**, DK Children, 2007, 72 pp. Each double-page spread consists of concise, yet lively and readable text and numerous excellent quality, full-color, captioned photographs, drawings, and diagrams. Insects explores the anatomy, behavior, and ecology of those creatures.

9 years and up

Mania, Cathy and Robert. **A Forest's Life: From Meadow to Mature Woodlands**, Franklin Watts, 1998, 64 pp. A beginner's book on forest ecology. Introduces forests, including information about the broadleaf forest, the intermediate forest, and plants that are found in forests. Each chapter ends with simple activities for readers to do.