

LESSON 15



THE BUG

Stage 1. Pre-reading

Activity 1. Talking about the topic

The teacher tells the children :

In this lesson we are going to read a poem. The title of the poem is 'The Bug'. Do you know the meaning of the word 'bug'? Ask your friends and try to find out the meaning.

'Bug' means 'insect' or 'worm'. Bugs are tiny creatures which you see everyday, inside the house or in your garden. Mosquitoes, flies and spiders are 'bugs'; butterflies and bees are bugs too. There are hundreds of kinds of bugs. Some are harmful while others are harmless. Some are beautiful while others are ugly. They are everywhere.

Because bugs are everywhere, we never think about them. But bugs are living creatures, like us. They are as much a part of nature as we are. A true nature-lover should love all forms of nature, from the largest to the smallest.

Perhaps a bug may have feelings, just as we do. What kinds of feelings could a bug have? How does a bug look at life?

This poem may give us some answers to these questions.

Close your book and listen to the poem now.

Activity 2.

Listening to the poem

The teacher reads out the poem twice, while the children listen. \

THE BUG

When the rain had gone away
And the sun was shining everywhere,
I ran out to the park to play
And found a little bug there.



And he was running, just as fast
As any little bug could run,
Until he stopped for breath at last,
All black and shiny in the sun.

And then he chirped a song to me
And gave his wings a tug,
And that's the way he showed that he
Was very glad to be a bug!

Activity 3. Getting the main idea

The teacher asks these questions and discusses the answers.

- i. What is this poem about ?
- ii. Who is the speaker (the 'I' in the poem) ?
- iii. What are the feelings that this person is trying to express ?

Activity 4. Reading the poem in chorus

The children read aloud the poem together, in chorus, following the model provided by the teacher.

After this reading the teacher may again ask some questions to test the children's understanding of the poem.

Stage 2. Reading

The children now read the poem silently, after the key words have been introduced.

Activity 5. Knowing the key words

chirped made short high (cheerful) sounds

tug a quick pull

Stage 3. After reading

Activity 6. Comprehension

1. When and where did the speaker (the 'I' in the poem) meet the bug ?
2. What was the bug doing at the time ?
3. How did the bug look ? (Was it beautiful or ugly ?)

4. What kind of 'atmosphere' does the poem create? Does it make you feel sad or happy? Why?
5. Which lines in the poem tell you that the speaker thinks of the bug as almost a human being, with feelings that are like our own?
6. What is the 'message' that you get from this poem?

Activity 7. Speaking and Writing

Imagine that you see a beautiful butterfly with brightly coloured wings in a park one morning. It is sitting on top of a flower and enjoying the sunshine.

The butterfly turns around to look at you and then begins to speak to you.

What would the butterfly say to you?

What would you say to the butterfly?

Write out a short dialogue and then act it out together with a friend.

