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The mission of the Success for All Foundation is to develop and disseminate research-proven educational programs to ensure that all students, from all backgrounds, achieve at the highest academic levels. These programs were originally developed at Johns Hopkins University.

Front cover photo: praying mantis

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Creature Features: Insects

Written by Sally Francis Anderson
Illustrations by Lyliam Walker
Millions of insects live on Earth.
Insects are different from all other animals. Insects have six legs. Let’s count the legs on this fly.
Insect bodies have three main parts: head, thorax, and abdomen. You can see these parts on this ant.
Many insects have wings to help them move from place to place. The wings of a butterfly may have many beautiful colors.
Insects have antennae to help them feel, hear, taste, or smell. This cricket’s long antennae help it touch, smell, and taste.
Some insects look like their parents from the beginning and some change as they grow. This caterpillar will become a butterfly.
Some insects live alone and some live in communities. This bee lives in a hive with other bees.
Insects communicate in many different ways. This firefly signals with its light.
lady beetle or ladybug

No matter what their special features,
insects sure are wonderful creatures!
• Before reading the book, ask your child if she remembers the title of the book. Have her point to the title as you and she read “Creature Features: Insects.” Ask her what she remembers about the book.

• Ask your child to show you the photographs and illustrations in the book. Talk about the different insects on each page. Ask your child to tell you how the insects are similar to and different from one another.

• As you and your child read the book, ask her to point to where you should start reading on each page. Also, look for pages that have more than one sentence on the page. Ask your child how she knows where the sentence begins and where it ends. Remind her that sentences begin with uppercase letters and end with periods, question marks, or exclamation points.

• After reading the book, ask your child to go on an insect hunt. Encourage other family members to join her in her search around your family’s yard or neighborhood. See how many of the insects pictured in the book she and her family can find, or maybe they will discover one of the millions of other insects that are such wonderful creatures!

• Visit the library and look for other books about insects.
This is the student version of Creature Features: Insects, one of a series of SFA Big Books developed by the Success for All Foundation to help young children explore theme-related ideas. These engaging books build children’s enjoyment of books, their vocabulary, and their understanding of how printed words and pictures communicate meaning.

The Success for All Foundation programs for young learners provide children with experiences that foster the abilities and attitudes necessary for their success in the primary grades. These programs support the development of children’s language, literacy, math, science, interpersonal, and self-help skills.