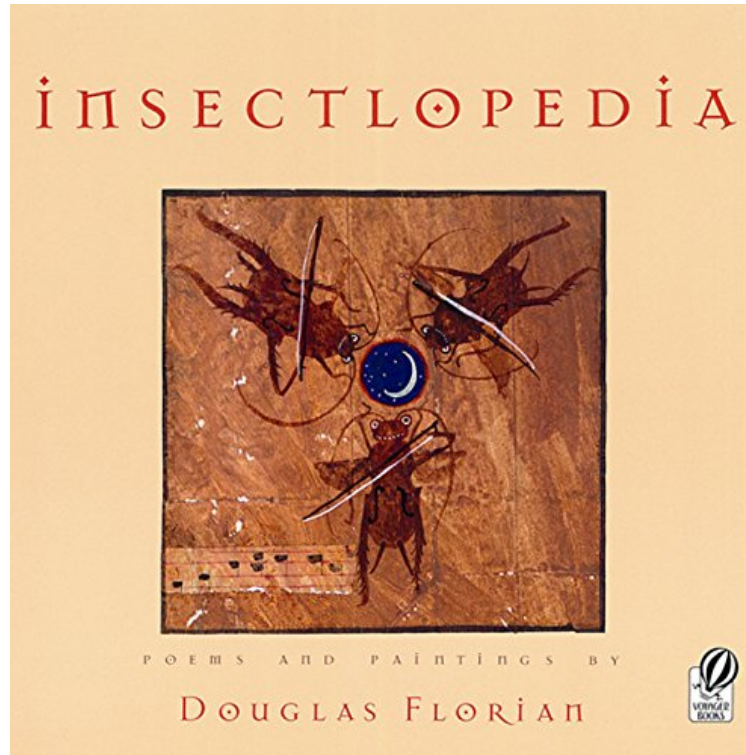


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Mosquitoes are thin./Mosquitoes are rude./They feast on your skin/For take-out food. Children will delight in the playful language and hilarious illustrations while they learn about twenty-one insects that will bug or beguile them. From swooping dragonflies and twirling whirligig beetles to marching army ants and feasting mosquitoes, here is one pest infestation you'll welcome into your home!

.com A perfect springtime accompaniment to actual bugs, *Insectlopedia* swarms, buzzes, and slithers with poetry and paint. Douglas Florian, creator of the award-winning *Beast Feast*, *On the Wing*, and *In the Swim*, has succeeded again, this time with a delightful infestation of 21 spider and insect poems and paintings, awash in watercolor and collage on primed brown paper bags. Well-loved for his clever wordplay (complete with endearingly shameless visual and verbal puns), Florian manages to seamlessly blend science with pure whimsy. Take "The Praying Mantis," for example: "Upon a twig/I sit and pray/For something big/To wend my way;/A caterpillar,/Moth,/or bee--/I swallow them/Religiously." His rhythmic chant "The Weevils" begins, "We are weevils./We are evil./We've aggrieved/Since time primeval." Add a few inchworms, moths, and whirligig beetles, and you have the blisteringly funny, stingingly clever *Insectlopedia*, the perfect book for emerging entomologists and budding poets alike. (All ages)From Publishers Weekly "The silly, imaginative verses about whirligig beetles and waterbugs (almost) match the exquisite pictures in playfulness and wit. The result is downright stunning," said PW. Ages 5-8. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.From School Library Journal Grade 2-6?As he did in *Beast Feast* (1994), *On The Wing* (1996), and *In the Swim* (1997, all Harcourt), Florian offers 21 short, inventive poems and paintings that create playful images of animals. Here, the subjects are arthropods such as the mayfly, praying mantis, hornet, black widow spider, and weevils. The verse form is as varied as the creatures presented. Shaped or pattern poems about the inchworm, whirligig beetles, and mound-building termites work particularly well. The words are arranged in pleasing patterns and the rhythms fit the characteristics of the subjects. The design adds to the overall appeal. Each selection is given its own page, allowing for the use of large type and plenty of glossy white space, and paired with a full-page watercolor with a neat border of white. These portraits build on the imaginatively integrated realistic and anthropomorphic images created in the text. There are other books of poetry about insects and lots of collections of humorous verses about animals but none match *Insectlopedia*.?Carolyn Angus, The Claremont Graduate School, CA Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.