

Purdue University
Department of Entomology
Undergraduate Capstone
Project Summary

Name of Student:

Amber Vinchesi

Name of Mentor:

Dr. Tom Turpin

Project Title:

Entomology-related children's literature and its use in the classroom

Project Summary:

The research of children's literature from the Catch the Reading Bug program proved that there are many picture books and first grade reading level books related to insects. Common themes found were metamorphosis, children who loved insects as main characters and everyday insects. Picking metamorphosis out of these common themes, a presentation was created for a fifth grade classroom accompanied by a pre-test and post-test containing the same questions. The pre-test was administered a few hours before the presentation to judge how much information the students knew about metamorphosis and molting before they received a lesson on the material. Live hornworms and cockroaches were used as examples of complete and gradual metamorphosis. A poster of the cycles of metamorphosis was used and the molting process explained. After the lesson, the children were able to ask questions about insects and then the post-test was administered. For individual questions, fewer students improved on the post-test but with overall numbers, more students increased their scores on the post-test from the pre-test. The presentation was an effective learning method, though in the future, using a book as well as a presentation would help to reinforce the material.