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# The Fly: The Disgusting Critters Series



## **Synopsis**

The first in a series of humorous books about disgusting creatures, The Fly is a look at the common housefly. It covers such topics as the hair on the fly's body (requires a lot of shaving), its ability to walk on the ceiling (it's pretty cool, but it's hard to play soccer up there), and its really disgusting food tastes (garbage juice soup followed by dirty diaper with rotten tomato sauce, for example). Although silly and off-the-wall, The Fly contains factual information that will tie in with curriculum.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 670 (What's this?)

Series: Disgusting Critters

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Tundra Books; Reprint edition (July 5, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1101918403

ISBN-13: 978-1101918401

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.2 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.9 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars See all reviews (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #478,113 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #217 in Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Biology > Entomology #329 in Books > Children's Books > Humor > General #714 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Bugs & Spiders

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

## **Customer Reviews**

I received a copy of this book from the publisher as a giveaway on Librarything.com. For the entertainment value alone, this book is 5 stars. The drawings are top-notch, the presentation is well-executed, and my 4-year-old has asked for it nearly every night since it arrived. As a well-known pedant, however, I had to knock it down a star for two factual errors in a scant 32 pages. One is where Gravel illustrates a housefly family - she shows the dad larger than the mom - then just a few pages later, states that female houseflies are larger than males. The second issue is that she writes, "The fly can be eaten by other insects, such as spiders . . ." Now, I don't know if this is a translation issue (did she mean bugs?), but every kid knows that spiders are not insects. Good kids' nonfiction shouldn't confuse them.

Fun, engaging information! Even though the retro art and speech bubbles have a fiction feel, this book is full of interesting fly facts, too. I learned several new facts about flies, like that they have little bubbles of liquid on their feet that help them walk on walls and ceilings. Eeeuwww. Occasionally, the humor felt a little too forced to me, but usually it worked really well. After describing how a housefly spits digestive fluid on his food to soften it, we see a dinner scene: Jonathan! Did you spit on your food? Yeeeeessss, Mom. There's a good boy. Ha! My only major gripe is that the ending feels very abrupt, like something was cut off. I looked a few times to make sure pages hadn't stuck together or something. But I really like this creative approach to animal info. Not nonfiction, but still informational. And a gross, good read!

My bug-loving 3 year old daughter adores this series! Some of the information is over her head, but that just means that she has more to get out of it over the years.

My son loves these books! They are actually educational on top of being really fun to read. Kind of hilarious.

This is my favorite by Elise Gravel, the style is perfect!

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