



Ladybug Girl and the Bug Squad: Activity Guide



Read for the Record 2012: Ladybug Girl and the Bug Squad

On October 4, 2012, millions of readers joined the seventh annual celebration to share Ladybug Girl and the Bug Squad, a story about the delicate balance between leadership and compromise. Lulu (Ladybug Girl) discovers that true friendship means being flexible, offering sincere apologies, and understanding that everyone brings different ideas to playtime.



Welcome & Warm Up

Welcome & Warm Up (10 Minutes): Get ready for fun! Provide props in the play area that tie to the story—toy ladybugs, plastic magnifying glasses, fake flowers, ladybug wings, a red tutu, a toy antenna headband, or Bug Squad nametags.

Reading Tips from Jumpstart: Bring the story to life!

You want to move at a good pace and avoid pausing on every page, but here are some suggestions for things you can say and do during reading to make it more engaging. You can use these during one-on-one reading, too!

Pictures Tell Stories:

Use the illustrations to talk about what you see, why characters act the way they do, and how they feel.

What's that Word?

When you come across new words, explain what they mean using simple language that kids can understand. (See "New Words" section).

Make it a conversation!

Listen carefully and let children do the talking.





Story Time



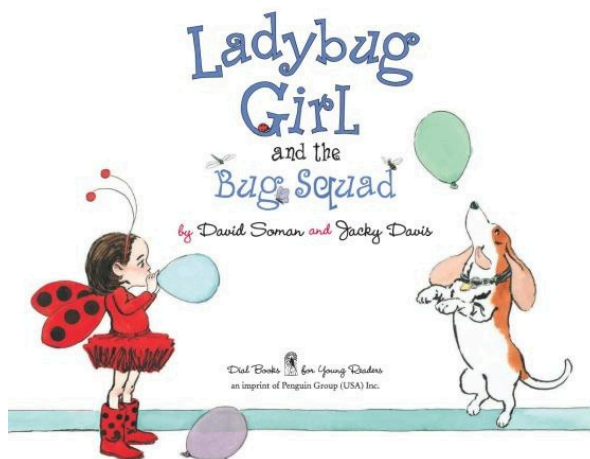
Story Time (10 Minutes): Who doesn't love story time? Gather the children around in a circle to read this week's book. Find a spot where all the children can sit together comfortably.

Prep & Set up:

- **Practice First.** Read the book a few times before reading it to your playgroup. Practice using different voices and intonation to engage children in the story. Review New Words so you can effectively highlight them while you read.
- Can you see me? Invite children to sit in a horseshoe facing you so that they can each see you. Ask parents to sit behind their child. Hold the book so children can see the illustrations as you read.
- Enjoyment is the aim! It is likely the first time children will hear this story. Read at a comfortable pace, read with expression, and pause to comment on illustrations or introduce a new word. Don't worry about getting through the book efficiently; the goal is enjoyment.

Guiding Questions:

- Ladybug Girl is excited and can't wait for the first official Bug Squad playdate. What do you think Ladybug Girl and her friends will do together?
- On the way to the Bug Squad Base, Ladybug Girl, Bumblebee Boy, Dragonfly Girl and Butterfly Girl pass by Lulu's big brother. I wonder why her brother doesn't like bugs?
- The Bug Squad tries to think of a password to get into the secret hideout and they agree on Bingo. What would you choose for the password?
- Everyone on The Bug Squad team has a special power. Butterfly Girl has smart powers, Bumblebee Boy is as fast as lightning and Dragon Fly Girl can breathe fire. If you could have special powers, what would they be?
- When Lulu and the Bug Squad are given their chocolate cupcakes, Lulu tells everyone that when she counts to three they all have to blow out their candles (Invite children to count to three with you and blow out an imaginary candle). When Lulu counts to three she blows out her candle and then Kiki's candle too. How do you think this makes Kiki feel? How would you feel?
- Lulu did not mean to hurt her friend Kiki's feelings and wants her to know she is sorry. After Lulu apologizes to Kiki they blow out the candle together. I wonder how Kiki feels now?





✓ Activity #1: Drawing and Labeling Your Special Power

Overview: Lulu and the Bug Squad imagine they have special powers. Children can imagine their own powers, draw pictures showing these powers and write words for their special powers on their drawings.

Preparation: Low



Materials

- A copy of Ladybug Girl and the Bug Squad
- Markers and/or crayons
- Paper



Learning Focus: Children develop alphabet knowledge and an understanding of meaning and use of print as they draw and label pictures of their own superpowers.

Activity

1. Show children the pages where the bug squad shows off their powers. Remind children that the bug squad imagined that they had powers like breathing fire, flying as fast as lightening, having smart powers and being super-strong.
2. Help children to find a piece of paper and a writing/drawing utensil. Prompt them to use their imagination to think about what their own powers might be. Engage them in conversation about what their special powers might look like. Then encourage children to draw pictures of themselves with their powers. Offer to help children write some words to help people know what their powers are (if children seem interested in writing). Make sure that children write their names on their drawing before they finish. Help children write their names if needed.



Tips for Conversation

- Ask children about their drawing. Ask questions to prompt children to add details to their drawing if they are ready. For example, "Tell me about this part here that you drew with the brown pencil." In your conversations, incorporate vocabulary words mentioned in the story, such as imagination and secret.





Activity #2: Decorating Bug Squad Antennas



Overview: Lulu and the Bug Squad pretend they are insect characters. With adult support, children can decorate ladybug antenna headbands and be a part of the Bug Squad too!

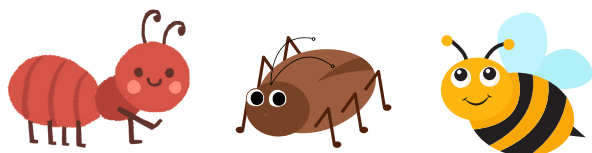
Preparation: Low

Materials

- A copy of Ladybug Girl and the Bug Squad
- Markers and/or crayons
- Stickers
- Pipe cleaners
- Glue
- Paper
- Tape (for adults to use)



Learning Focus: Children develop vocabulary and comprehension skills as they have conversations with adults and retell the story or create a new story of adventures.



Activity

1. Show children images of Ladybug Girl. Point out that Ladybug Girl is wearing red with black dots and is also wearing antennas so that she looks like a ladybug.
2. Help children to find a piece of red construction paper. Encourage children to decorate the red paper using the various materials that are on the table. Assist children with gluing materials, if necessary. Once children have decorated the red paper, have children write their names on the opposite side. Allow children to select two pipe cleaners for their antennas. Tape both pipe cleaners on the inside of the construction paper so that they sit at the front side of the head. Tape the construction paper ends together to form a headband that will sit on top of the child's head.

Tips for Conversation

- While children decorate their headbands, engage them in conversation about the materials they choose. Ask children what adventures they would like to go on as part of the Bug Squad. Use words like insect, antenna, ladybug, and imagination.





Color Your Own Ladybug

