

One Little Dung Beetle

AUTHOR

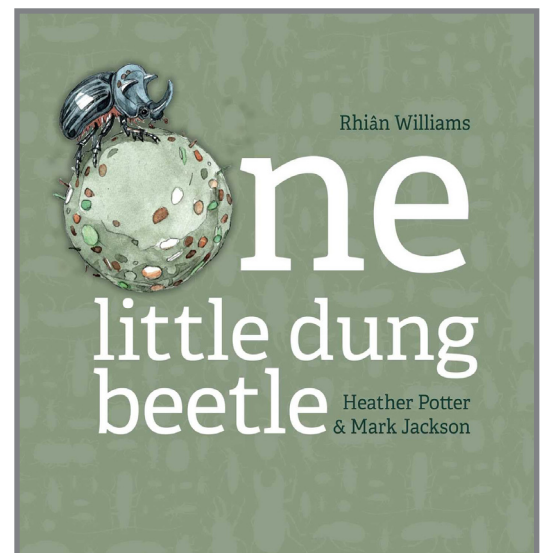
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SYNOPSIS

Follow along as One Little Dung Beetle counts all kinds of fascinating creepies and crawlies.

How many can you see?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Rhiân Williams lives in country New South Wales. Her book *Emergency! Emergency! Vehicles to the Rescue* was a 2023 CBCA Notable Book.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATORS

Heather Potter and Mark Jackson are illustrators and frequent collaborators whose works are the recipients of many awards, including CBCA Book of the Year Award, the Wilderness Society Environment Award for Children's Literature, the Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year Awards and Indie Book of the Year Awards.

STUDY NOTES

BEFORE READING

- As a class, brainstorm beetles. Use the words to create a Word Cloud. <<https://www.wordclouds.com/>> After reading *One Little Dung Beetle*, revisit the word cloud to see if the class would like to add words. Perhaps create a new word cloud with words and beetles from the book.
- Examine the cover. What clues does it give about the genre? What might the book be about?
 - Discuss the clues about the book. Ask students to share their reasoning.
- Help students identify the title of the book, author, illustrator and publisher.
 - Discuss each person's role in creating a book.
 - Which of these roles would students prefer if they were to help create a book?
- Discuss the book's title: *One Little Dung Beetle*.
 - What clues does it offer readers?
 - What questions does the title prompt?
- What do you know about dung beetles?
- Why do you think this type of beetle is called a dung beetle?
- Read the blurb: 'Beetles are clever, diligent environmental engineers, working away under our very noses. What's not to love about beetles?.' Answer the following questions:

- What clues does it provide about the book?
- Discuss with students what they already know about beetles.
- On a large sheet of paper create a table, with the headings: 'What we know about beetles' and 'What we want to know about beetles'. Revisit the poster after reading.
 - Do students want to add anything to either column?
 - Were all the questions answered?
 - Allocate unanswered questions to pairs to research.
- Take some guesses about how a beetle may be an 'environmental engineer'.
- Revisit these guesses after reading the book to see whether anyone was right.
- Research Project: Can you find any other insects that are 'environmental engineers'?

AFTER READING

- After reading *One Little Dung Beetle*, have students turn and talk to the person beside them to discuss what they found interesting about the book. In pairs, discuss the following questions:
 - Did they learn anything new about beetles?
 - Which beetle was their favourite?
 - Did they have a favourite illustration?
 - What was the most interesting fact on the fact pages?
- Draw a large outline of one of the beetles on the board or project an image taken from: <<https://australian.museum/learn/species-identification/ask-an-expert/common-identifications-beetles/>>
 - Ask students to label various body parts (the legs, eyes, elytra).
- Break the class into groups. Allocate each group one of the following beetle species featured in *One Little Dung Beetle*:
 - Iron Clad Beetle
 - Jewel Beetle
 - Leaf Beetle
 - Toe Winged Beetle
 - Whirlygig Beetle
 - Orchid Beetle
 - Tropical Log Beetle

Have each group research their beetle and present a report. Groups could make a poster, 3D diorama or written report.

- Which continents are beetles not found on?
- What is a Christmas beetle's favourite food?
- What are the hard pair of forewings on a beetle called?
- What is metamorphosis?
- Ask each student to pick one of the following beetles and write a rhyme about them:
 - Bombardier beetle
 - Ladybird
 - Flat bark beetle
 - Tortoise beetle
 - Tumbling flower beetle
 - Longhorn beetle
- Read the two endorsements on the back cover:

'You can count on falling in love with Aussie beetles after reading this gorgeous book.'

Bry the Fly Guy, Dr Bryan Lessard, *Eyes on Flies*

and

'A beautiful introduction for a budding entomologist to the amazing and diverse world of beetles!'

Simon Hinkley, Entomologist

- Ask students what they think an entomologist does.
- Watch the following videos about entomology as a class:
I Want To Be An Entomologist—Kids Dream Jobs—Can You Imagine That? <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cxILHv9Pbwg>>
Day in the Life of an Entomologist <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NzmB2sljcg>>
Ask students if any of them might want to be an entomologist.
- Organise an entomologist to visit the class and speak about entomology.
- Match the below beetles with their names
 - Rhinoceros Beetle
 - Christmas Beetle
 - Rainbow Stag Beetle
 - Fiddler Beetle
 - Feather Horned
 - Beetle Peg Beetle
 - Click Beetle
 - Diving Beetle
 - Screech Beetle
 - Dung Beetle

