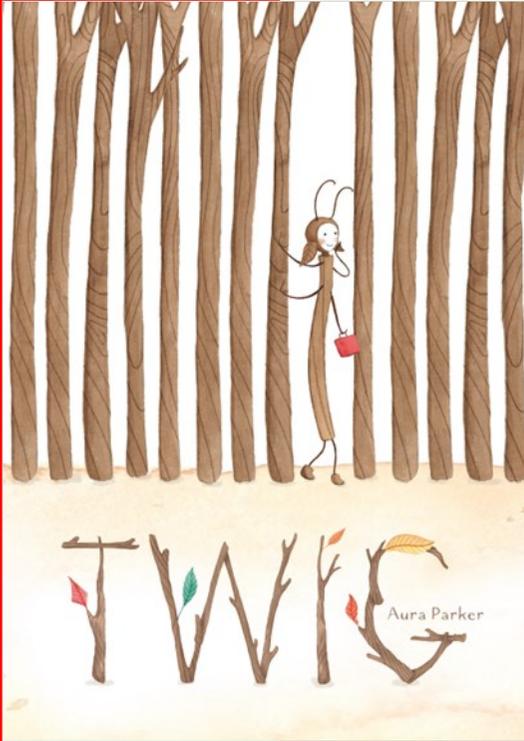


TWIG

AURA PARKER



One, two three. One, two, three.

Why won't someone play with me?

Heidi is a stick insect, tall and long like the twig of a tree. It's her first day at a busy bug school, where she hopes to learn and make new friends.

But no-one will talk to her . . . and no-one will play with her at lunch . . . No-one even notices her. Perhaps she's blending into the twigs a little too well! Luckily, Miss Orb comes up with a plan to help Heidi stand out.

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About the author: Aura Parker is an illustrator, writer and designer who creates prints, textiles and picture books. Her work is joyful, imaginative and brimming with details to explore. She works from a studio in Sydney and this is the first picture book she has both written and illustrated.

Study notes written by
Radhiah Chowdhury

 SCHOLASTIC

STUDY NOTES

- It is Heidi's first day at a new school. Think back to your own first day at school? How did you feel? How do you think Heidi feels? What sorts of things could the rest of the class or the teacher do to make Heidi feel more comfortable?
- Heidi is a stick insect and blends into the trees. Find some images of real stick and leaf insects. Can you spot them in the pictures? The ability to blend into your surroundings is known as *camouflage*. In what situations would this be a very helpful ability? Why does Heidi's ability to camouflage work against her at Bug School?
- Look at the ants on the imprint and title pages as they carry the contents of Heidi's new home. Worker ants are actually able to carry up to 5000 times their own body weight! What other interesting facts can you find out about them?
- The illustrations of **Twig** feature a lot of fine detail and many characters. Choose one or two character from pp 16-17 who is not a main character in the book. Write a short story about this character and illustrate it in the style of Aura Parker's illustrations. Create a class library of your new bug stories!
- Examine the pages of **Twig** and see how many insects you can identify. List them on the board. Next, divide the class into pairs or small groups. Have each group select one insect from the board and research that insect further.

- Look at the illustration on pp 18-19. How is Heidi feeling on this spread? How can you tell from the illustration alone? How does this spread compare to the other pages in the book? Why do you think this is?
- Mrs Orb loves to weave! Weave your own patchwork square and the combine them all to create a class patchwork display! You will need yarn, scissors, large plastic needles, a cardboard square (12.5cm²) and a ruler.
 - ◇ Draw a line 1.5cm in on every side of the loom. This margin will be your guide and will make holding your loom a little easier.
 - ◇ Draw the lines for the notches. Start at the 1.5cm margin and make marks every 1cm all the way across the top and the bottom of the loom. Cut the marks, stopping at the 1.5cm margin.
 - ◇ With the marked side of the loom facing up, thread a bit of yarn into the first notch on the upper left side. There should be a tail of a few inches on the back side of the loom. Tape this to the back of the loom. Carry the thread down to the bottom left notch on the loom and pull it into that notch. Bring the thread back over to the front by bringing it up through the notch directly to the right of the bottom notch you have just threaded. Continue doing this all the way across the loom. The front side of the loom will have yarn going from notch to notch, while the back side of the loom will just be small segments of yarn looped around the



notches. Leave a tail of the end of the yarn and also tape that to the back of the loom.

- ◇ Cut a length of yarn (shorter is easier to work with at first, no more than 50cm) and thread the yarn through the needle. Use the needle to guide the yarn through the loom in an under-over pattern (under the first string, over the second, under the next, etc). Once the needle has passed through all of the strings, pull the yarn through and leave a tail of a few inches at the end. Push the yarn up on the loom so that it's about 1cm away from the notches.
- ◇ Bring the needle and yarn back through the loom from the side you just exited using an over-under pattern that's the opposite of your first line and pull the yarn through. Push the second line of yarn up to meet the first.
- ◇ Continue each row, alternating the over-under pattern, making sure not to pull the yarn too tight. You can alternate different coloured yarns to create a striped pattern.
- ◇ Remove the tape from the long strings on the back of the loom. Release the top loops first, and then the bottom. Hold the weaving near the top, and pull up on the top loops. Pull the string through the weaving so that the bottom loops are brought up to be flush with the bottom of the weaving. Once the weaving is scooted down to the very bottom of the strings, you can cut the top loops in the middle and tie those off.

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