

Teacher Notes and Activities

A Bug Called Doug

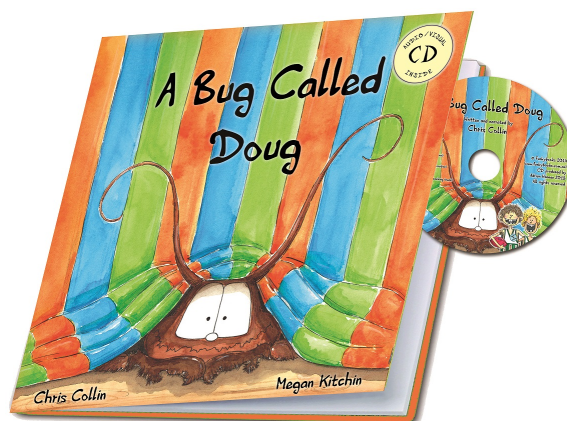
By Chris Collin & Illustrated by Megan Kitchin

Publisher: Funkybooks

ISBN 9780987450753

It's Drew's eighth birthday and his best mate Mikey is sleeping over. The boys are having the best day ever! There are new toys to play with, yummy birthday food to eat, birthday games to share, a hideous monster under the bed.....

Did someone say **monster**?!



Themes:

- Native animals
- Bugs
- Presumptions

Discussion Points:

- Was the reaction of Drew and Mikey to finding a bug under the bed a normal one?
- If you saw a bug under your bed, what would you do? How would you react if it spoke to you?
- What did the boys think of Doug when they first saw him? Do you think that the boys reaction was based on a presumption about Doug? Do you think that this was because of his looks or other external characteristics?
- How did the boys feelings change throughout the story? How has the illustrator showed this change through the pictures?
- Can you think of a time when you might have made a presumption about someone or something that turned out to be wrong? What did you learn from this?
- Why do people generally react badly when they see bugs, spiders, etc? What is it about these creatures that makes us not like them? Do you think our reaction to them is justified? Why or why not?
- Doug is a native Australian cockroach. Do you know what it means for an animal to be 'native' to Australia? Did you know that Australia had native cockroaches? Do you know some other native Australian animals.
- Are bugs like Doug important to our eco-system?
- Bugs are important recyclers. They help to recycle organic matter back into the soil. Do you recycle? What are some things that you can recycle? Why is recycling important?

Activities:

- Imagine you have just found a bug under your bed. Draw a picture showing your initial reaction, in the style of the illustrator, Megan Kitchin.
- There is information at the back of the book about native Australian cockroaches, as well as introduced cockroaches. Spend some time as class reading through this information. Research native cockroaches or other native bugs and write a profile of your chosen bug. Make sure you give your bug a name!
- Doug spoke about his love of the Australian land. Design a poster highlighting all that is unique about Australia. Display these around your classroom. Include on your poster some 'Aussie' sayings!

Make your own Recycled Doug the Bug!

You will need:

- Old cardboard, plastic, material that can safely be cut into strips and shapes (for legs, body and head)
- String, thin plastic or pipe cleaners (for antennae)
- A black or dark coloured marker
- Safe scissors (adult supervision required)
- Craft glue and/or stapler (adult supervision required)
- Crayons, felt pens or colouring-in pencils
- Use your imagination to think of any other recycled things you can use to make your own special recycled Doug!

Steps:

1. Using the image of Doug as a template, cut out matching shapes of the body, eyes and legs. Remember it doesn't have to be perfectly like Doug - this is where you can use your imagination! **Suggestion - it may be best to use paper or cardboard for the head and body so you can draw and colour in Doug's face. You can cover Doug's body with any recycled materials.**
2. Place these cut out parts on to your chosen recycled materials and draw an outline using the dark marker pen.
3. Cut out the shapes you have drawn on your recycled materials.
4. Glue or staple the parts together.
5. You're done! You have now created your very own **Doug the Bug** by reusing old materials! Well done - Doug is very proud of you!

Doug the Bug

