

# Story Hour Kit

## my Busy Green Garden



For the picture book *My Busy Green Garden* by Terry Pierce  
and illustrated by Carol Schwartz (Tilbury House Publishers)

### ABOUT THE KIT

This kit was designed for librarians, educators, and booksellers, and for families hosting playgroups, parties, or simply an engaging read aloud. Best for ages 3-8.

Gardens are not just places for vegetables and flowers! Gardens are busy with insects, birds, and other creatures. This kit introduces ten such creatures with STEM talking points for your read aloud and STEM Coloring Cards that allow your readers to take some of those facts home or back to the classroom. The cards also contain a “Story Time Sound” that invites readers to add to your interactive read aloud. The kit provides seed pack labels to allow you to share seeds. Imagine readers creating their own “busy green gardens.”

The kit contains:

- Poster and copy to share your event
- Suggested preparation
- Interactive read aloud
- STEM talking points
- STEM fact and coloring cards
- Labels for seed packets

### ABOUT THE BOOK

#### **My Busy Green Garden**

By Terry Pierce

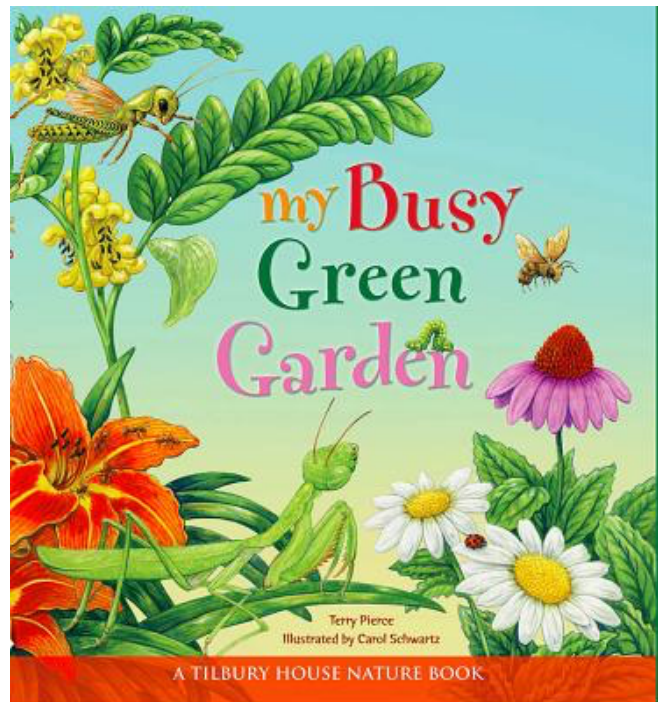
Illustrated by Carol Schwartz

Series: Tilbury House Nature Book Series

Published by Tilbury House Publishers

ISBN-13: 9780884484950

Age Range: 4 - 6 Years



A lyrical tribute to the bugs, bees, and birds that make the garden such a busy place. With each turned page, more visitors appear, and all the while the “surprise”—a chrysalis—changes unnoticed until, on the last page, a butterfly emerges and flies away across the garden’s well-tended borders. Back-of-book notes about the natural histories of the garden’s denizens complete this lovely and lively portrait of backyard nature, which is also a gentle meditation on the rewards of paying attention. A chipmunk hides on every page to divert and engage young readers.

### PRAISE FOR THE BOOK

“...The text is repetitive, with strong rhyme and an abundance of action verbs, well suited to the portrayal of the bustling garden...The visuals provide depth to the simple text, with vibrant colors and rich details, including droplets of water trickling down individual petals as well as a reoccurring snail and chipmunk scampering throughout the pages. Echoing the emergence of the butterfly, the illustrations are contained within a defined frame until the final stanza of the poem, when the garden's cleverly disguised surprise is unveiled and the illustrations burst from their frame to cover the pages in greenery...VERDICT An engaging read-aloud for young children and new readers, with a lot to discover among the diversity of both the flora and fauna shown in the illustrations.”

—*School Library Journal*

“This action-filled cumulative rhyme deftly tells the story of a vibrant summer garden...building the narrative with a rhythmic cadence that flows delightfully, offers a rich vocabulary, and adds to the fluidity of the story...Meticulously realistic, lush paintings in garden-bright colors will have children poring over the pages to identify each new pollinator or creature that participates in a blooming garden. Children will be pleased to conclude that the surprise is a hanging pupa ready to open and will recognize the arrival of a butterfly. Repeated readings will be welcomed for the opportunities to look for the clever caterpillar and its changing chrysalis. A postscript outlines the natural role each living thing plays. A lovely literary and artistic rendering.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR

**Terry Pierce** (Ridgecrest, CA) was a Montessori teacher for 22 years before writing children's books. Her 20 books include **Mama Loves You So, Tae Kwon Do!** (Bank Street College Best Children's Books of 2007); **Blackberry Banquet**; and **Mother Goose Rhymes** (a 2007 AEP Distinguished Achievement Award Winner). She is an instructor in the UCLA Extension Writers' Program.

**Carol Schwartz** (Milwaukee, WI) has illustrated more than 50 picture books, including **Sea Squares** (an Outstanding Science Trade Book and Children's Choice award winner), **The Maiden of Northland** (an Aesop Accolade List book), **Thinking about Ants** (an Outstanding Science Trade Book), and the “Hide and Seek Science” series. Carol teaches illustration at Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design and has shared her passion for illustrating at the hundreds of elementary schools, libraries, conferences, and colleges she has visited.

### PREPARING FOR THE ACTIVITIES

You will, of course, create your own grand program or lesson plan! Following are simply suggested ways to prepare for an event or classroom experience.

\_\_\_ Locate a copy of the picture book **My Busy Green Garden** by Terry Pierce and illustrated by Carol Schwartz (Tilbury House Publishers).

### MARKETING

\_\_\_ If you list your events in newsletters and online calendars, here is some text that may help with those listings:

Gardens are not just places for vegetables and flowers! Gardens are busy with insects, birds, and other creatures. We will be meeting ten such creatures when we read aloud from *My Busy Green Garden* by Terry Pierce and illustrated by Carol Schwartz (Tilbury House Publishers). Your readers will take away new knowledge of insects and birds and a packet of seeds to start their own “busy green gardens.” All welcome, but best for ages 3-8.

\_\_\_ If this event is for the public, print out the event poster (page 7), add your date, time, and location, and duplicate it to advertise the event. If you prefer to adapt the poster on your computer, you can find a JPEG of the poster design on [CuriousCityDPW.com](http://CuriousCityDPW.com). Simply search for “garden” and navigate to the Story Hour Kit listing. The fonts on the poster are Palatino and Fontesque.

### STEM COLORING CARDS

The cumulative poetry of the book introduces us to ten different insects and birds. Your readers can study and engage with these garden creatures with one of the ten STEM Coloring Cards included in this kit.

Each card offers STEM facts (replicated from the back matter), a black and white drawing to color, and a “story time sound.” The story time sound is an opportunity for your audience to participate in your read aloud. If you distribute the cards sequentially as students or families arrive at story time, you can have a chorus of readers voicing each animal as it is introduced in the book.

### PREPARING FOR THE ACTIVITIES (cont.)

The story time sounds are:

- Ladybug: Zaaaa...Wer...
- Bee: Bzzzzzzzzz...
- Hummingbird: Hmmmmmmm...
- Inchworm: Zoop...Oop...Zoop...Oop
- Mantis: Sneak...sneak...SNAP!
- Dragonfly: Zrrr...Zrrr...Zrr...
- Ant: Scurry...scurry...scurry
- Grasshopper: Titititi...titititi...titititi
- Chickadee: Chick-a-dee-dee-dee
- Butterfly: Thum...thum...thum...

The book takes inspiration from **The House That Jack Built**, so each animal introduced appears on each subsequent page. You could have your chorus of grasshoppers, inchworms, chickadees, etc. chime in with their sound effect at each mention of their animal, but that might get a little chaotic! The final cycle of the poem, though, offers a page with all of the creatures. Consider ending your read aloud with the cacophony of all the creature “story time sounds.”

\_\_\_ Print the STEM Coloring Cards from pages 8-12 on regular paper or cardstock. Print enough so each student or family can have a card. Consider printing additional cards for readers to bring home or back to the classroom. (If you don’t want to print extras, no worries. Each card directs readers to the author’s website to get a complete set.) The cards are two up on a page and will need to be cut.

\_\_\_ Check your supply of colored pencils and/or crayons to color the STEM cards before or after the read aloud.

### STORY TIME STEM

\_\_\_ Set aside a collection of nonfiction books that readers could explore during and after the read aloud. Obviously books on gardening would connect, but books that represent each of the creatures would build your reader’s scientific curiosity. The creatures in the book are: a ladybug, honeybee, hummingbird, inchworm, mantis, dragonfly, ant, grasshopper, chickadee, and butterfly. You could use the STEM Coloring Cards as bookmarks to mark books and pages that feature those individual creatures.

### PREPARING FOR THE ACTIVITIES (cont.)

\_\_\_ Consider using each spread and the introduction of each new creature to share a fascinating fact about each one. Look for the Story Time Stem: Talking Points on pages 13-18 for some ideas.

### CREATING A BUSY GREEN GARDEN

Do you want to inspire your readers to create their own “busy green garden”? Many of the creatures in the book need our help. The honeybees and butterflies especially need more flowers in both rural and urban spaces.

Burpee, which has had a national initiative to plant flowers that attract pollinators, sells a “Burpee Wildflower Bag Pollinator” mix for around \$20 with close to 50,000 seeds in it (available at Amazon and garden stores).

\_\_\_ Consider buying a bulk bag of flower seeds appropriate for pollinators.

\_\_\_ Secure some #10 envelopes.

\_\_\_ Print, customize, and affix the labels provided on page 19. We have left space for the planting instructions.

\_\_\_ Divide the seeds between your envelopes and seal them up!

### SETTING UP THE DAY OF THE EVENT

\_\_\_ Set up a display of nonfiction books about insects, birds, and gardens.

\_\_\_ Lay out crayons and/or colored pencils for curious readers.

\_\_\_ For after the reading, have extra STEM Coloring Cards sorted by creature, handy for take away.

\_\_\_ If you are doing a gardening activity, set up your materials. If you are simply handing out seed packets, have them handy!

### SETTING UP THE DAY OF THE EVENT (cont.)

\_\_\_ Place your sequential stack of STEM Coloring Cards somewhere handy to give to students or families as they arrive. If you have a single ladybug, honeybee, hummingbird, inchworm, mantis, dragonfly, ant, grasshopper, chickadee, and butterfly card in your “deck” and then another run of sequential cards, you will be sure to assign roles evenly.

### EVENT ACTIVITIES

\_\_\_ Set up a display of nonfiction books about insects, birds, and gardens.

\_\_\_ Lay out crayons and/or colored pencils for curious readers.

\_\_\_ Have extra STEM Coloring Cards (sorted by creature) available for take away after the reading.

\_\_\_ If you are doing a gardening activity, set up your materials. If you are simply handing out seed packets, have them handy!

\_\_\_ If you have early birds, you can start them on coloring their STEM Coloring Card.

\_\_\_ Read **My Busy Green Garden** by Terry Pierce and illustrated by Carol Schwartz (Tilbury House Publishers) with STEM talking points and with your readers chiming in with story time sounds.

\_\_\_ Invite readers to locate a nonfiction book that features their creature.

\_\_\_ Invite readers to color their STEM Coloring Cards.

\_\_\_ Invite readers to “collect” other STEM Coloring Cards that interest them.

\_\_\_ Hand out seed packets and encourage students and families to start their own “busy green garden” to help the pollinators.

\_\_\_ Wave goodbye knowing that you have not only grown some readers, but also inspired some gardeners and saved some pollinators!

### OTHER RESOURCES

Enjoyed using this kit? Visit [CuriousCityDPW.com](http://CuriousCityDPW.com) for other story hour kits, event kits, treasure hunts, book club guides, book giveaways, and other ways to engage in children’s literature with play, conversation, and social action.

# Story Time

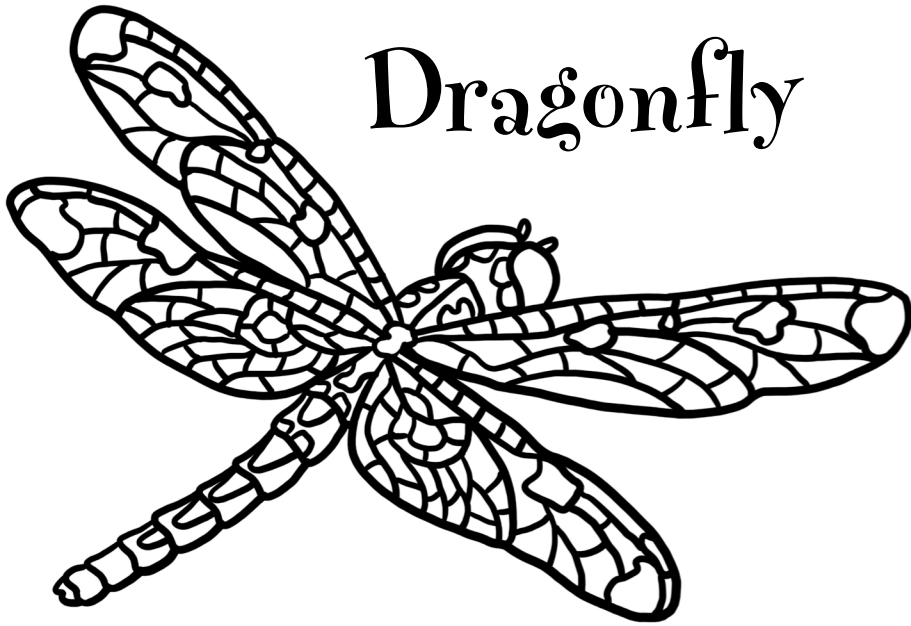
## my Busy Green Garden



We will be sharing the picture book *My Busy Green Garden* by Terry Pierce and illustrated by Carol Schwartz (Tilbury House Publishers). Images © Carol Schwartz.



# Dragonfly

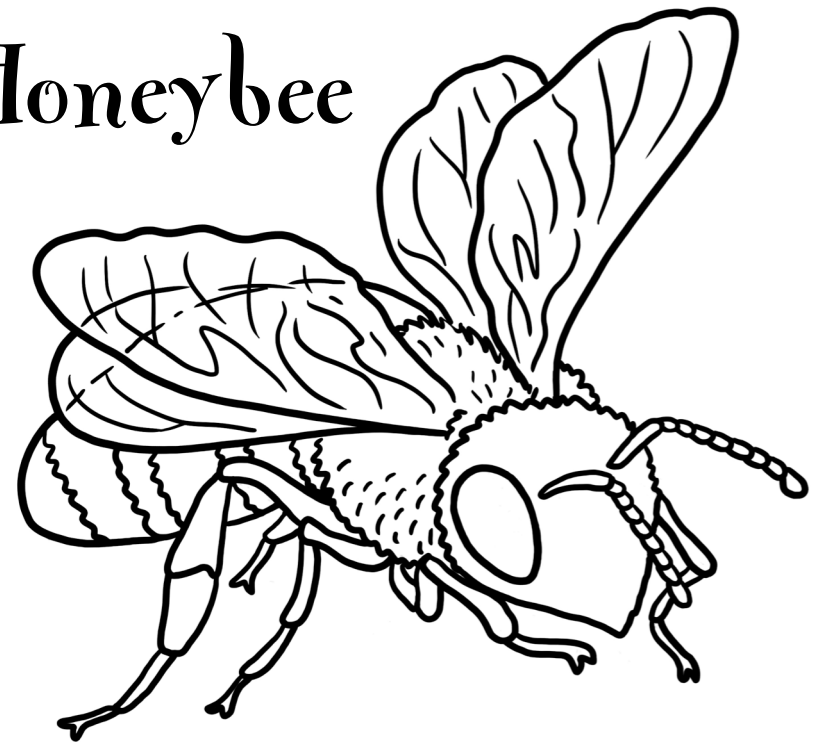


No one knows how the dragonfly got its name, but a better name might be helicopter fly. Dragonflies are great flyers and move like a helicopter. They can dart up, down, forward, back, and sideways. It's good that they fly so well, because they can only catch food while flying. One of their favorite foods is mosquitoes. So, the next time you see a dragonfly in your garden, be sure to thank him!

**Story Time Sound:** Zrrrr...Zrrrr...Zrrrr

From the picture book *My Busy Green Garden* by Terry Pierce and illustrated by Carol Schwartz (Tilbury House Publishers). Image © Carol Schwartz. Visit [terrypiercebooks.com](http://terrypiercebooks.com) for more free nature cards.

# Honeybee



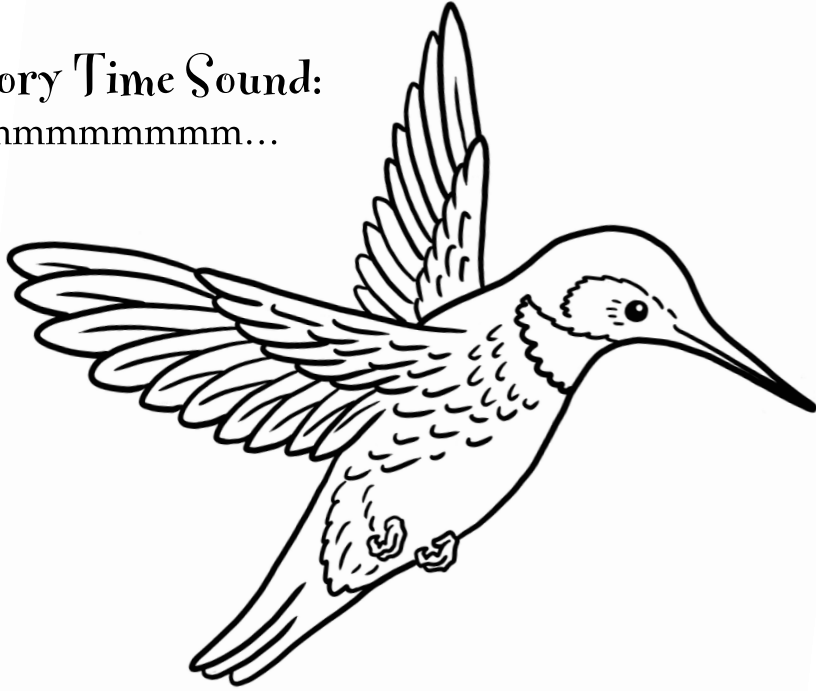
Honeybees live in hives. Each hive has a queen bee, many drones (males, or boy bees) and many more workers (females, or girl bees). The bees that you see flying in a garden are worker bees. One of their jobs is to gather food: pollen and nectar from flowers. In the hive, bees make honey from the nectar.

**Story Time Sound:** Bzzzzzzzzz...

From the picture book *My Busy Green Garden* by Terry Pierce and illustrated by Carol Schwartz (Tilbury House Publishers). Image © Carol Schwartz. Visit [terrypiercebooks.com](http://terrypiercebooks.com) for more free nature cards.

# Hummingbird

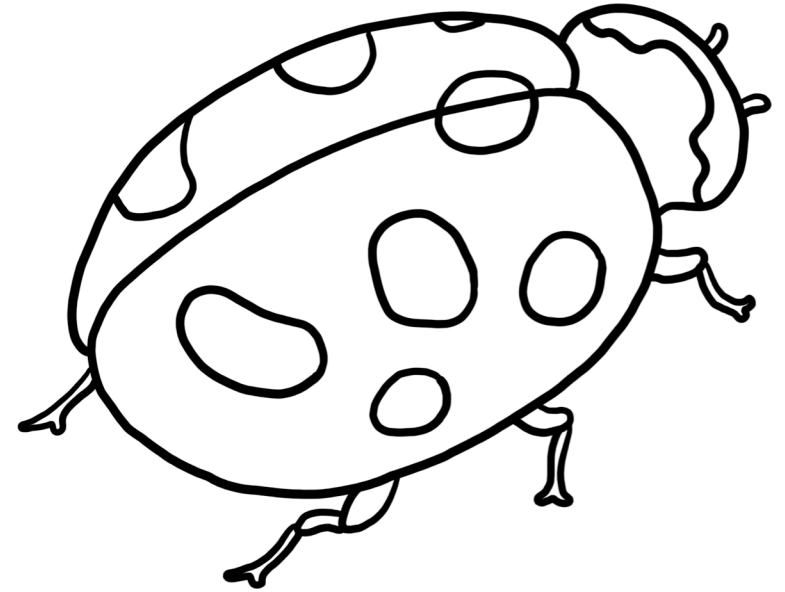
Story Time Sound:  
Hmhmhmhm...



**Hummingbirds** don't hum the way you do. Their "hum" comes from their wings beating so fast. Hummingbird wings move in a way that lets them hover while they sip nectar from blossoms. You'd have to look hard to find a hummingbird's nest near your garden. They're the size of a walnut! Hummingbirds weave twigs and leaves to build a nest, then hold it together with spiderweb thread.

From the picture book *My Busy Green Garden* by Terry Pierce and illustrated by Carol Schwartz (Tilbury House Publishers). Image © Carol Schwartz. Visit [terrypiercebooks.com](http://terrypiercebooks.com) for more free nature cards.

# Ladybug

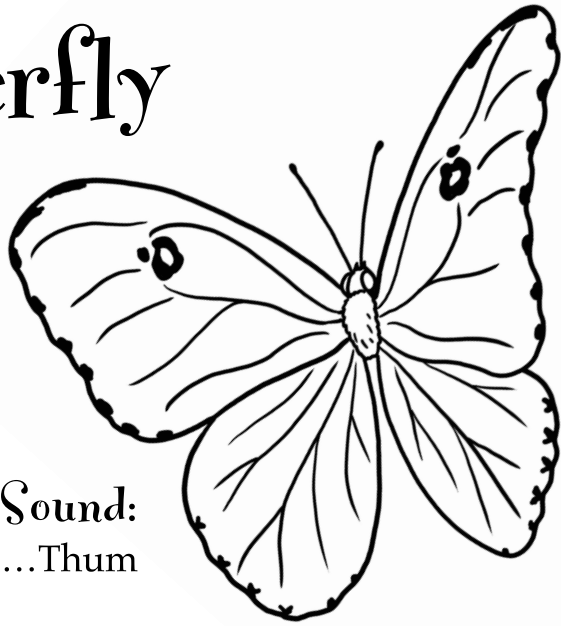


**Ladybugs** are also called ladybird beetles. You might know them from the Mother Goose rhyme, "Ladybird, ladybird, fly away home." These tiny bugs can certainly fly, but they crawl on plants when they eat. Ladybugs have big appetites and love to eat aphids and other plant-eating insects. Because ladybugs eat harmful pests, gardeners welcome them.

Story Time Sound: Zaaa...Wer...

From the picture book *My Busy Green Garden* by Terry Pierce and illustrated by Carol Schwartz (Tilbury House Publishers). Image © Carol Schwartz. Visit [terrypiercebooks.com](http://terrypiercebooks.com) for more free nature cards.

# Butterfly



**Story Time Sound:**  
Thum...Thum...Thum

A *butterfly* begins its life as an egg attached to a plant stem or leaf. When the egg hatches, a larva (or caterpillar) comes out. The caterpillar constantly eats leaves to grow large and fat. It then sticks itself to a plant and slowly turns into a pupa (or chrysalis). The chrysalis looks like part of the plant—quite a clever disguise! Inside the chrysalis, the caterpillar changes into a butterfly. This life-cycle change is called a metamorphosis. After a few days, the chrysalis opens and an adult butterfly comes out. Usually its wings are wet and wrinkled, so it has to let them dry out and spread before fluttering away. Butterflies have been on Earth for 200 million years or more. There are 18,500 kinds, or species, and most are beautiful.

From the picture book *My Busy Green Garden* by Terry Pierce and illustrated by Carol Schwartz (Tilbury House Publishers). Image © Carol Schwartz. Visit [terrypiercebooks.com](http://terrypiercebooks.com) for more free nature cards.

# Chickadee

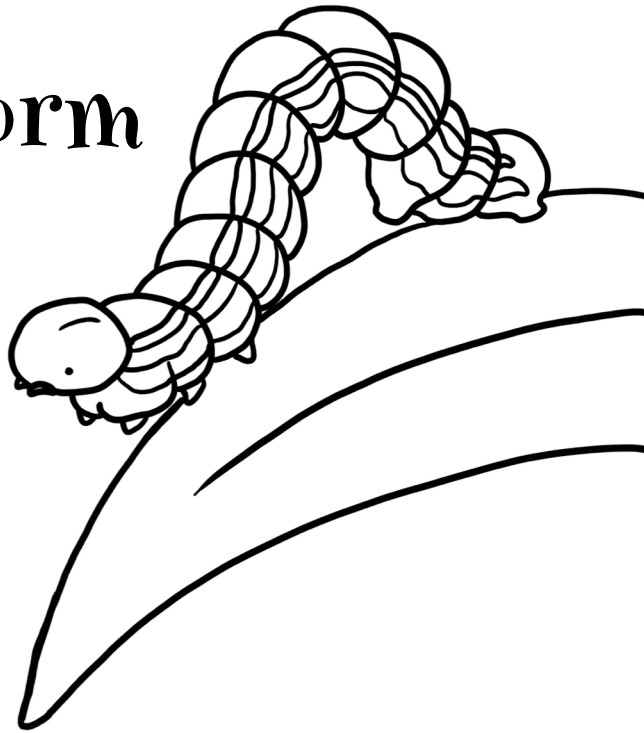


**Story Time Sound:**  
Chick-a-dee-dee-dee!

*Black-capped chickadees* get their name from their song. The quick little birds spend much of their day eating. They feed on berries, nuts, and seeds, but mostly on insects. Parent birds carry insects back to their nest for their hungry chicks. Where do chickadees build their nests? Usually in a hollowed-out part of a tree. Sometimes they even move into an old woodpecker hole!

From the picture book *My Busy Green Garden* by Terry Pierce and illustrated by Carol Schwartz (Tilbury House Publishers). Image © Carol Schwartz. Visit [terrypiercebooks.com](http://terrypiercebooks.com) for more free nature cards.

# Inchworm

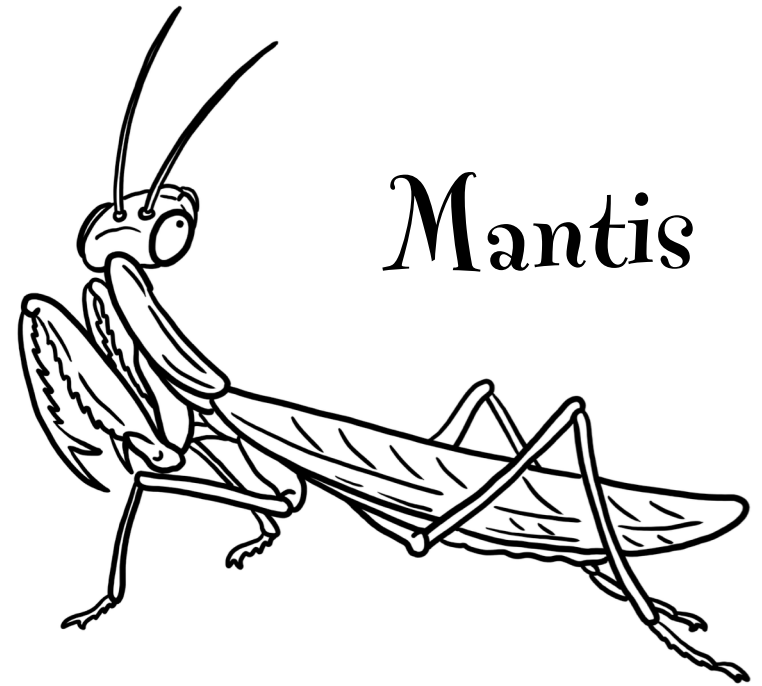


An **inchworm** may look like a worm, but it isn't one. It's actually the caterpillar of a geometer moth. Inchworms get their name from how they move. They stretch the front of their body way out, then bring up the rear of their body to meet the front. Can you move like an inchworm?

**Story Time Sound:**  
Zoop...Oop...Zoop...Oop

From the picture book *My Busy Green Garden* by Terry Pierce and illustrated by Carol Schwartz (Tilbury House Publishers). Image © Carol Schwartz. Visit [terrypiercebooks.com](http://terrypiercebooks.com) for more free nature cards.

# Mantis



**Story Time Sound:**  
Sneak...sneak...SNAP!

**Mantises** don't hunt for food; they lie in wait until the food comes close enough to catch. Luckily for mantises, their coloring helps them blend in with plants. How do they spy their food so well? With a special feature—mantises are the only insect that can turn their heads from side to side. This, and their huge eyes, helps them spy food, then snatch it up lightning quick!

From the picture book *My Busy Green Garden* by Terry Pierce and illustrated by Carol Schwartz (Tilbury House Publishers). Image © Carol Schwartz. Visit [terrypiercebooks.com](http://terrypiercebooks.com) for more free nature cards.

# Grasshopper

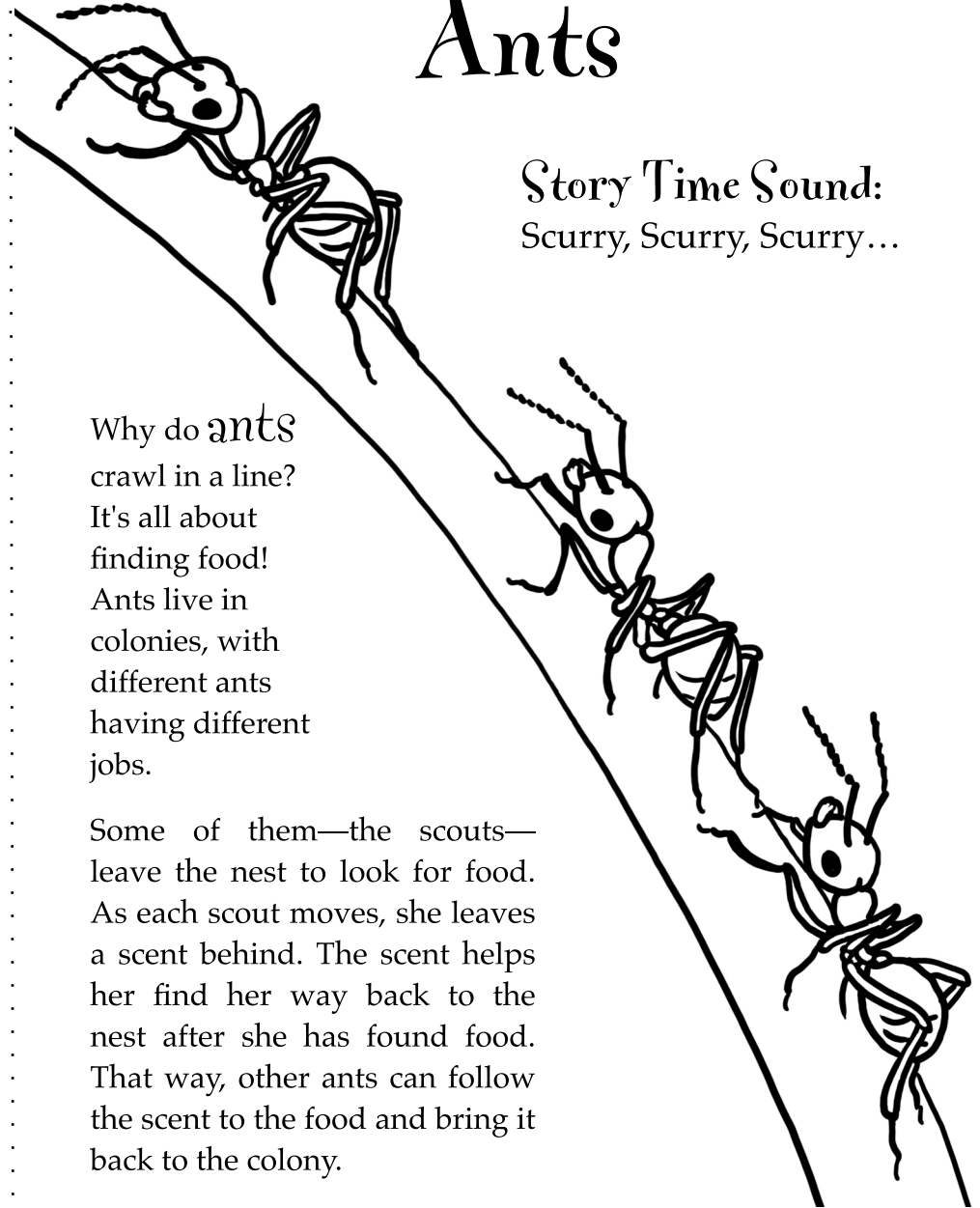


Story Time Sound:  
Titititi...Titititi...Titititi

If you've ever tried to catch a grasshopper, you know they are terrific jumpers. How do they jump so well? Grasshoppers have powerful hind legs. Right before they leap, they push on the big muscles in their legs, loading them up with energy. When they jump, they let out the energy like a spring and fling themselves into the air.

From the picture book *My Busy Green Garden* by Terry Pierce and illustrated by Carol Schwartz (Tilbury House Publishers). Image © Carol Schwartz. Visit [terrypiercebooks.com](http://terrypiercebooks.com) for more free nature cards.

# Ants



Story Time Sound:  
Scurry, Scurry, Scurry...

Why do ants crawl in a line? It's all about finding food! Ants live in colonies, with different ants having different jobs.

Some of them—the scouts—leave the nest to look for food. As each scout moves, she leaves a scent behind. The scent helps her find her way back to the nest after she has found food. That way, other ants can follow the scent to the food and bring it back to the colony.

From the picture book *My Busy Green Garden* by Terry Pierce and illustrated by Carol Schwartz (Tilbury House Publishers). Image © Carol Schwartz. Visit [terrypiercebooks.com](http://terrypiercebooks.com) for more free nature cards.

### STORY TIME STEM: Talking Points

#### KEY:

Book text is in plain text

*Reader story time sounds are in italics.*

**Bold text is suggested dialogue.**

[Bracketed text describes suggested actions.]

**Welcome! Today we are going to read My Busy Green Garden by Terry Pierce and illustrated by Carol Swartz. The cover tells us that this is a Tilbury House Nature Book. Tilbury House is the publisher. "Nature Book" tells us that there will probably be wonderful creatures from nature in this book.**

**Let's look at the cover and see what insects and other animals we can spot.**

**Each of you has have a paper with an insect or bird on it. On the paper, there is a "story time sound." That is the sound your creature makes or the sound their movement makes me think of.**

**Listen for your creature to be introduced in our story time today. I will ask you to make that sound. Do you want to make that sound?**

[You might choose to practice those sounds...]

#### SPREAD 1:

This is my busy green garden...

**What is a garden? Can anyone tell me?**

**A garden is a piece of land where we cultivate plants. Cultivate means putting a seed or a plant in the ground and helping it grow.**

**What is growing in this garden?**

#### SPREAD 2:

There's a surprise in a clever disguise...

### STORY TIME STEM: Talking Points (cont.)

I like surprises. Do you?

The text tells us that there is a surprise in a disguise. A disguise means wearing something that hides what is inside.

The text also tells us that it is hanging. Hmm...what in this picture is hanging?

The pictures give us another clue. The chipmunk and the snail seem to be looking in the same direction.

[Draw a line from the chipmunk to the chrysalis.]

Could that be our surprise? Maybe! Let's look for it on every page and see if it does anything surprising.

#### SPREAD 3:

This is the ladybug dawdling so...

Where are my ladybugs? What sound does she make?

*Zaaaa...Wer...*

Did you know that gardeners love ladybugs? A ladybug's favorite food is insects — insects that eat plants. If you have ladybugs in your garden, your plants will not all get eaten by aphids!

#### SPREAD 4:

This is a honeybee buzzing below...

Where are my bees? What sound does the bee make?

*Bzzzzzzzz...*

If you see a bee buzzing around your garden and collecting pollen, it is a worker bee. Do you think worker bees are girls or boys? Girls!

### STORY TIME STEM: Talking Points (cont.)

#### SPREAD 5:

This is a hummingbird fluttering around...

**Where are my hummingbirds? What sound does the hummingbird make?**

*Hmmmmmmmm...*

**When humans hum, they hum in their throats. The hum of hummingbirds comes from the speed of their wings beating.**

#### SPREAD 6:

This is an inchworm that creeps up and down...

**Where are my inchworms? What sound does the inchworm make?**

*Zoop...Oop....Zoop...Oop*

**An inchworm is not actually a worm. It is a caterpillar. Do you know what caterpillars become? Right! Caterpillars become butterflies and moths. The inchworm becomes a geometer moth.**

**Have you been keeping an eye on our surprise package? Has it changed?**

#### SPREAD 7:

This is a mantis awaiting his prey...

**Where are my mantises? What sound does the mantis make?**

*Sneak...sneak...SNAP!*

**Mantises are the only insect that can turn their heads from side to side. This, and their huge eyes, helps mantises see food and SNAP it up!**



### STORY TIME STEM: Talking Points (cont.)

#### SPREAD 8:

This is the dragonfly dashing away...

**Where are my dragonflies? What sound does the dragonfly make?**

*Zrrr...Zrrr...Zrr...*

**Do you know what a dragonfly's favorite food is? Mosquitos! If you see a dragonfly, thank him for biting the mosquito before the mosquito bites you!**

#### SPREAD 9:

These are the ants that are tracking their scout...

**Where are my ants? What sound does the ant make?**

*Scurry....scurry...scurry*

**The ant at the head of this line is a scout ant. As she moves, she leaves a scent for other ants to follow and for her to follow back home.**

#### SPREAD 10:

This is the grasshopper leaping about...

**Where are my grasshoppers? What sound does the grasshopper make?**

*Titititi...titititi...titititi*

**Have you ever tried to catch a grasshopper? It is not easy. They are powerful jumpers! They have big muscles in their legs.**

#### SPREAD 11:

[Consider having all your readers make their noises in this spread.]

This is the chickadee hungry and quick...

### STORY TIME STEM: Talking Points (cont.)

**Where are my chickadees? What sound does the chickadee make?**

*Chick-a-dee-dee-dee!*

**Now you know how the chickadee got its name. From its song! This chickadee is hungry. Chickadees eat berries, nuts, and seeds. What else do they eat? This page tells us. Insects!**

**The text tells us that the ladybug bumped into our surprise. Let's look. Is it looking different? Are those spots new?**

**Well, something is about to happen with our surprise. Does anyone want to guess? Maybe. Should we find out? Ready?**

**SPREAD 12:**

That wriggles and writhes...

**What is that? What is happening?**

**Yes, this is a butterfly coming out of a chrysalis! What made the chrysalis? A caterpillar made the chrysalis, and while we read this book, the caterpillar transformed...**

**SPREAD 13:**

...away from my busy green garden.

**...into a butterfly! Where are my butterflies? What sound does the butterfly make flying away from the busy green garden?**

*Thum...thum...thum...*

**The transformation of a caterpillar into a butterfly is an amazing thing. It has an equally amazing word. It is called metamorphosis. Can you say that with me?**

**Butterflies have been on the Earth for at least 200 million years. Butterflies were flying when there were dinosaurs roaming the Earth!**

### STORY TIME STEM: Talking Points (cont.)

#### SPREAD 14:

Who has ever been in a busy green garden? What grows in a garden?

This picture book showed me that a garden is not just a place to grow food for us to eat and flowers for us to look at. Gardens are homes to many amazing creatures!

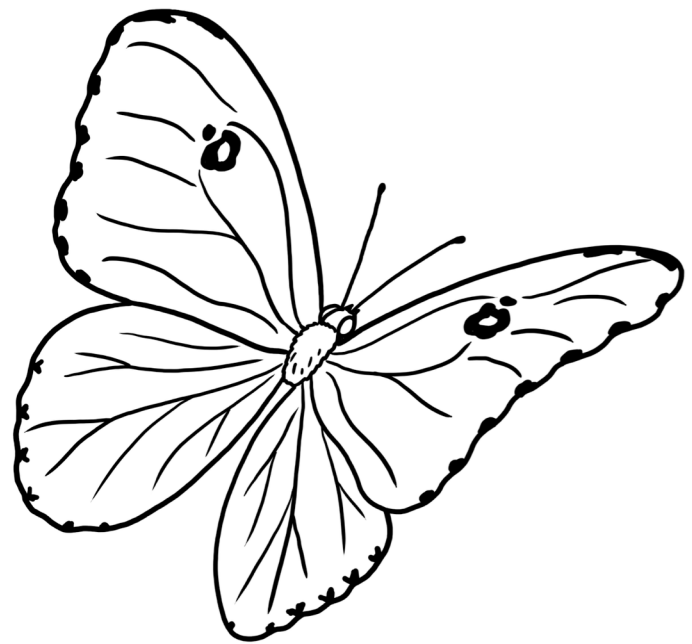
Those creatures need us to make as many gardens as possible. Gardens can be planted at home and at school. Gardens do not need to be planned and tended like the one in this picture. Gardens can be started by us humans, but left to be wild.

Bees and butterflies are VERY important to our planet. It is because of bees, for example, that we have fruits and vegetables. Bees help plants grow by pollinating them. Without the bees, there would be no more of some fruits or vegetables.

Do you want to do something to help the bees, butterflies, and all the creatures in the book? Work with an adult to find a patch of dirt and plant some seeds together. It does not need to be fancy!

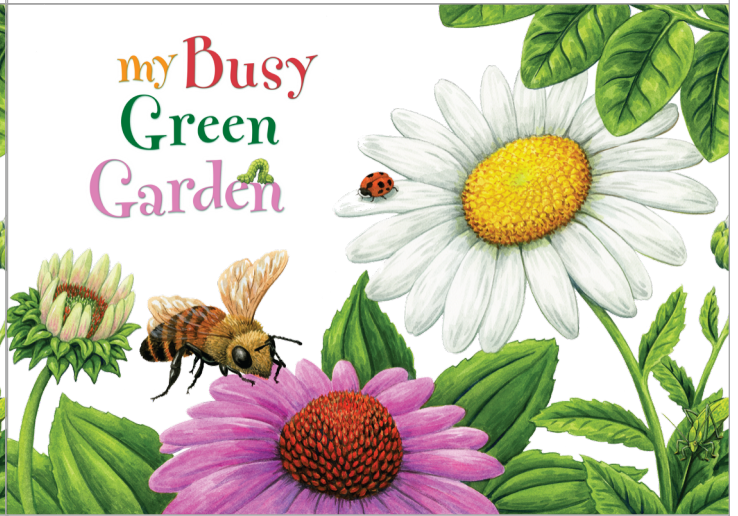
In fact, we have seeds for you today that will grow into flowers perfect for the bees and the butterflies.

Let's make our city full of busy green gardens!



# Seed Packet

# Seed Packet



## Instructions:

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Inspired by the picture book *My Busy Green Garden*  
by Terry Pierce & illustrated by Carol Schwartz  
(Tilbury House Publishers).

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