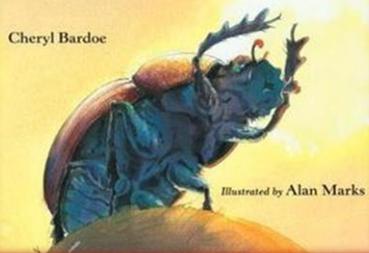


## Behold the Beautiful DUNG BEETLE

Cheryl Bardoe



Illustrated by Alan Marks

Author: Cheryl Bardoe

Illustrator: Alan Marks

Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2014

32 Pages

AR Level: 5.6

Lexile: 1000

Pages: 32 pgs.

**Curriculum Connections:** *Science--insect life, decomposers, life cycle, food chains.*

Two levels of text on each page spread lend the use for both reading aloud and research. These are excellent exemplars of details to support an opening statement.

Watch a [book trailer](#). On the [publisher's](#) website, you'll find a [discussion guide](#) and additional book selections.

Author Cheryl Bardo welcomes you to an up-close view of the dung beetle! These amazing insects harvest their food, drink, and fuel from the waste piles that large animals leave behind. Like ants and bees, each has a specific role. The Dwellers swoop in first to eat the dung before it dries out. The Rollers use their jaws and legs to sculpt balls of dung that they roll away from the scene, eating as they go. Finally, the Tunnelers tunnel directly under the dung pile to build up stockpiles of "brood balls" that will each nourish a single egg. This close look at the little-known species that ancient Egyptians once called scarabs will pull you right in with its magnificent illustrations, as well as text suitable for both early and intermediate readers on each page spread.

Text Features: Engaging illustrations, two levels of text—primary and intermediate—on each page, appended facts: Where to Find Dung Beetles and Fascinating Facts, an extensive Glossary and selected Bibliography.

*Available as an e-movie in two formats (movie, read along) from Landscape Media, free with Hoopla registration through public libraries, as well as CD audio, DVD and e-book versions.*

### CCSS for Primary Grades

- *RI.2.1 Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.*
- *RI. 2.6 Identify the main purpose of a text, including what the author wants to answer, explain, or describe.*
- *RI.2.9 Compare and contrast the most important points presented by two texts on the same topic.*
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### CCSS for Intermediate Grades

- *RI.3.9 Compare and contrast the most important points and key details presented in two texts on the same topic*
- *RI.4.1 Refer to details and examples when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.*
- *RI.4.8 Explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to support particular points in a text.*
- *RI.4.9 Compare and contrast: describe the differences in focus and the information provided.*

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Lesson Ideas	Text Set Options
<b>Primary:</b>	
<p>Use 4-stanza poem “Dung Beetle at Work” to introduce the dung beetle and answer simple questions.</p> <p>Make copies of the poem “Dung Beetle at Work” and a page from Behold the Beautiful Dung Beetle (suggested “female rollers skitter along ...”) and first with one color of highlighter, ask readers to highlight the same concept in each text. Continue with additional concepts, colors.</p> <p>Watch a video of a dung beetle in action (caution: preceded by 15 second ad). Predict what the author of the book and the author of the website wanted to answer or describe.</p>	<p><b><i>Dear Wandering Wildebeest and Other Poems from the Water Hole</i></b> By Irene Latham Millbrook 2014 AR 5.0 No Lexile</p> <p><b><u><a href="http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/beetle_dung?source=relatedvideo">African Dung Beetle</a></u></b> <a href="http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/beetle_dung?source=relatedvideo">http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/beetle_dung?source=relatedvideo</a></p> <p><b><i>The Beetle Alphabet Book</i></b> by Jerry Pallotta Charlesbridge 2004 AR 3.6 Lexile 630</p> <p><b><i>Beetle Bop</i></b> by Denise Fleming Harcourt 2007 No AR No Lexile</p> <p><b><i>Life as a Dung Beetle</i></b> <a href="http://www.discovery.com/tv-shows/africa/videos/dung-beetle-and-her-prize">http://www.discovery.com/tv-shows/africa/videos/dung-beetle-and-her-prize</a></p>
<b>Intermediate:</b>	
<p>Relate information in the text to the concept of strength of various animals/insects relative to their size.</p> <p>The dung beetle is the strongest insect, as well as the strongest creature on earth, based on the percentage of its body weight that it can pull. Find supporting details in text and online.</p> <p>After reading text, use website to find supporting information for the Egyptians’ infatuation with dung beetles or scarabs.</p> <p>Pair this book with other books about weird or gross things that animals do and why they do it. Let students form an opinion about what is the most surprising, gross, amazing, and defend their viewpoints with facts from the text.</p> <p>Create a diagram displaying where dung beetles fit into the food chain.</p>	<p><i>Wonderopolis: Wonder of the Day #836</i> <i>Do Insects Work Out?</i> <a href="http://wonderopolis.org/wonder/do-insects-work-out/">http://wonderopolis.org/wonder/do-insects-work-out/</a></p> <p><b><i>Dung Beetles: Stronger Than Ten Men</i></b> by Emma Carlson Beme PowerKids Press 2014 AR 5.4 No Lexile</p> <p><b><i>Kids Discover: The Sacred Dung Beetle of Ancient Egypt</i></b> <a href="http://www.kidsdiscover.com/quick-reads/sacred-dung-beetles-ancient-egypt/">http://www.kidsdiscover.com/quick-reads/sacred-dung-beetles-ancient-egypt/</a></p> <p><b><i>Nature’s Yucky! Gross Stuff that Helps Nature Work</i></b> by Lee Ann Landstrom Mountain Press 2003 No AR No Lexile</p> <p><b><i>Horrible Animal Habits</i></b> by Ruth Owen Ruby Tuesday Books 2014 AR 4.1 Lexile 780</p> <p><b><i>Beetles</i></b> by S.L. Hamilton Abdo Publishing 2015 AR 5.2 Lexile 890</p> <p><b><i>Poop Eaters: Dung Beetles in the Food Chain</i></b> by Diedre A. Prischmann Capstone Press 2008 AR 4.9 Lexile 830</p> <p><b><u><a href="http://sciencepoems.net/sciencepoems/foodchain.aspx#.VhScTvIvHbc">Food Chain Poem</a></u></b> <a href="http://sciencepoems.net/sciencepoems/foodchain.aspx#.VhScTvIvHbc">http://sciencepoems.net/sciencepoems/foodchain.aspx#.VhScTvIvHbc</a></p>

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