

Related Books & Websites

Let me know if you find some good ones to add!

Fiction:

Andrew Lost #1: On the Dog (and others in the series), by Judith Greenburg
Harry the Poisonous Centipede (and the sequel), by Lynn Reid Banks
Inspector Hopper, by Doug Cushman
Roberto, the Insect Architect, by Nina Laden
Snug as a Bug, by Michael Elsohn Ross

Non-Fiction:

Animals Eat the Weirdest Things, by Diane Swanson
Author: A True Story, by Helen Lester
Beetles, by Claire Llewellyn
The Best Book of Bugs, by Claire Llewellyn
The Bug Scientists, by Donna M. Jackson
Bugs! Bugs! Bugs! by Jennifer Dussling
How do Flies Walk Upside Down? (and others in the series) by Melvin Berger
If You Hopped Like a Frog, by David M. Schwartz
The Magic School Bus Inside a Beehive (and others in the series), by Joanna Cole
Q is for Quark, by David M. Schwartz
Ripley's Believe It or Not! Bizarre Bugs, by Mary Packard
Rolypolyology (and others in the series) by Michael Elsohn Ross
Simon & Schuster Children's Guide to Insects and Spiders, by Jinny Johnson

Websites

www.ala.org/greatsites: Great links to information on science, animals, and more.
<http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu>: Online database of animals
www.antlionfarms.com: Information on antlions (see *Hector on Thin Ice*)
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Insecta>: Online encyclopedia of insects
www.insectlopedia.com: The world of insects from identification to bug cuisine.
www.kidsplanet.org: Information and activities relating to endangered animals.
www.yucky.com: Yucky questions about science.

Here Comes the Author!

If Elizabeth Shreeve is coming to your school, here are some ways to get ready:

- ✓ Read all or part of a Hector book, aloud or independently.
- ✓ Visit www.elizabethshreeve.com
- ✓ Think of questions to ask the author about Hector, her writing process, or how books get published. Combine similar questions and make a list for your class to ask at the end of the author presentation.
- ✓ Make drawings, posters, or banners to show your invented characters and ideas.
- ✓ If your school is having a writing workshop with the author, write your own story in advance (see "Create a Critter" and "Story Soup").
- ✓ Read the book, *The Day Eddie Met the Author*, by Louise Borden.



School Visits and Book Signings

Elizabeth Shreeve offers a warm-hearted presentation (grades 1-4) that engages children in the world of bugs and other small critters, the life of a writer, and the joys of becoming a life-long reader.

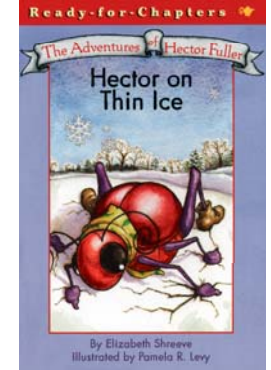
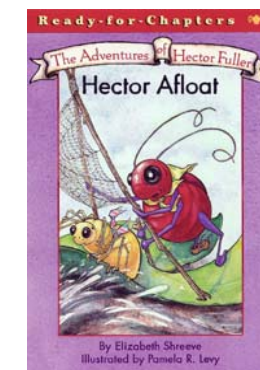
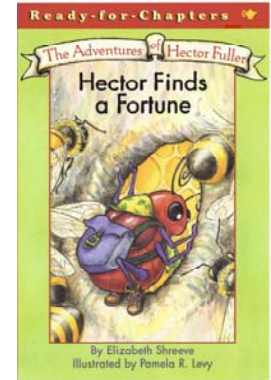
(415) 381-9013

mail@elizabethshreeve.com

www.elizabethshreeve.com

LESSON PLAN

A Teacher's and Student's Guide to...



THE ADVENTURES OF HECTOR FULLER

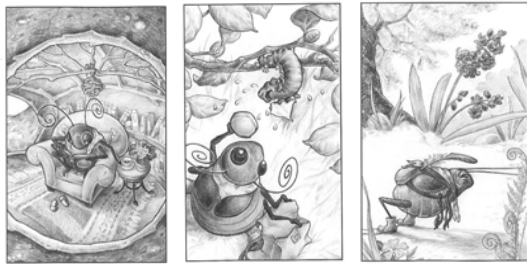
A chapter book series from Aladdin Paperbacks
Published by Simon & Schuster

For more information, please visit:

www.elizabethshreeve.com

Discussion Topics

BUST IT UP! What's in a story, anyway? Most have a **beginning** (the main character(s), the problem, and the setting), a **middle** (what the characters do to deal with the problem), and an **end** (the solution). Can you take apart a Hector story to find the basic pieces—characters, setting, problem, events and solution?



THEMES – Many stories also explore a theme, or idea.

- ✓ The theme of *Hector Springs Loose* is home. Why is Hector's home so special to him? Why is it so difficult for Hector to find a new home? What makes your home special?
- ✓ The theme of *Hector Finds a Fortune* is friendship. What makes Hector a good friend to Lance, and vice versa? What makes any good friend? How has a friend helped you through a difficult time?
- ✓ The theme of *Hector Afloat* is bravery and courage. How did Hector show bravery and courage in this story? Can you think of a time when you or a friend has been especially afraid or especially brave?
- ✓ The theme of *Hector on Thin Ice* is family and community. How did Hector's feelings about his family change from the beginning of the story to the end? Do your feelings toward your family members ever change?"

Activities

HOT SEAT – Choose a student to become one of the characters from a Hector book, and have the other students ask questions that connect to the story. For example: (Book One) *Hector, why did you give up your home so easily? What made you finally decide to return home?* (Book Two) *Lance, how did you feel when Uncle Baxter didn't want you to be part of the family business? Why did you wait so long for Hector?*

FACT or FICTION – All the characters in the Hector books (except the wumblebugs!) are based on real life animals. But wait a minute—what's fact and what's fantasy? Do red bugs really taste bad? Do whirligigs dance on top of water? Do snapping turtles eat everything they can get their jaws on? Do snakes sleep with their eyes open? Can insects play the piano?! Make a list of statements from the text and vote—fact or fiction? Then do a little research to verify (see "Related Books and Websites").

- ✓ Check your school or local library for *Animal Fact/Animal Fable*, by Seymour Simon.



STORY SOUP – Label three bags: characters, setting, and problem. Fill each bag with slips of paper listing different characters, settings, and problems. These can be from the Hector books or from your own inventions. Working individually or in groups, reach into each bag to choose 1-2 characters, one setting and one problem, and use these to create your own stories and craft events that lead to a solution.

CREATE A CRITTER – Lots of writers get ideas from researching topics that interest them. For example, Elizabeth Shreeve invents characters by reading non-fiction books and searching websites for information on animals and nature. To make your own character, start with research (see "Related Books and Websites") and add plenty of imagination. Ask yourself:

- ✓ What does my character look like?
- ✓ Is it based on a real creature, or is it invented from scratch? What parts of your research are included your creature?
- ✓ What does it eat? What kind of home does it have? What special abilities does it possess?
- ✓ Does it live in the desert, forest, ocean, or someplace else? Why?
- ✓ What animal group does it belong to (e.g., insect, bird, fish, mammal)?

After inventing your animal, draw a picture or build it out of construction paper and write key research facts on the back. Create a class display categorizing each of the animals according to their scientific (or imaginary) classification.

- ✓ For more fun science activities, check out: www.hhmi.org/coolscience/index.html
- ✓ For background on animal groupings: www.hhmi.org/coolscience/critters/critters.html

WUMBLEBUG THEATER – Hector on *Thin Ice* ends with the wumblepups—Hector's nieces and nephews—staging a play based on their adventures. How about you? Choose your favorite Hector tale or your own new story... turn your classroom into a snug little hole, a bee farm, or an icy stream... and put on a show. Who wants to be Hector? Lance? Suzy? Frederica? The hummingbird? The antlion? Hollywood here we come!

Illustrations by permission of Pamela Levy.