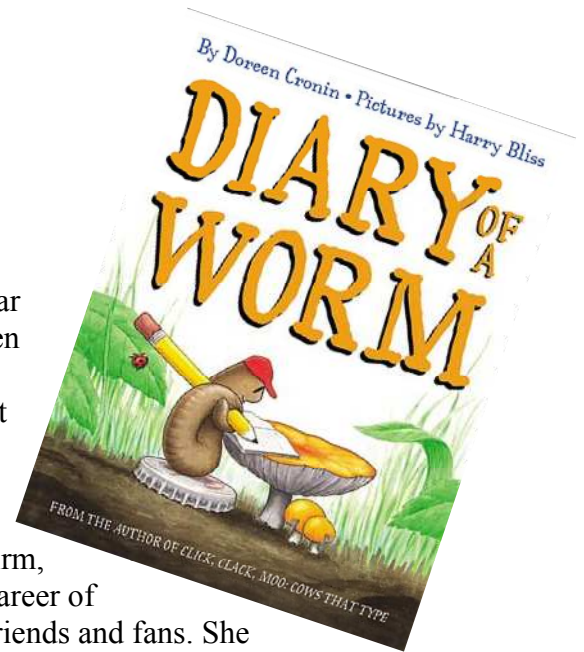


Diary of a Worm

Written by Doreen Cronin

Illustrated by Harry Bliss

Worm has problems: no arms, a head that looks like his rear and danger from people digging worms for fishing. He even has an annoying sister that he manages to torture. Facts about earthworms are deftly woven into a diary format that makes learning fun for all ages.



About the Author/Illustrator

Doreen Cronin is a working attorney at a Manhattan law firm, specializing in commercial and civil litigation. This dual career of lawyer and children's author surprises quite a few of her friends and fans. She was born in Queens, New York. She credits her father's legacy of laughter for the humor in her book.

Harry Bliss is best known for his cartoons in *Archeology Magazine* and *The New Yorker*. He has illustrated several children's books, such as *The Cat Who Came for Christmas*, *A Fine, Fine School*, *Which Would You Rather Be*, and *Countdown to Kindergarten*.

Accompanying Activities

1. What Do Earthworms Do All Day?

Grade 1:

Science 1.4(C) measure organisms and objects and parts of organisms and objects, using non-standard units such as paper clips, hands, and pencils

Science 1.6(A) sort organisms and objects according to their parts and characteristics

Language Arts:

1.15 A-F: Reading/inquiry/research

Grade 2:

Science 2.5(A) classify and sequence organisms, objects, and events based on properties and patterns

Language Arts 2.12 A-H: Reading inquiry/research.

2.14A; 2.18A-F Writing/writing processes.

Supplies and Equipment:

WormVue Wonder Kit (\$24.99) by HSP Nature Toys -- Complete kit includes: Double-sided viewing unit with shield and tray (keeps light out - worms in), live action experiment booklet, facts and anatomy poster, worm cutouts, magnifying glass, growing tray, litmus paper and cups. Mail-in certificate for 200 live worms, three types of soil layers, worm castings, and food.

Writing journal

Pencil

Directions:

Begin a research session based on the KWHL chart.

Print out the KWL chart from the following Web site or create your own.

<http://www.ncsu.edu/midlink/KWHL.chart.html>

K = Find out what students already know about earthworms.

W = Define the problem: What do earthworms do all day?

H = Brainstorm places to look for information, such as books, encyclopedias, Web pages. A great Web site to visit is <http://yucky.kids.discovery.com/>.

First choose the viewing method: extra slimy (requires a flash player) or plain (no plug-in required). Click on “Worm World” to learn about the worm’s body, habitat, and benefit to the environment.

L = Write down the information learned from observing the earthworm. This will take time. Students in the classroom or library media center write observations of the earthworm in a writing journal. Younger students can draw pictures or make a class Power Point about the earthworm.

2. Diary of an Animal

Language Arts (2.12) Reading inquiry/research.
2.14A; 2.18A-F Writing/ purposes.

Supplies and Equipment:

Pencil
Paper
Worksheet
Scanner
Power Point software

Directions:

1. Students select an animal and research it in books, encyclopedias, online databases, magazines, or the Internet.
2. Students log their answers into the worksheet example (see below). Categories include
 - a. Physical traits
 - b. Habitats and diet

- c. Survival
 - d. Interesting facts
3. Using the book as an example, students will write or draw a diary for a week pretending to be the animal of their choice.
 4. Artwork will be scanned by the teacher and used in each student's Power Point presentation.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Plan Your Diary Power Point

SLIDE 1	
Content	Title of your presentation: Diary of a _____. Put your animal name into the blank line
Images	Put a picture of your animal
SLIDE 2	
Content	Day 1: Write 2 or more sentences. Include information about your animal looks like.
Images	Place another picture of your animal
SLIDE 3	
Content	Day 2: Write 2 or more sentences. Include information about where your animal lives and what it eats.
Images	Place a picture of your animal's home and its food source.
SLIDE 4	
Content	Day 3: Write 2 or more sentences. Include information about how your animal defends itself or how it escapes predators
Images	Optional: Place a picture if you want to.
SLIDE 5	
Content	Works cited
	List all of the Web sites, databases, and book you used to find the information about your animal.
Images	Optional

Companion Books

Hovanec, Erin M. *I Wonder What It's Like to Be an Earthworm*. Rosen Publishing Group, Incorporated, 2003.

Other books by Doreen Cronin

Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type. Simon & Schuster Children's, 2000.

Giggle, Giggle, Quack. Simon & Schuster Children's, 2002.

Duck for President. Simon & Schuster Children's, 2004.

Other books Illustrated by Harry Bliss

The Cat Who Came for Christmas. Penguin, 1995.

A Fine, Fine School, HarperCollins Children's Books, 2003.

Which Would You Rather Be? HarperCollins Children's Books, 2002.

Countdown to Kindergarten. Harcourt, 2002.

Earthworms, Worms

Himmelman, John. *Wiggling Worms at Work*. HarperCollins Children's Books, 2003.

Himmelman, John. *An Earthworm's Life*. Children's Press, 2001.

Jacobs, Lee. *Earthworm*. Blackbirch Press, 2003.

Llewellyn, Claire, et al. *Earthworms (Minibeasts)*. Franklin Watts, 2002.

Other Sources

Author's Web site: <http://www.doreencronin.com/>