

Behold the Beautiful DUNG BEETLE

Activity and Discussion Guide

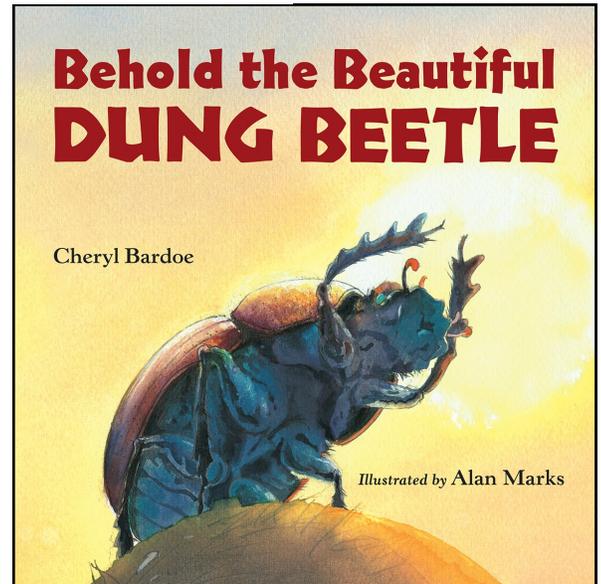
Developed by Charlesbridge

One animal's waste is the dung beetle's treasure.

Somewhere in the world *right now* an animal has just lightened its load. The dung beetles can smell it. They race to the scene by the thousands, intent on snagging their share of the precious poop.

Think dung is gross? For a dung beetle, it's food, drink, and fuel for new life. Think dung beetles are disgusting? Take a closer look, and discover the beauty of these diamonds in the dung.

Simple science text and dramatic illustrations give a close-up view and the back matter includes instructions for finding dung beetles, fun facts, a glossary, and a selected bibliography.



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978-1-58089-555-2 TR \$7.99

Ages 6 - 9; 32 pages

Also available in E-book editions

Meets Common Core State Standards for Grades 1 - 4

Pre-Reading Discussion Questions

Look closely at the book.

- ◆ What do you think this book will be about?
- ◆ What does the wrap-around cover tell us about the book?
- ◆ What do the size and shape tell you about the contents?
- ◆ Where do you think the action depicted on the cover takes place?

Think about the title.

- ◆ Do you know what dung is?
- ◆ What other kinds of beetles can you name?
- ◆ What do you think dung beetles do?
- ◆ What might be “beautiful” about the dung beetle?

 *A Junior Library Guild Selection*

“Immensely readable...Readers will find it difficult not to join in the adulation.”

KIRKUS

“The lowly dung beetle was exalted in ancient Egypt, and its vital role in nature is beautifully recognized once again.”

School Library Journal

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After Reading Discussion Questions

- ◆ Where can dung beetles be found?
- ◆ How does a dung beetle find recently dropped dung?
- ◆ What do the dung beetles take from the dung?
- ◆ How many types of dung beetles are there? What are they? How does each group enjoy the poop?
- ◆ What do rollers do to protect their dung? How about tunnelers? And dwellers?
- ◆ Where do female roller dung beetles lay their eggs? What about tunnelers?
- ◆ Young beetles, or grubs, have enormous appetites. What do they eat? How do they get the food? Do roller grubs get food differently from tunneler grubs? Differently from dweller grubs?
- ◆ What are dung beetles ancient symbols of? What did the Ancient Egyptians call them?
- ◆ Which animal's dung attracts the most and largest dung beetles?



Behold the Beautiful Dung Beetle Glossary Word Search

w	p	t	w	l	n	e	d	n
k	l	u	m	z	u	f	j	p
s	a	n	w	j	t	j	v	r
f	r	n	m	v	r	r	d	e
e	v	e	w	h	i	o	m	d
c	a	l	v	k	e	l	g	a
e	b	e	c	x	n	l	r	t
s	f	r	v	t	t	e	u	o
m	r	m	k	t	s	r	b	r

feces
grub
larva
nutrients
predator
roller
tunneler