

In The Tall Green Grass

©Written by Ellen Baumwoll. Illustrated by Barbara Hamburger.
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There's a frog in the tall green grass,
Creepy crawly,



Calm, perched, eyes alert,
Still in the grass,
Until it jumps away to the pond
where it catches a moth.

There's a spider in the tall green grass,
Creepy crawly,



Scitter-scatter, scitter-scatter,
Fast through the grass,
Until it disappears into its web
where a mosquito is caught.

There's a ladybug in the tall green grass,
Creepy crawly,



Quiet, silent, bright red lady,
Still in the grass,
Until it flies away to a garden rose
where it eats an aphid.

There's a honey bee in the tall green grass,
Creepy crawly,



Buzz-buzz-buzzing,
Fast through the grass,
Until it disappears into a meadow
and onto a goldenrod flower.

There's a woolly bear caterpillar in the tall green grass,
Creepy crawly,



Humpity-hump, humpity-hump,
Still through the grass,
Until it disappears under a tree
where it chomps on a clover leaf.

There's a garter snake in the tall green grass,
Creepy crawly,



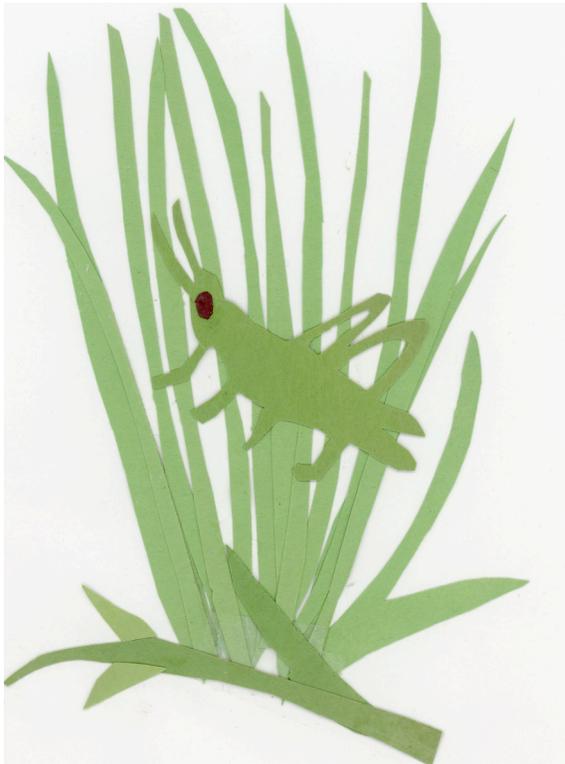
Swish, twist, noiseless reptile,
Fast through the grass,
Until it disappears into the forest
with a tasty slug in its mouth.

There's a butterfly in the tall green grass,
Creepy crawly,



Resting with wings closed,
Still in the grass,
Until it flies away to a meadow
and onto a milkweed flower.

There's a grasshopper in the tall green grass,
Creepy crawly,



Hoppity-hop, hoppity-hop,
Fast through the grass,
Until it disappears into a corn field,
one of its favorite feeding places.

There's a mantis in the tall green grass,
Creepy crawly,



Waiting, watchful,
Still in the grass,
Until it flies away to a crop plant
where it catches a grain beetle.

There's a herding ant in the tall green grass,
Creepy crawly,



Scuttle-scuttle, scuttle-scuttle,
Fast through the grass,
Until it disappears
carrying an aphid to its underground home.

There's a dragonfly in the tall green grass,
Creepy crawly,



Shimmering, luminescent,
Still in the grass,
Until it flies away to a pond
where it catches a mayfly.

In the Tall Green Grass cont'd.

p.12.

There are animals in the tall green grass,
Creepy crawlies,



Shimmering and luminescent (dragonfly); scitter-scattering (spider); resting with wings closed (butterfly); hoppity-hopping (grasshopper); humpity-humping (woolly bear caterpillar); scuttle-scuttling (herding ant); quiet and silent (ladybug); buzz-buzz-buzzing (honey bee); waiting, watchful (mantis); swishing and twisting (garter snake); calm and perched (frog).

Definitions - Animals.

ant - *n.* a small insect, often with a sting, that usually lives in a complex social colony with one or more breeding queens; it has six legs and a three-part body (head, thorax, abdomen). It is wingless except for fertile adults that often form large mating swarms. Most ants eat sugary foods when they can find it. In nature, this usually comes in the form of: 1. nectar and other liquid secretions from plants and flowers; 2. honeydew secretions from aphids and other plant-eating creatures, like caterpillars; and 3. fruit and other sweet plants.

ant, herding - *n.* Herding ants have developed a symbiotic and mutualistic relationship with aphids. They feed off of the sugary secretions (called honeydew) from the aphids skin. In exchange, the ants keep the aphids safe from predators and parasites. While it is a mutualistic relationship (both parties benefit), it is not necessarily voluntary for the aphids. The ants will bite the wings off of the aphids so that they cannot get away. In addition to biting off the wings of the aphids, recent research has found that chemicals on the ants' feet will actually tranquilize and subdue entire colonies of aphids, keeping them close-by as a ready source of food. <http://www.theincredibleant.com/ant-how/what-do-ants-eat>

bee - *n.* an insect found on every continent except Antarctica, in every habitat on the planet that contains insect-pollinated flowering plants. Like all insects, it has six legs and a three-part hairy body (head, thorax, and abdomen). It has sucking and chewing mouthparts and feeds on nectar and pollen from flowers. It stores both and often honey.

bee, honey - *n.* Honey bees gather nectar and pollen from flowers. Nectar is the sweet liquid in a flower that worker honey bees collect and return to the hive to be converted to honey. The honey is then stored in a cell within the hive. Honey bees are kept in hives for the honey they produce. Nectar is stored in the honeycomb by honey bees as a food source for the colony. Pollen is a sticky powdery substance produced by various flowering plants that must be transferred from one flower to another to make more flowers. In the hive, pollen is used as a primary protein source necessary during brood-rearing. Honey bees collect nectar and pollen from a variety of flowering plants, including milkweed, dandelions, clover, goldenrod and a variety of fruit trees. **goldenrod** - *n.* a herbaceous perennial plant of the daisy family that bears tall spikes of small bright yellow flowers and is mostly found in open areas such as meadows, prairies, and savannas. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bee>

butterfly - *n.* an insect with two pairs of large wings for flight that are covered with tiny scales, usually brightly colored, and typically held erect when at rest. Butterflies fly by day, have clubbed or dilated antennae, and usually feed on flower nectar ingested through the

proboscis. Some nectar plant favorites - Butterfly Weed, Purple Coneflowers, New England Aster, Milkweed, Marigolds, Oregano, and the popular Butterfly Bush. They also like: Daisy, Delphinium, Joe-Pye Weed, Flowering Dogwood, Lantana, Oriental Lilies, Passion Flowers, Phlox, Tall Verbena, Thistle, and Zinnia. milkweed - *n.* a herbaceous perennial American plant with milky sap. Some kinds attract butterflies, some yield a variety of useful products, and some are grown as ornamentals. The larva of the Monarch butterfly specializes on milkweeds.

<http://www.gardenswithwings.com/what-is-a-butterfly-garden/nectar-plants.html>
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Butterfly>

caterpillar - *n.* A caterpillar is the larva of a butterfly or moth, having a segmented wormlike body with three pairs of true legs and several pairs of leg-like appendages. Caterpillars may be hairy, have warning coloration, or be colored to resemble their surroundings. They are mostly herbivorous, although some are insectivorous. Caterpillars are voracious feeders and many of them are considered to be pests in agriculture. They use their strong mandibles, or mouth and jaws, to chomp on leaves of trees and plants with flowers. Since caterpillars start out as eggs on leaves, they usually eat from the plant or tree on which their lives began. Sometimes, caterpillars can be picky eaters, and will only eat one type of leaf for their entire life. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caterpillar>

caterpillar, woolly bear - *n.* The woolly bear caterpillar looks fuzzy and is usually brown and black. It likes to eat the leaves of plants that grow close to the ground. Other food sources include strands of grass and clovers. The woolly bear caterpillar can absorb chemicals from the plants they eat that make them taste bad to other animals; its diet is a source of protection. clover - *n.* a herbaceous plant of the pea family that has dense, globular flower heads, and leaves that are typically three-lobed. It is an important and widely grown fodder and rotational crop.

dragonfly - *n.* a fast-flying long-bodied predatory insect with two pairs of large transparent wings that are spread out sideways at rest. Dragonflies are found all over the world. They are a temperate-zone species. They prefer places that are close to ponds, swamps, lakes, pools of rivers, slow streams and any slow moving water area. Most like fresh water. Dragonflies are specially adapted for hunting on the wing. From bees to mosquitoes, dragonflies eat just about anything that is edible and can be caught, plucking them out of thin air after out-flying outmaneuvering and them in the chase that does not normally last very long. Strong, biting mouth parts deal with the captured insect. The adult dragonfly likes to eat gnats, mayflies, flies, mosquitoes and other small flying insects. They sometimes eat butterflies, moths and

bees, too. Dragonfly larvae live in freshwater ponds and they are also carnivorous. mayfly - *n.* a short-lived, slender insect with delicate, transparent wings and two or three long filaments on the tail. It lives close to water, where the chiefly herbivorous aquatic larvae develop.

<http://www.ypte.org.uk/animal/minibeasts/30>

frog - *n.* a tailless nocturnal, carnivorous amphibian with a short squat body, moist smooth skin, and very long hind legs for leaping. During the day they sometimes hide underground, huddle under a rotting log, in a rock crevice, in piles of dead leaves, or in some other hiding place, and come out at night to eat or to mate. All prey gets swallowed whole because frogs can't chew. The adult's favorite foods are a variety of insects (especially flies, bugs, mosquitoes, moths, beetles and crickets), slugs, snails and worms; they also eat spiders and small fish. Some larger frogs eat even larger prey: lizards, centipedes, other frogs, reptiles such as baby freshwater turtles, small birds, and even small mammals such as rodents (like mice) and small bats. Frogs do not chase prey; they sit motionless, watch and wait for the prey to come close enough and then jump forward, flicking out their sticky tongue to grab it at an extremely fast speed. Some frogs flick their sticky tongues out to catch fast-moving prey and then reel their tongues with the prey back into their mouths. Others push food into their mouths with their hands. A few species also eat plant matter. moth - *n.* a chiefly nocturnal insect related to the butterflies. It lacks the clubbed antennae of butterflies and typically has a stout body, drab coloration, and wings that fold flat when resting.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frog>

<http://animals.jrank.org/pages/2/Getting-Know-Amphibians.html#ixzz3DUiulIBm>

garter snake - *n.* A garter snake is a small- to medium-sized snake; a long limbless, legless, carnivorous reptile that has no eyelids, external ears, a short tail, jaws that can be extended, and is covered with scales. It is present throughout most of North America. Garter snakes are very active, and can be found day or night, though they're most active during the day. They like to hunt early in the morning when the temperature is warm but not too hot. They have a varied diet and is adaptable to different habitats with varying proximity to water. Their natural habitat is mostly in parks, gardens, meadows and wherever there is pool of water nearby. Other habitats include: forests, woodlands, fields, grasslands, and lawns, often adjacent to a wetland, stream, or pond since amphibians are a large part of their diet. Food is swallowed whole. Its diet consists: amphibians (like salamanders, frogs, frog eggs, toads, tadpoles), insects (such as ants, beetles, grasshoppers, crickets), reptiles (like lizards and other small snakes), small fish (such as minnows), mollusks (like crayfish and snails), slugs, earthworms, leeches, bird eggs, and rodents (such as small mice). When living near water,

they will eat other aquatic animals. They also eat carrion, and often get run over by cars when they try to eat some small dead animal (such as a frog) off a road. slug - *n.* a tough-skinned terrestrial mollusk that typically lacks a shell and secretes a film of mucus for protection. It can be a serious plant pest.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garter_snake

grasshopper - *n.* a plant-eating insect with long hind legs that are used for jumping and for producing a chirping sound. It frequents grassy places and low vegetation. Grasshoppers are found on all continents except Antarctica. They prefer dry open habitats with lots of grass and other low plants with leaves, though some species live in forests or jungles. Grasshoppers are strict herbivores. Their favorite foods are plants in the grass family such as corn, wheat, barley and alfalfa. They aren't picky, however, and can eat many other types of plants.

corn field - *n.* a field planted with corn. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grasshopper>

ladybug - *n.* A ladybug is a small round bright-colored and spotted beetle. It is considered a useful insect because many species feed on aphids, mites, scale insects or others that are pests in gardens, agricultural fields, orchards, and similar places. Within the colonies of such plant-eating pests, they will lay hundreds of eggs, and when these hatch the larvae will commence feeding immediately. aphid - *n.* a minute bug that feeds by sucking sap from plants. It may live in large colonies that cause extensive damage to crops. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coccinellidae>

nectar - *n.* a sugary fluid secreted by plants, especially within flowers to encourage pollination by insects and other animals. It is collected by bees to make into honey.

pollen - *n.* a fine powdery substance, typically yellow, consisting of microscopic grains discharged from the male part of a flower or from a male cone. Each grain contains a male gamete that can fertilize the female ovule, to which pollen is transported by the wind, insects, or other animals.

praying mantis - *n.* a slender predatory insect related to the cockroach. Praying mantises live throughout the world. Most are found in places with warm temperatures. A mantis will often roost in something close to its own body color. The majority of mantises are ambush predators. For long periods, it waits motionless for prey with its large spiky forelegs folded like hands in prayer. Then it lashes out at top speed when a target is within reach and catches the prey, gripping it with its grasping, spiked forelegs. Its primary prey are: insects and other invertebrates, such as other mantises, beetles, butterflies, crickets, grasshoppers,

spiders, and even spiders. But the diet of a mantis changes as it grows larger. Large species of mantis will eat more insects than anything else but will also prey on small scorpions, lizards, small tree frogs, hummingbirds and other nesting birds, snakes, fish, and even rodents (mice). crop plant - *n.* a crop is any cultivated plant, fungus, or alga that is harvested for food, clothing, livestock fodder, biofuel, medicine, or other uses. grain beetle - *n.* a small beetle that infests grain plants, grain stores, and warehouses.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mantis>

spider - *n.* an eight-legged predatory arachnid with an unsegmented body consisting of a fused head and thorax and a rounded abdomen. Most spiders spin webs in order to capture prey. Spiders will only eat living prey (or perhaps very recently killed ones) and are not carrion eaters.

spider, orb - *n.* The garden orb spider's web is designed to catch flying insects, and the most common at night are mosquitoes, moths, and beetles. When a prey gets caught on the sticky strands of the web, the orb-weaver moves like lightning, wrapping it quickly with copious amounts of silk in bandage-like form, before paralyzing it with a poisonous bite. Then it returns on non-sticky threads to the central hub of the web. Like all spiders, garden orb-weavers can only suck up liquid food, so the indigestible solid parts of their insect prey are discarded and dropped to the ground below the web. mosquito - *n.* a slender long-legged fly with aquatic larvae. The bite of the bloodsucking female can transmit a number of serious diseases including malaria and encephalitis.

<http://www.minibeastwildlife.com.au/Garden%20orb-weavers.htm>

<http://www.ypte.org.uk/animal/minibeasts/30>

In The Tall Green Grass Chart.

<u>Animal</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Descriptions - verbs (v.) and adjectives (adj.)</u>	<u>Habitat/ Food</u>
Frog	(amphibian)	still calm (adj.), perched (v.), eyes alert (adj.)	pond/moth
Spider	(arachnid)	fast scitter-scatter (v.), scitter-scatter (v.)	web/mosquito
Ladybug	(insect)	still quiet, silent, bright red (all adj's) lady	garden rose/aphid
Honey Bee	(insect)	fast buzz-buzz-buzzing (v.)	meadow/goldenrod
Caterpillar (woolly bear caterpillar)	(insect larva)	still humpity-hump (v.), humpity-hump (v.)	clover leaf
Garter snake	(reptile)	fast swish, twist, noiseless (all adj's) reptile	forest/slug
Butterfly	(insect)	still resting with wings closed (v.)	meadow/milkweed flower
Grasshopper	(insect)	fast hoppity-hop (v.), hoppity-hop (v.)	corn field/plants
Mantis	(insect)	still waiting, watchful (all adj's)	crop plant/grain beetle
Ant (herding ant)	(insect)	fast scuttle-scuttle (v.), scuttle-scuttle (v.)	underground home/aphid
Dragonfly	(insect)	still shimmering (v.), luminescent (adj.)	pond/mayfly

There is a pattern of movement in the story that alternates from slow to fast.