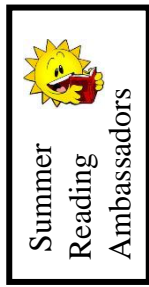
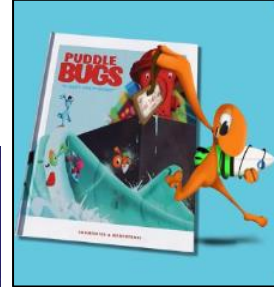




Puddle Bugs: A Leaky Fire Hydrant
by Peter Mercatanti and Tim Sramowicz
Teamwork, Problem Solving, Adventure



Puddle Bugs find their stoke surfing and exploring the world's coolest and most diverse urban cities. They are tiny creatures that live in sidewalk cracks and other small gaps in the road. One advantage of being so small is that a ripple in a puddle, bird bath, or pond could be the next perfect wave!!! In *A Leaky Fire Hydrant*, the crew wake up early to surf before school, only to find the puddle at Leaky Beach has blown away! Zip, Jimmer, Milly, Ollie & friends come up with a plan so they can catch a few wave dreamers before school. Yewww!!!

Before Reading:

- From the book cover, what predictions can you make about the story?
- What do you know about surfing? Have you ever surfed? What do surfers do? Where do surfers surf? How and where do you think tiny bugs could surf?

After Reading:

- What was the problem in the story? How did the characters solve the problem?

EXTENSION IDEAS:

- **Puddle Bugs!** The Puddle Bug characters in the story each have unique character traits. Divide the children into groups and have each choose a different Puddle Bug. Have them make a large drawing of the Puddle Bug and write characteristics, words, and actions that describe the Puddle Bug. Have groups present their character through words and actions.
- **Science of Waves:** Use a water play table, small plastic pool, or water play area for children to experiment with how waves are formed. Show them how to make waves by lifting one side of the container, blowing on the water, or placing a fan near the container. What happens when you put an object that floats on top of the waves? How does it move? Have children build “surfboards” out of folded paper and experiment. For more information, see <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/activity/introduction-to-waves/>
- **Act It Out!** The characters in the book use unique language and actions. Encourage children to create a new adventure with the Puddle Bugs, including props and scenery. Have them perform the play in front of other children and adults.
- **Real Insects Vs. Puddle Bugs:** Provide books and models of real insects and have the children compare and contrast with the Puddle Bugs. Go on a nature hunt outside to see what insects they can discover. Will you find any Puddle Bugs?
- **Teamwork!** The Puddle Bugs used teamwork to help solve the problem in the story. Divide the children into teams have them complete a team building activity or obstacle course that they can only complete by working together.

2019 Broward Summer Reading Ambassadors

For more information, see <https://browardschools.instructure.com/courses/449656>