



A light-hearted tale about how a child catches “a bug.”

In this delightful and amusing story, little Tess doesn't feel well. When her Mom says she has “a bug,” Tess becomes concerned, believing that she may have an actual insect inside her body. Mom goes on to clarify that Tess's type of bug is a “sick bug,” and she gives fun and imaginative descriptions of the creatures, explains how they affect a little one's body, and, most importantly, advises how to get rid of them.

“[Sick bugs are] silly – fuzzy furry and cute. They giggle and wiggle and wear cowboy boots.”

This is a timeless story that will appeal to children and adults alike. The clever rhyming dialogue between a mother and daughter captures a child's wide-eyed innocence and endless imagination, as well as the patience and empathy of a parent comforting a sick one. *The Sick Bug* is a whimsical tale complete with vivid and captivating illustrations that bring the “sick bugs” and their bug world to life. At the same time, it leaves readers with a simple but true message for how to get better. Sure to bring a smile even when under the weather!



About the Author and the Illustrator

After enduring a few too many Minnesota cold and flu seasons as a mother of three, Susie Bazil conceived a story based upon a conversation with her three year old about catching “a bug.” Exploring the precious imagination of a child, Susie created an entertaining tale about the “sick bugs” responsible for the sneezes, sniffles and colds that so often get children down. She is a part-time attorney, part-time chauffeur, and full-time “nurse”; especially between the months of November and February!

Shawn McCann is an award-winning illustrator and fine artist whose work embraces bold use of color, form, and energy. Educated at the Minneapolis College of Art of Design, Shawn studied under some of the leading artists in the fields of illustration and painting. Since then, Shawn's work has been published and exhibited around the country.

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Story Synopsis

Ever wonder what happens when you catch a "bug?" Little Tess does. When she doesn't feel well, her imagination runs wild after her Mom tells her she is sick with "a bug." The fun escalates when Tess and Mom ponder what sick bugs look like, where they come from and, most importantly, when Tess's sick bug will go home.

"The Sick Bug" is a whimsical and rhyming tale that will appeal to children and adults alike. Vivid and captivating illustrations draw readers into the story while bringing the "sick bugs" and their bug world to life. This light-hearted romp entertains while providing a simple and true message for how to get better.

The Sick Bug" is...

Unique
Engaging
Imaginative
Timeless
Contagious Fun

Just in time for kids to go back to school and the start of the cold and flu season comes "The Sick Bug." This delightful story gives young children (specifically ages 3-7) a charming and unique view on catching a "bug." While there are a multitude of children's books about going to the doctor, being sick from an animal's point of view and the science of germs, there is nothing on the market similar to "The Sick Bug" (see "competition" section below.) The silly rhyming tale will engage children with its entertaining text and vibrant illustrations. "The Sick Bug" has the likeability and overall tone of the "No, David" series books and tales from the Dr. Seuss collection. It also creates a story around something every child can relate to - feeling sick. Readers young and old are sure to enjoy little Tess and her imaginative view of the "sick bugs" inside her. It is sure to be a favorite for years to come!

About the Author

After enduring a few too many Minnesota cold and flu seasons as a mother of three, Susie Bazil conceived a story based upon a conversation with her three-year old about catching "a bug." Exploring the boundless imagination of a child, Susie created an entertaining tale about the "sick bugs" that are responsible for the sneezes, sniffles and colds that so often get children down. Susie lives in Orono, Minnesota with her family.

About the Illustrator

Shawn McCann is an award winning illustrator and fine artist whose work embraces bold use of color, form, and energy. Shawn's work has been published and exhibited around the country.

Competition

"Bear Feels Sick" by Karma Wilson; PreSchool-Grade 2. Bear doesn't feel well. He has a cold, and is feeling alone in his cave, snuffling and sneezing. Then all of his friends come to try and help him feel better. Rhyming text and oft-repeated refrain ("Bear feels sick".)

"Germs Are Not For Sharing" by Elizabeth Verdick; Ages 4-7. This book is a short course for kids on what germs are, what they do, and why it's so important to cover them up, block them from spreading, and wash them down the drain.

"Germs Make Me Sick" by Melvin Berger; Kindergarten-Grade 3. This easy-to-read revision of a 1985 title effectively describes the differences between bacteria and viruses and gives other related germ facts. The science is related in simple language and the author uses specific examples that youngsters will readily understand. "Your friend has a cold. She sneezes. Germs fly out. You breathe the air. Some of her germs may get into your lungs."

"Mother Mother I Feel Sick Send for the Doctor Quick Quick Quick" by Remy Charlip; Ages 3-5. When a boy complains of feeling sick, his distressed mother sends for the doctor, who operates on his stomach and extracts one impossible object after another, from a teapot to a bicycle. Book has been reprinted with new backgrounds for its distinctive silhouette illustrations.

"So Sick" Step Into Reading, by Harriet Ziefert. "So Sick" lets children know the consequences of eating too much of something (cookies in this case). It focuses on the actual mechanism of what children should do in order to get better, which will basically be resting and taking their medicine. Three very brief chapters chronicle the eventful day Lewis the lion cub is "sick, so sick" and then gets well.

"The Bug Flu" by David Kirk. Part of the Miss Spider's Sunny Patch Friends series. When Dragon fakes the flu to get out of attending a tea party, Miss Spider teaches him that being sick is nothing to joke about.

Competition

"*The Sick Day*" by Patricia MacLachlan; With a stomachache in her head and a headache in her throat, not to mention a sore toe, Emily is definitely due for a sick day. Her work-at-home dad takes the day off to find her stuffed animals, put her hair in ponytails, search for the thermometer, and serve her broth with a plastic giraffe in it. Somehow, this ends up being a pretty fun day for Emily and her father.

Reviews

"A delightful story with knock-out illustrations. This fun read puts a new and humorous spin on what unites all kids - being home with a "bug." Sure to resonate with kids and their parent caretakers!"

--Marianne Richmond, author and illustrator of "I Love You So..."

"A fun and easy to read book to help young children understand when they become ill with the common cold. Great illustrations will captivate their attention."

-- JoAnne Pastel, Parent and Co-author of Bur Bur and Friends book series

"The common cold takes on a life of its own in this story that is begging to be read again and again. Sure to increase a child's phonemic awareness, this story is an excellent learning tool for school or for home."

--Heidi Leintz-Stagnaro, 1st grade teacher