



The Worm

Elise Gravel

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A hilarious illustrated non-fiction book about the worm, perfect for beginning readers. The humorous text and funny illustrations will give it trade appeal, while the non-fiction content is perfect for the institutional market.

The second in a series of humorous books about disgusting creatures, *The Worm* is a look at the earthworm. It covers such topics as the worm's habitats (sometimes they live inside other animals), its anatomy (its muscle tube is slimy and gross), and its illustrious history (worms have been on earth for 120 million years). Although silly and off-the-wall, *The Worm* contains real information that will tie in with curriculum.

The Worm Details

Date : Published March 11th 2014 by Tundra Books (first published January 1st 2012)

ISBN : 9781770496330

Author : Elise Gravel

Format : Hardcover 32 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, Childrens, Picture Books, Science, Animals, Humor

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From Reader Review The Worm for online ebook

Rosemary says

My second graders loved this book. They thought it was very funny but they also learned interesting facts.

Tasha says

The first and second books in the new Disgusting Critters series of nonfiction picture books, these books take a humorous look at the biology of a specific creature. The first book deals with flies, specifically the common house fly. Inside are all sorts of interesting facts like the fly being covered in hair and information on eggs and maggots. More disgusting aspects are played up, which should appeal to young children, like the diet of flies and how germ filled they are and why. The second book is about worms and focuses on their unique anatomy, such as having no eyes and no limbs. There is also a focus on habitat, diet and reproduction. Throughout both books, humorous asides are offered, making this one of the most playful informational book series around.

Gravel combines both humor and facts in her book. She keeps the two clearly defined, with the animals themselves making comments that add the funniness to the books. The facts are presented in large fonts and the design of the book makes the facts clear and well defined. These books are designed for maximum child appeal and will work well in curriculums or just picked up by a browser in the library.

The art in the books, as you can see by the covers, is cartoonish and cute. The entire effect is a merry romp alongside these intriguing animals. I know some people believe that books about science for children should be purely factual, but Gravel's titles show how well humor and touch of anthropomorphism can work with informational titles.

Information served with plenty of laughs, these science titles will be appreciated by children and teachers. Appropriate for ages 5-8.

Ashley says

Elise Gravel's The Worm was published March 11, 2014, and is the second book in a "disgusting creatures" series. Aimed at readers ages 6-9, this hardcover non-fiction book is filled not only with fun facts about worms, but the adorable illustrations give it a witty and humorous feel that kids will thoroughly enjoy.

The Worm very much reminds me of the style, humour — and sass! — of Mo Willems' The Pigeon books. As the narrator tells kids about the different kinds of worms and where they live, the worms add their own comments, or exaggerate the narrator's point. For example, the narrator is at one point describing earthworms and says, "It's that muscle tube that's slimy and disgusting." And the worm looks offended as he replies: "Hey! I AM NOT DISGUSTING!" Of course you are, worm, but you're also cool!

Elise Gravel's accessible language, charming illustrations, and witty worms will get kids interested in

animals they wouldn't necessarily want to read about. But there's something wonderful about the ridiculousness of a cute little worm whistling as he drives a dump truck or telling readers to feel his muscles (because earthworms move by squeezing their muscles!). You get to laugh with and at worms, but also take something away from the story, and therein lies the value of this series.

The Worm will make a great addition to classrooms, libraries, and personal bookshelves, and will interest fans of Mo Willems, who enjoy an engaging book that they can enjoy again and again.

4 Stars

Miss Ryoko says

Fun and informative

Lori says

Fun nonfiction with amusing illustrations that accompany the factual text.

Andrea Blythe says

Elise Gravel presents an adorable look at the worm, a creature generally considered to be disgusting. It presents a collection of interesting facts about worms, along with a bit of humor to make it fun. The artwork has a nice combination of bright colors and matte tones and the hand lettered fonts make the book visually appealing.

I also love that the pages are nice and thick. Most kid-book paper is surprisingly thin, just making it all that much easier for kids to tear. Not that my niece won't be able to rip through this one, but I'm hoping she'll have a bit more of a challenge of a while.

As soon as I showed her the book, my niece was very excited about it (though to be honest, she seems to be excited about all books these days) and she immediately began flipping through the pages. She didn't seem to be all that interested when I read it to her. Maybe this was because there wasn't a story, more a listing of facts. Though it may also have been because of other distractions in the room.

Elise Gravel also has two other books in the "Disgusting Critters" series, *The Fly* and *The Slug*, both of which I'm considering buying, so that my niece will have a complete collection.

Note: This was an ARC from LibraryThing's Early Reviewers giveaway.

Laura says

The Worm is another fun installment in the Disgusting Critters series by Elise Gravel. This time out we visit and wiggle with worms.

I really like the humor in this series. It keeps readers flipping the pages and smiling. One of my favorite parts in this book was when we meet the Tapeworm. The first thing out of his mouth is –“I’m not actually sticky!” :D

BUT the parasite page gave me the willies, so I can only imagine what will go through kids’ heads when they read it. Be prepared for questions—especially if you’re a dog owning family. The picture of worms living inside the dog might cause some worry and wonder with kids. Very gross!

A fun way to learn and meet worms though.

Pick it up from your local Library.

Amy says

My 7 year old found this interesting. It's cute and gives fun facts.

Arminzerella says

Meet the worm. Elise Gravel, author and illustrator of the Disgusting Critters series books has made the humble (and occasionally disgusting) worm both accessible and interesting to young readers – the ones who are especially delighted by anything gross. And, although the series name implies differently, Gravel takes pains to point out – in the words of the Earthworm – that they are not disgusting at all. In fact, they’re useful and fascinating (and sometimes even delicious!). Great series.

Excerpt from the blurb on the back cover:

“Elise Gravel has always been fascinated by disgusting little creatures. At three-and-a-half, she founded the Organization for the Defense of Disgusting Critters, of which she was both president and the only member. Nowadays, when she’s not busy petting a worm or a fly, she writes and illustrates strange children’s books.”

Trent Gillespie says

Very funny kids book for beginning readers that is educational too. Who'd thought worms would be so funny. My youngest loves the book.

Miss Kelly says

A great NF picture book, but if worms don't have eyes, why do the drawings?

Tracy Poff says

This review also appears on my blog.

Slimy, pink, often seen with dirt or fishing hooks. What is it? The worm, of course! But how well do you really know them? Did you know that some worms can be as much as 115 feet long? Or that worms evolved with the dinosaurs? You'll learn that and more in Elise Gravel's book, *The Worm*.

Gravel's *The Worm* introduces children to the titular invertebrate with a series of interesting facts, accompanied by simple, charming artwork.

Each two-page spread presents a fact about worms, along with artwork demonstrating--or commenting on--the text. For example, the description of how a worm moves ("Earthworms move by squeezing their muscles, causing their bodies to contract and expand.") is accompanied by a helpful illustration; when the text is less kind to the worm ("An earthworm is basically a long digestive tract inside a muscle tube. It's that muscle tube that's slimy and disgusting."), the worm doesn't take it lying down, so to speak ("Hey! I am **not** disgusting!").

I enjoyed reading this book. The highlight is certainly the illustrations, but the book's educational content is interesting too, including some facts that even adults may not be familiar with ("many kinds of worms are hermaphrodites, which means they have both male and female reproductive organs").

The Worm, a translation from the French (original title: *Le ver*), is part of Gravel's *Disgusting Creatures* series, the other entry in which is *The Fly*, to be published simultaneously. It's recommended for ages 6-9.

The Worm is on sale March 11, 2014.

Disclosure: this review is based on an advance copy received free for review.

Beth says

Cute, funny, and informative!

pati says

If you want a mixture of fact and fun for your little scientist this is the series (*Disgusting Critters*) for you!

I like the idea of this book, however, there are some places in the book where text and illustrations are contradictory (just plain confusing) - true - worms don't have appendages but then why is the worm flexing his/her arm muscles on the page where worm muscles are explained?

Then on the page where worm habitats are described, the illustration shows two earthworms inside a dog and the sentence on the next page is *These worms are called parasites*. It is fairly unclear to me why this sentence is on this page when it should be on the page where tapeworms are drawn.

It's fine to present factual material in a fun way; however, it needs to be done clearly and responsibly!

Elizabeth Miller says

Samantha has just gotten roller skates, she is eager to try them out. So without her mothers permission she puts them on and goes on a downhill adventure. Good book for teaching about motion, wheels, axles, friction, and balance.

Kids might want to read this not to learn--- but for fun!
