

A LESSON FOR THE BIG BUGS

Divide the group into **five smaller groups** and assign each group one of the words listed below. Read the story. After each of the words is read pause for the group to make the appropriate response.

- BEEES** "Buzz, Buzz"
FROG "Croak, Croak"
ANTS "Hup, 2, 3, 4"
WOODS (All sounds together)
MOSQUITOES Bite, Bite

This is a story about Billy and his family and their adventures in the **WOODS** __. One fine spring day, Billy's family decided it was a good day for a picnic in the **WOODS** __ where they could enjoy nature. They packed a nice lunch and left on their outing. As soon as they arrived at their destination, they picked out a nice spot to spread their picnic. Billy and his brother ran off to chase a **FROG** __. They heard some **BEEES** __ gathering nectar, and watched some **ANTS** __ busy at work. They even awaited some **MOSQUITOES** __ and felt right at home with their nature friends.

When they got back to the picnic area, they began telling the rest of the family about the **WOODS** __; the **BEEES** __; the **ANTS** __; the **FROGS** __ and even the **MOSQUITOES** __. Dad listened intently as he opened another sandwich and carelessly threw the wrapper on the ground. Their sister threw her soda can under a bush, and ran off to chase a **FROG** __ that hopped by. Mom threw her napkin on the ground and jumped up in disgust. "That does it!" she said. "The **ANTS** __ seem to have taken over our lunch!"

Dad stretched out for a nap and had just about dozed off when he heard sister scream. She had been stung by a **BEE** __. Mom took care of her, so Dad tried again to sleep. But this time the pesky **MOSQUITOES** __ would not leave him alone. Finally he announced they were all going home.

Billy said, "Why do we have to leave now?" Dad replied, "Well, Billy, it seems we aren't wanted by the **WOODS** __. We sure haven't been treated very well. The **MOSQUITOES** __ are eating me alive; the **ANTS** __ took over our lunch; and the **BEE** __ stung your sister." Billy said, "It seems to me that the **WOODS** __ and the **MOSQUITOES** __ and the **ANTS** __ and the **BEEES** __ are trying to tell us something." "What's that?" asked Dad. "Well," said Billy, "just look around here and you will see that we haven't been very nice visitors in the **WOODS** __. Look at all the trash we've thrown around. It seems that we're the worst bugs of all -- litterbugs."

So the family started to clean up the mess and afterwards they all felt better. They took a nice walk through the **WOODS** __ listening to the sounds. They actually enjoyed the buzzing of the **BEEES** __; the croaking of the **FROGS** __ and they even watched an army of **ANTS** __ at work. When they returned home they were tired, but happy that they had learned an important lesson that day. The worst kind of bug is a litter bug!

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6/8/2006

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