

Grade 1 Cast of Characters

The cast is made up entirely of bugs and other creatures such as worms, caterpillars and so on. Some of the spoken lines are attributed to simply a numbered bug indicating that it would not matter what kind of bug delivers it. Other lines may have a more specific critter in mind because of some work or phrase that reflects the identity of the player. Here are some possibilities, along with some costume suggestions that may help you.

Honeybee: Yellow padded costume, black leotard on the legs; perhaps a black stripe around the middle and some little wings fasten on the back; antennas on the head, maybe carrying an oversized, labeled jar of honey.

Bug MC: Any style of bug with perhaps its own microphone.

Yellow Jacket: Another bee (bigger than the honey bee) wearing a yellow jacket of course.

Gypsy Moth: Chiffon-like pajamas, antenna, spangles and perhaps a broom pony to ride.

Horsefly: Could add cowboy-like props with perhaps a broom pony to ride.

Monarch Butterfly: Orange wings and maybe a tiara.

Maggot: Yellowish, white gauze wrapping, or just a very dirty child with dirt on his face and so on.

Dragonfly: A dragon-like tail, bigger wings in the unique style of a dragonfly.

Boll Weevil: Covered with lots of cotton balls, carrying a stick full of cotton candy.

Flipping Beetle: Should be able to do a somersault or flip.

Stink Bug: Another dirty little beetle-like bug; maybe garlic and smelly socks and tennis shoes hung around his neck, from his belt, etc.

Lady Bugs: Red shirts covered with black dots, black leotards and white gloves to show how lady-like you are, or round tag board bodies with black dots.

Grub Worm: Maybe carrying a small shovel, also wrapped in material.

Fireflies: Mostly dressed in black, carrying flashlights, or maybe flashlights fastened to their backsides.

Army Ants: Dressed in Military fatigues, Army helmets, etc.

Caterpillars that change into Butterflies: This may be the most challenging costume as they have to change right in front of the audience from caterpillars to butterflies. Perhaps giving them beautiful wings that are fastened underneath their arms and to the middle of their backs so when they raise their arms they have wings. They you could wrap them completely, with their arms at their sides in white gauze or cheese cloth. When the time comes for the change, others in the cast could help unwrap them in front of everyone until they are able to free their arms and raise their “wings.”

Praying Mantis: Could incorporate some sort of clerical wardrobe with this bug.

**Other miscellaneous bugs, might include:

A swarm of bugs: With kazoos to make a buzzing sound.

Houseflies: Wearing curlers in hair and apron, bedroom slippers and huge sunglasses.

Blow Fly: Blowing on a trumpet or a balloon.

Fruit Fly: With fruit on head and tropical attire like Carmen Miranda.

Venus Fly Trap: A plant that eats bugs.

Lovebugs: (*Careful on this one.*) Two bugs that hold hands the entire show, with hearts all over their costumes.

Cockroaches: With sombreros.

Spiders: With 8 long legs fastened to the middle of the back and spreading out in all directions.

Your cast will probably have many, many more outrageous ideas. Let them have input. My thanks to my friend and a wonderful teacher, Janet Edewaard from Florida for her extremely clever suggestions on costumes and more. They must have a lot of bugs down there!

THE SET

The set does not have to be too elaborate. You may decide to make a big sign that says **bugz** are hang it over center stage as focal point.

Oversized picnic items would be a lot of fun. If you could, you might have flats painted with the giant bottom halves of a thermos, or soda bottle, a picnic basket or other picnic items.

Maybe some big spider webs or bee hives could be hung as decorations too.

Another idea would be to have enormous clumps of grass and flowers that the **bugz** are living in.

THE PLOT

All of the bugs have heard about a picnic to which they just assume they have been invited. They are all busy getting ready for the event. The Lady Bugs are in charge of proper etiquette. The Army Ants are in charge of security. The Fireflies are there to light the way. The Praying Mantis is in charge of saying grace or is in charge of the weather. Bumblebees provide the entertainment. Everyone is trying to figure out how to tell the Stink Bug that he is not really welcome because he will spoil the tasty event. He is feeling very bad. Butterflies sing an encouraging song to the Stink Bug who is feeling terrible, about how things change. The Stink Bug, with the help of his friends, gives everyone a flower to hold under their noses so that it covers the smell. Then all can go to the picnic.