



Hank's Big Day: The Story of a Bug

Evan Kuhlman , Chuck Groenink (Illustrations)

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Perfect for reading aloud, this spare, charming picture book about a day in the life of a pill bug in suburbia is also about an unusual friendship.

Hank is a pill bug with a busy life—for a pill bug, that is. His daily routine involves nibbling a dead leaf, climbing up a long stick, avoiding a skateboarder, and playing pretend with his best friend, a human girl named Amelia, in her backyard. And when day is done, Hank likes nothing better than returning home to his cozy rock.

Hank's Big Day: The Story of a Bug Details

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Author : Evan Kuhlman , Chuck Groenink (Illustrations)

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From Reader Review Hank's Big Day: The Story of a Bug for online ebook

Dani - Perspective of a Writer says

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Hank is a pill bug who during his daily routine meets a human girl named Amelia, in her backyard.

To be honest this cover totally confused me. Due to the title I saw a little boy named Hank. When we got to the little girl I realized my mistake!! The braids are hard to see if you don't expect them. My nephew is constantly on the lookout for books with "brown people" as he calls them. He is part Caribbean, white and asian but totally identifies with the Caribbean. So I am always anxious to find at least one African American character on our library runs. I was thrilled to find this one, even about a girl named Amelia (and not a boy named Hank)!!

We adored this book! The drawings were marvelous fun and the size of the book was really great, a little larger than normal and it made the spreads perfect for my nephews larger drawing pad. lol. He picked Amelia and Hank staring into each other's eyes!! It was my favorite too. The message was really great about friendship and having a routine.

BOTTOM LINE: African American (Caribbean-ish) character is a plus!

You can find this review and many others on my book blog @ Perspective of a Writer. See my picture book reviews in a special feature called Boo's Picture Gallery...

Laura Harrison says

Really cute. Fantastic illustrations.

Colleen says

Lovely illustrations.

Barbara says

Handsome digital illustrations displayed in various shapes, sizes, and positions highlight the unlikely story of a pill bug named Hank. As he sallies forth from under a rock, he encounters some intimidating insects and has some narrow escapes as well as moving slowly through the yard. All that effort is rewarded when he finally reaches his best friend, a girl who fashions herself after the great aviator, Amelia Earhart, and takes Hank along her trans-Atlantic flight. After their day spent playing and having grand adventures, Hank heads

back home, taking the same path he followed to reach his friend. The story itself is unusual even while reminding readers that friendship comes in many different forms. I also like the end papers that show Hank peeking out at the gigantic world that surrounds him. The book is a palpable example of perspective since the world in which Hank lives is quite intimidating, and yet, he risks it all to get to his friend. I liked the fact that at first Hank seems to be going nowhere in particular, but it might just be possible or even likely that this is how he spends each day.

Destinee Sutton says

Hank is a pill bug. Amelia is a girl who idolizes Amelia Earhart. They are best friends.

This is a sweet story about a day in the life of a cute bug. It's only a "big" day in the sense that it was full and tiring and fun.

I liked it a lot. Very charming.

Jared White says

I almost gave this book five stars, because the story is really cute and has great, fun pictures...but I'm not sure if I like it enough to actually buy a copy of my own (this one's from the library). I do think it's worth sharing, though. When I showed it to my niece, she wanted to read it to me.

I can see how some little naturalists may fall in love with it, and I'd be willing to buy a copy for them.

I think this one is best shared with a child sitting on your lap or two on either side, because the pictures have too much to try to notice to share it with a group.

Erica says

One summer, when I was 4 or 5, I found a little black ant crawling around the kitchen. For reasons I don't remember now, I decided I loved her and that we were best friends. I named her Cindy (my favorite name at the time) and took her back outside so she wouldn't be squished in the house. We played together all day and I returned her to her anthill that evening. First thing next morning, I was on my stomach in front of the anthill, calling for her. She came running out, all excited to have another fun day with me. This continued on for a solid week, maybe two.

In retrospect, I feel sad for the poor scout ant I plucked from its duty and then returned to some random anthill where it was probably killed and eaten. I also feel sorry for every ant I kidnapped from that anthill each morning and inadvertently tortured as we "played" together all day. I was a terrible child.

And yet, this story is the exact same story only with a much better outcome, the outcome I believed was happening when I played with my best friend, Cindy.

Hank the roly poly gets up every day, eats a bit of dead leaf, walks by a bunch of insects, does some exercise, and then crosses the sidewalk to meet up with his best friend, a human girl whose hero is Amelia

Earhart. Hank and his friend have lovely adventures until the day ends and Hank has to cross back over the sidewalk, do some exercise, walk by a bunch of insects, eat a bit of dead leaf, and go to bed so he can do it all again the next day.

This story is adorable. Hank is the cutest pill bug ever and you'll note from the cover that his best friend is not a little white kid. See, publishing world? Was that so hard? NO. It wasn't.

Best of all, though, is I can relate to this solid bug/girl friendship and it makes me feel warm and crawly inside.

Erin says

Had a great time reading this to my kids, especially to the beginning reader who noticed I was skipping the textual asides and started reading them himself. Probably better for one-on-one reading or an older storytime; just right for exploring friendships and bugs.

Might inspire a reader to go find their own Hank and explore the world outside.

Sassy says

Weird, but the illustrations were cool.

update 9/29

Now that I've read it aloud to a child, it is less weird and much more adorable. Fun to read aloud.

Weird meant "I felt sad for a little girl whose friend is a bug." Just like Michael and Ben. Yeesh. Makes my heart hurt, but I also get the wonder of the illustrations and the perspective of a bug being able to see the world differently via a cross species friendship. Plus the little girl gets a cool co-pilot.

Read it how you want. Keep it fun.

Amalia says

Awards: n/a

Appropriate grade level(s): k-2nd

Summary: Hank is a little pill bug who explores the big dangerous world. Hank is friends with a little human girl named Amelia and together they use their imaginations to play games and explore the world around them. After they are done playing, Hanks loves to go back to his cozy little home under a rock.

Review: I think this is an adorable book for early readers. I think this book is special in that it really shows young readers the importance of using your imagination. It may inspire emergent readers and writers to think

more outside the box in their thinking. The pictures are simple and go along well with the story.

In-class uses:

- What does a bug do?
- What is imagination?
- Friendship

Angela says

Any book about a roly poly is a win in our house! We loved the illustrations and easy to read story.

Jason says

This is the first picture book I've read that's a story of a friendship between a human and a pill bug and is worth noting for that distinction alone. It's not bad, which makes it the best pill bug human friendship picture book I've ever read!

Read Ribbet says

Minimal words with extra captions, Hank's Big Day tells the tale of a pill bug going through his day. Some good adjective samples to point out in captions. Certainly a book to talk about different perspectives metaphorically. Hank has a human friend that takes him on some additional journeys. The book has as symmetrical structure as Hank repeats his journey in reverse order as he heads home. The book may have been stronger if it was more factually base, but it has some literary elements that could position it as a mentor text. It does have the multi-levels of the narrative text and the captions which could make it a good book for two readers at different levels to read together. Generally it is a good book for early readers though the text density picks up when Hank's human friend appears.

Susan says

This is my new favorite story time book. I have to plan a bug storytime ASAP just so I can use it! OH my goodness. love it.

Tracey says

diverse picture book (Hank the bug goes on a journey, spends half the book with a new friend)
Love the cover and illustrations, doesn't work as well for dial a story though (the pictures really help tell the story).

