



ROBERTO THE INSECT ARCHITECT

AUTHOR: NINA LADEN

ILLUSTRATOR: NINA LADEN

See a video of the book read aloud here: [Roberto, the Insect Architect](#)

**** REMEMBER: HAVE FUN AND THE KIDS WILL TOO! ****

OVERVIEW

ABOUT THE BOOK

Ever since he was a wee mite (termite, that is), Roberto has wanted to be an architect. Discouraged by his wood-eating family and friends, he decides to follow his dream to the big, bug city. There he meets a slew of not-so-creepy, crawly characters that spark in him the courage to build a community for them all.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Nina Laden is the author and illustrator of many books for children, including *Peek-a Who?* one of Scholastic Parent & Child Magazine's 100 Greatest Books for Kids. She lives in Seattle and Lummi Island, Washington. She was born January 12, 1962 (age 55), New York City, NY and is a graduate of Syracuse University. (amazon.com)

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

(see above)

THE READ ALOUD

BEFORE READING

Use these before reading the story to help students activate background knowledge and make predictions:

- What is the insect on the cover doing?
- Do you remember what an architect does?
- Why do you think there is a hard hat hanging on his lamp?
- Introduce author/illustrator.
- Explain what termites do to wood and ask if children have seen fumigation tents.

DURING THE STORY

Use these while reading the story to help students interpret the action and content.

- (p. 1- 2) I notice the author/ illustrator uses a lot of wood in the pictures. Do you have any idea why?
- (p. 3) I notice the animals are all eating wood. What is meant by "Hungry to start a new life?"

ROBERTO THE INSECT ARCHITECT

TOPICS & THEMES:

- Follow your dreams
- Determination

Tips for every book!

POWER PHRASES:

I WONDER...

I NOTICE...

TELL ME MORE...

DIGGING DEEPER:

"Tell me more, why do you think that?"

"How do you know that?"

"Why do you think they feel like that?"

"Interesting, did you notice anything else?"

- (p. 5) Nina Laden was very clever when she said, “ Build your dreams” Do you have any idea why?
- (p .9-10) Why didn’t the architectural firms want to hire Roberto?
- (p. 17-18) Why do you think that Roberto found the perfect place to build his neighborhood?
- (p. 21-22) What had Roberto accomplished?
- (p. 27) Do you notice how the author used alliteration (when two or more words start with the same sound)? How did this make the writing more interesting?

AFTER READING

Use these after reading the story to help students understand what they just read.

- What was your favorite part of this story? Why?

BRINGING THE BOOK TO LIFE!

- Have you ever stopped doing something you wanted because your friends said it was silly?
- What do you want to do when you grow up?
- Can you name a hero, not a super hero, who has done something special?

COOPERATIVE LEARNING

- Think of a job another insect or animal might have. For example, a bed bug might make mattresses or a horse could run a transportation service. Turn to a neighbor and discuss your ideas. Let’s share some of them with the class.

SMALL-GROUP IDEAS

1. DISCUSSION ACTIVITY

- Did Roberto achieve his dream?
- Why do you think Nina Laden chose an architect as the main character?
- Let us look at some of the illustrations again. Notice the materials Nina Laden used and all the details in each picture.
- I don’t think you want to be a termite, but you might want to be like Roberto. Why?
- How is this story similar to or different from Iggy Peck, Architect?

Suggested Optional Activity:

- Notice that the insects and buildings on the end papers are symmetrical. If you folded them in half, each side would be identical. Take a piece of paper and fold it in half. Draw one half of an insect or a building with the middle on the folded line. Draw in all the details of your half insect or building. Cut around the outside edge of your insect or building (DO NOT CUT ON CENTER LINE!) Fill in the details. (reader: you can demonstrate by cutting out a heart using this technique)

2. WRITING ACTIVITY

- Write a Help Wanted classified ad looking for an architect, listing the abilities needed to do the job?

3. EXTENSION ACTIVITY

- Draw a building unlike any you have ever seen. The only things you must include are at least one door and 3 windows. Once you have finished drawing and coloring your building, write two paragraphs about it -tell its use, the creative things one might find in it and where it is located. You might want to name it.

COMMON CORE LINKS

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL 3.1,3.2,3.3,3.4,3.6,3.7