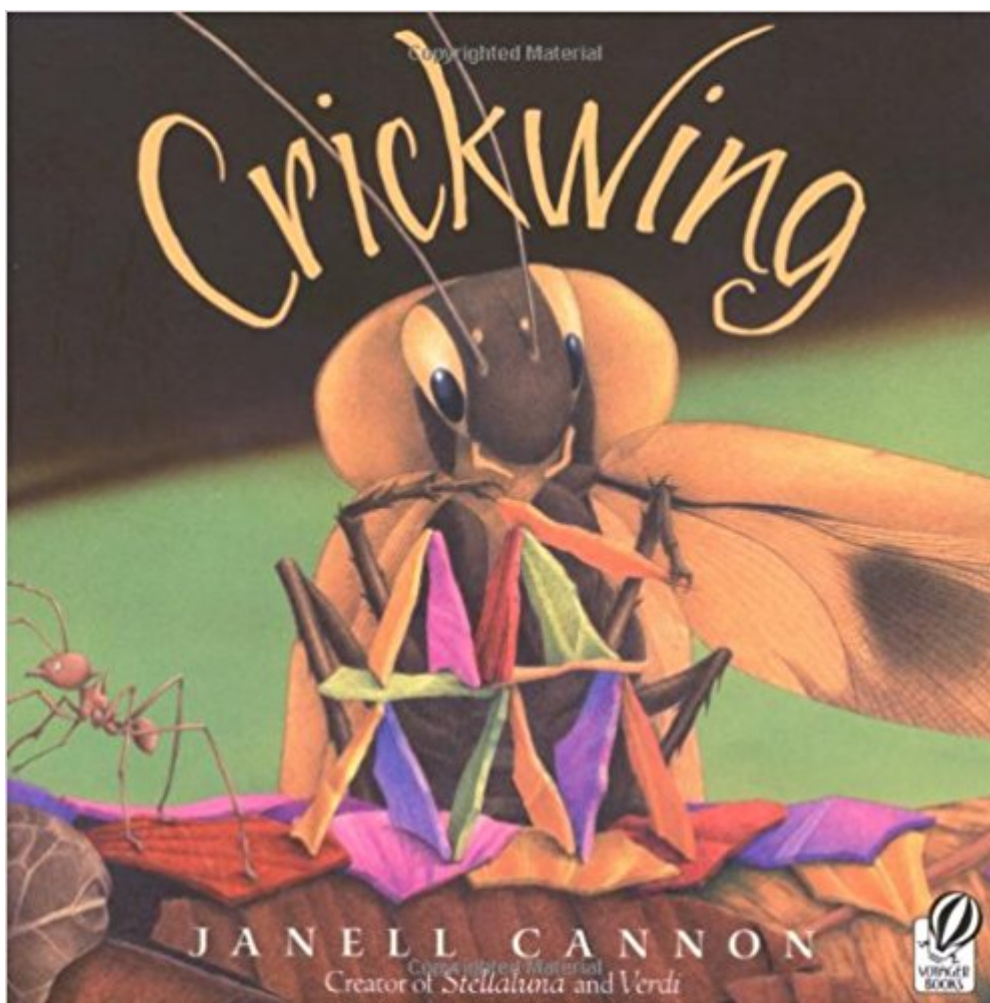


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# Crickwing



## Synopsis

Crickwing never set out to be a bully. All he wants is to create his art in peace. But it's not easy being different--a cockroach with a cricked wing and a flair for sculpture is a ready target for the bigger creatures in the forest. Crickwing just wants to even the score, and leafcutter ants are so easy to pick on. . . .Big mistake. Nobody angers the leafcutter queen and gets away with it. In this epic adventure beneath the foliage, Crickwing and the leafcutter ants go head-to-head. Then a swarm of ferocious army ants threatens, and suddenly everyone is in danger. Crickwing has to do something, but what? He's an artist, not a fighter. What the leafcutters need is a hero. Or, maybe, a cockroach with a really clever idea. . . .

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 800 (What's this?)

Paperback: 48 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; 1 edition (May 1, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0152050612

ISBN-13: 978-0152050610

Product Dimensions: 10 x 0.2 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 30 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #18,973 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #44 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Bugs & Spiders #79 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Social Skills #503 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

Janell Cannon, best-known for her award-winning picture books *Stellaluna* and *Verdi*, departs from the world of bats and snakes and turns her attention to... cockroaches. None of these are particularly cuddly creatures, but seen through Cannon's anthropomorphizing glasses, they are ones we can sympathize with. Crickwing, cruelly named for his twisted wing, is a lonely food stylist. He builds sculptures out of roots, leaves, and petals... and then eats them. But artistic serenity is not possible in the dangerous forest. The melancholy insect is constantly faced with cockroach-eating

lizards, ocelots, and worse, food-stealing monkeys: "Another masterpiece--ruined!" Crickwing panted. "I'm starving and my wing aches. I don't know if I can take this much longer." Bemoaning his fate as a "mere exoskeleton," Crickwing wakes up with thoughts of vengeance. As he watches thousands of leaf-cutting ants busy at work, he wonders, "Why isn't anyone bothering these little twerps?" He sticks his spiny leg out to trip one of them, and delights in taunting them further. Of course, the ants don't take this well. They swarm him, drag him into the dark corridors of their anthill, and bury him up to his neck--all the while whispering about how his mother must be heartbroken to have produced such an awful menace. Just as they are about to fork him over as their annual peace offering to the army ants, they have a crisis of conscience. "Nobody deserves that, not even this big bully," says one of the ants, and, risking the wrath of their queen, they release him and flee. Now it's Crickwing's turn to have a conscience. He races after the leafcutters with his creative plan to keep the warring army ants at bay. The story ends in a festive explosion of flower confetti, and a valuable lesson in compassion. The concluding "Cockroach Notes" and "Ant Notes" crawl with fascinating facts about our six-legged friends. (Ages 5 to 8) --Karin Snelson --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Tired of being bullied, an artistic cockroach with a crooked wing and a penchant for culinary sculpture ("I just like to play with my food") begins picking on creatures even smaller than himself. A leafcutter ant is taken prisoner by the colony. Crickwing is sentenced to be served up as a peace offering to the army ants, but a few brave rebels have a change of heart and set him free. The grateful (and penitent) cockroach repays their kindness and saves the colony by scaring off the army ants with his best sculpture ever: a giant green anteater made of leaves. The tale ends with Crickwing joining the leafcutters as their chef; the celebration that follows includes flower confetti and dancing (the "six-step," naturally). Cannon (Verdi) works her picture book magic once again, producing an amusing tale lightly rooted in natural history (notes on cockroaches and ants follow the story). Reeling in her audience with saucy characters and an engaging plotline, she hooks them with her vibrant visuals. Whether depicting Crickwing creating an edible mouse from a root, leaves and berries, an ocelot peering at him as he hides under a stone or a herd of leafcutter ants falling into one of his traps, Cannon's illustrations skillfully blur the line between fact and fancy, and add another feather to her well-decorated cap. Ages 6-9. (Sept.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

My 5-year-old loves all of Janell Cannon's books and Crickwing might be his favorite. He also really

enjoys the learning info at the end as he loves science. This one is a winner!

I am obsessed with all of Janell Cannon's books. Her stories are adorable, the characters just touch your heart. Stلالuna and Verdi were my favorites as a kid and I am excited to buy her books for my son. Crickwing is just another beautiful little story by Cannon.

Book was delivered earlier than expected. The story is quite appropriate for a variety of age groups. The pictures are engaging and there is opportunity for discussion with children or students. Thank you

Book was as described, received on time.

Great story for discussions about bullies and how they can learn to have a change of heart.

This book is wonderful! I enjoyed reading it just as much as my 9yr old daughter. Beautifully written, bright colors, gorgeous illustrations.

Important life lessons about how a person with mobility challenges or other physical challenges might feel marginalized and try to find a special niche in life. Crickwing uses his crafting abilities to save the day. A lovely, deep story about an ancient insect. Perhaps a little too mature for 6 year olds, but they love the story and beautiful illustrations. I expect the "lessons" to sink in over many readings. Janell Cannon is truly gifted.

Live this author and illustrator!! Great values learned for kids.

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Crickwing

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