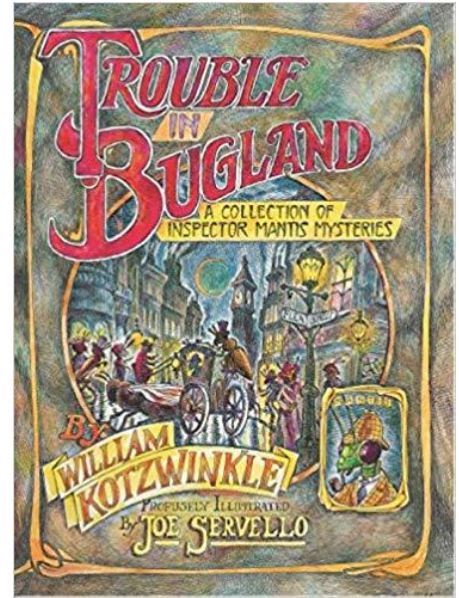


## Book Discussion Guide Assignment

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### 1. Introduction

*Trouble in Bugland; A collection of Inspector Mantis Mysteries*  
Mysteries by William Kotzwinkle and illustrated by Joe Servello. Published by David R. Godine in 1983. This is the first in a 2 part series, followed by Double Trouble in Bugland published in 2016.



### 2. Summary

This book contains five short stories of mystery and crime. You will follow Inspector Mantis and Doctor Hopper as they unravel the complex and fascinating thrillers that plague Bugland.

The Case of the Missing Butterfly: They uncover the whereabouts of the town's missing butterflies. One butterfly in particular is of special interest to Doctor Hopper, the bareback performing butterfly Miss Juliana.

The Case of the Frightened Scholar: A booklouse has ingested a book he now regrets. Inspector Mantis and Doctor Hopper help uncover the secrets hidden in the book that are threatening the poor old Booklouse.

The Case of the Caterpillar's Head: Rodney Damsselfly has traveled the world and had never seen anything as beautiful as a one hundred million year old caterpillar's head set in amber. He was set to help Charlie Fungus-beetle find an appropriate buyer when Charlie's house was ransacked and the head went missing. Only Inspector Mantis and

Doctor Hopper can help Rodney save Charlie and the beautiful antique.

The Case of the Headless Monster: A terrifying monster is haunting the neighborhood of Fungus Four Corners in Bugland. A springtail has come to get the help of the Inspector and his sidekick to determine what is crawling its way through their tiny community and why.

The Case of the Emperor's Crown: The Emperor Moth's crown has been stolen and the team expands solving this ever challenging mystery. The crown was on display at various locations around Bugland and when it was to be loaded on its very last stop, it vanished.

### **3. Discussion Questions**

1. At the end of the first story, Doctor Hopper is starting to succumb to the tarantula venom. Is it true that you can dance a tarantula's poison out of your veins? How does this make you feel about tarantulas?
2. Doctor Hopper very obviously has a crush on Miss Juliana. Who do you think Miss Juliana is marrying at the end of the first story? Why did they include this information at the end of the story?
3. In the second story, there seems to be a guard dog present. They list this character as a dogfly, do you think that's an accurate portrayal of dogs or pets you have in your home? Is there a better insect you might have chosen?
4. You can tell Doctor Hopper has a love for popcorn. What insect is Doctor Hopper? What other types of foods might Doctor Hopper be fond of?
5. Look at all the beautiful color drawings in this story, what do you notice about these drawings? Do you see anything odd or factually misleading?

6. How did Inspector Mantis determine termites were involved with the disappearance of the caterpillar head and Charlie Fungus-beetle? What are termites known for?
7. The springtail describes the creature while on the train with Dr. Hopper and Inspector Mantis, how does he first describe it? How does that change when he is asked to anatomically describe it? How are these traits different than human traits?
8. The soldier fly is indeed living without its head. How did this happen? Are there other things insects can do that are unusual?
9. What do the whirligigs teach Inspector Mantis? How can you apply that to your everyday life? What kind of things do you overlook?
10. What identifying feature gave away the imposter bees? What about the wasps? The moth? What was the real identity of those responsible for stealing the crown?