

Danny the Dung Beetle

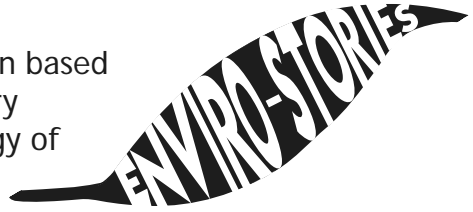


Author: Zoe Smoulders
School: Narrabri Public School



Enviro-Stories Competition

Enviro-Stories is a competition based education program for Primary Schools based on the pedagogy of Kids Teaching Kids. Students where given the opportunity to learn about their local environment, write a story about it, then get their story published. These stories provide an educational experience that creates readers, written about local issues, by local kids, for local kids.



In 2009, the Cotton Catchment Communities CRC, in conjunction with the Central West Catchment Management Authority, has provided local kids with the opportunity to join in on this exciting and innovative competition.

Cotton Catchment Communities CRC

The Cotton Catchment Communities CRC is an industry partnership leading research, education and commercialisation in the Australian cotton industry. The Cotton CRC aims to provide innovative knowledge to stimulate economic, social and environmental outcomes at farm, regional and national levels.

Central West Catchment Management Authority

The Central West Catchment is committed to work with the community to conserve, improve and manage natural and cultural resources. The catchment is located in central western New South Wales, flanked by the Barwon and Darling Catchments to the north and west, Lachlan to the south and the Sydney/Shoalhaven Basin to the east.

Danny the Dung Beetle

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School: Narrabri Public School

The Cotton Catchment Communities CRC 2009 "Creepy Crawlies...life underground" Enviro-Stories Competition consists of the following books:

- Holly the Honey Pot Ant
- Timmy Termite Saves the Day
- Squiggles' Big Day
- Angus Ant
- Cameron's Birthday
- Eric the Earthworm
- Mrs Webber and the Storm
- Danny the Dung Beetle
- Jack the Spider

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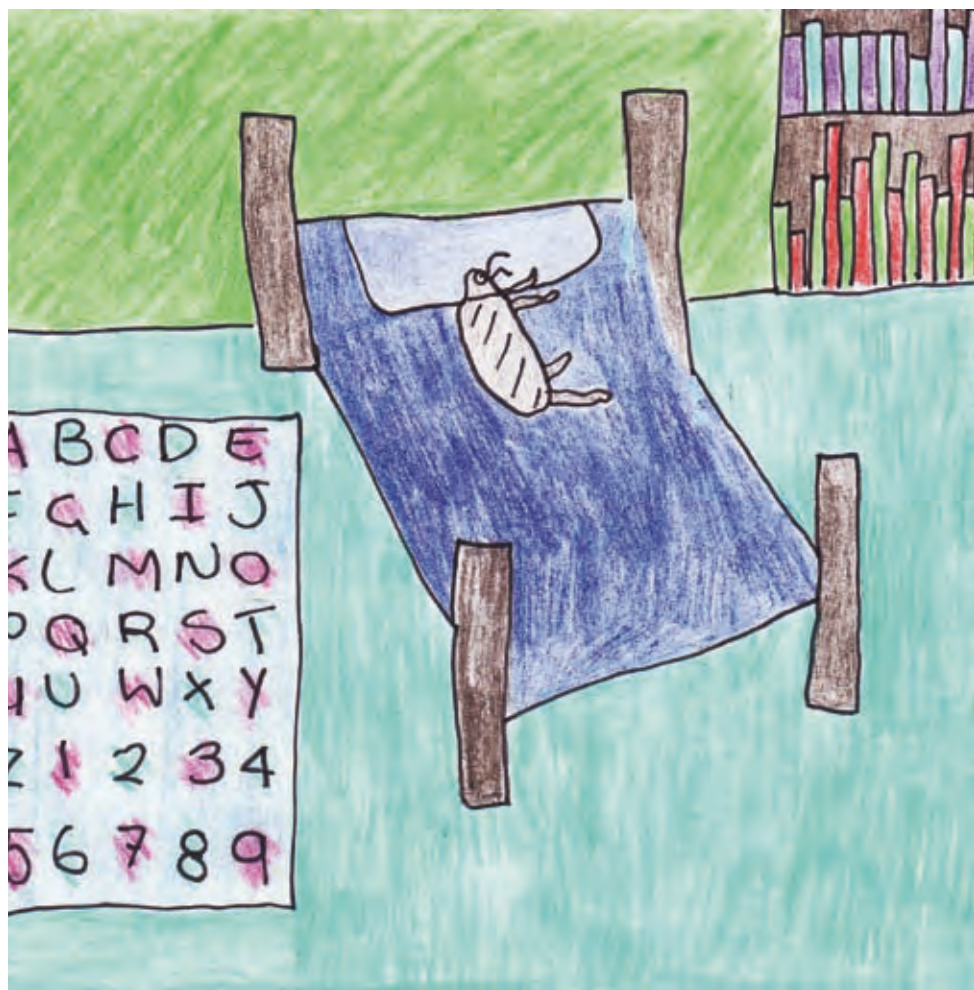
On a little farm near the town of Boggabri, lived Danny Dung-Beetle, his wife Martha, and their family.



They were perfectly happy until one day there was a disturbing change in the taste of the dung that they ate for their food.



Farmer Wayne enjoyed working on his farm and he loved his cows. He always bought the best drench for his herd. He didn't realize he was using drench that was very harmful to the dung beetles.

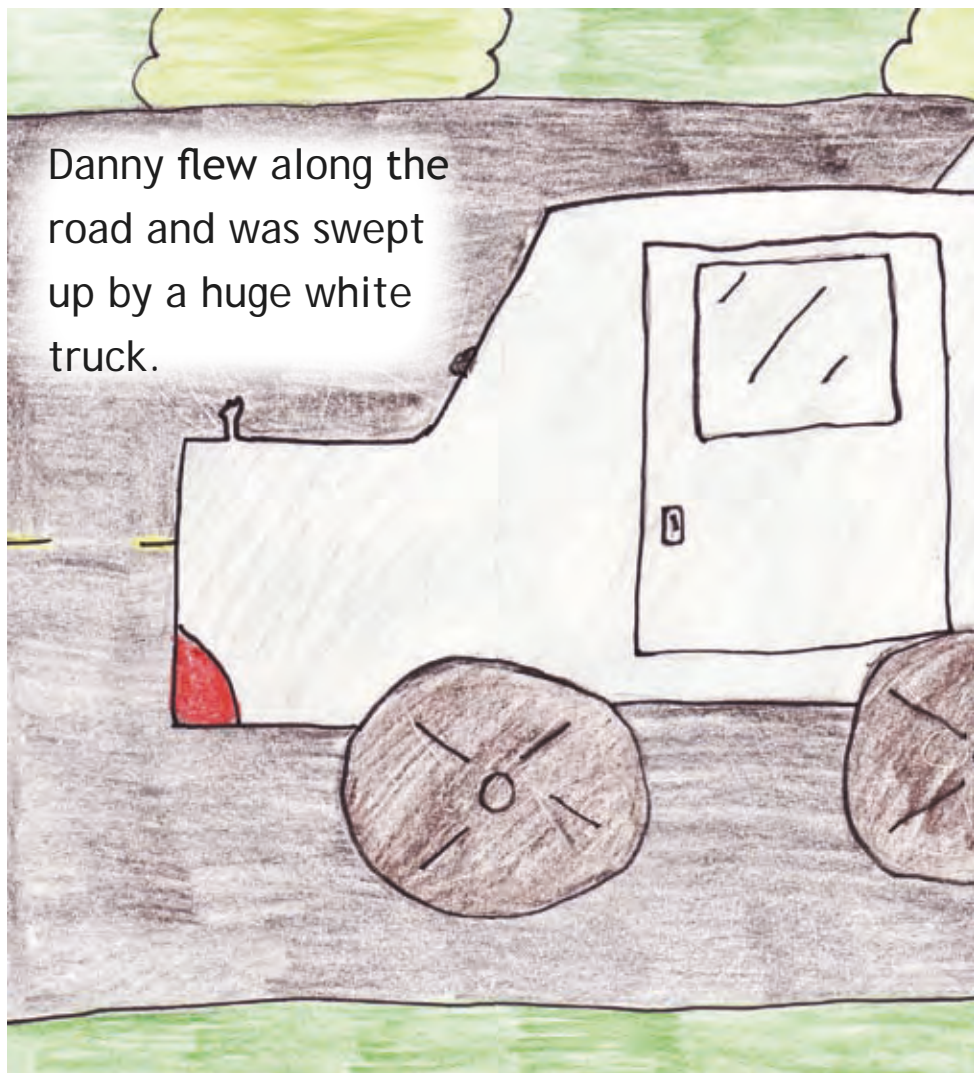


Danny's son, Timmy, became ill after drinking the fluids from the dung. Timmy's mother was worried that he wasn't going to recover. Danny swore that he wouldn't let Timmy die.



The next day Danny set off on a big adventure to try and find a cure for the sickness, or an antidote to save Timmy.

Danny flew along the road and was swept up by a huge white truck.



Danny knew that there was no way that he could budge from the windscreen, because of the pressure from the wind. He decided to let the truck take him for a ride. When the truck finally stopped, Danny had no idea where he was.



Danny approached the shop door that the driver of the truck had entered. He heard the man inside the shop saying that there had been a loss of dung beetle numbers by farmers using the wrong drench.

Danny looked in the shop and saw something so horrible he almost fainted.



When Danny flew inside the shop he saw different brands of chemicals that had stickers on the side of the drums reading, 'Harmful to Bugs!'

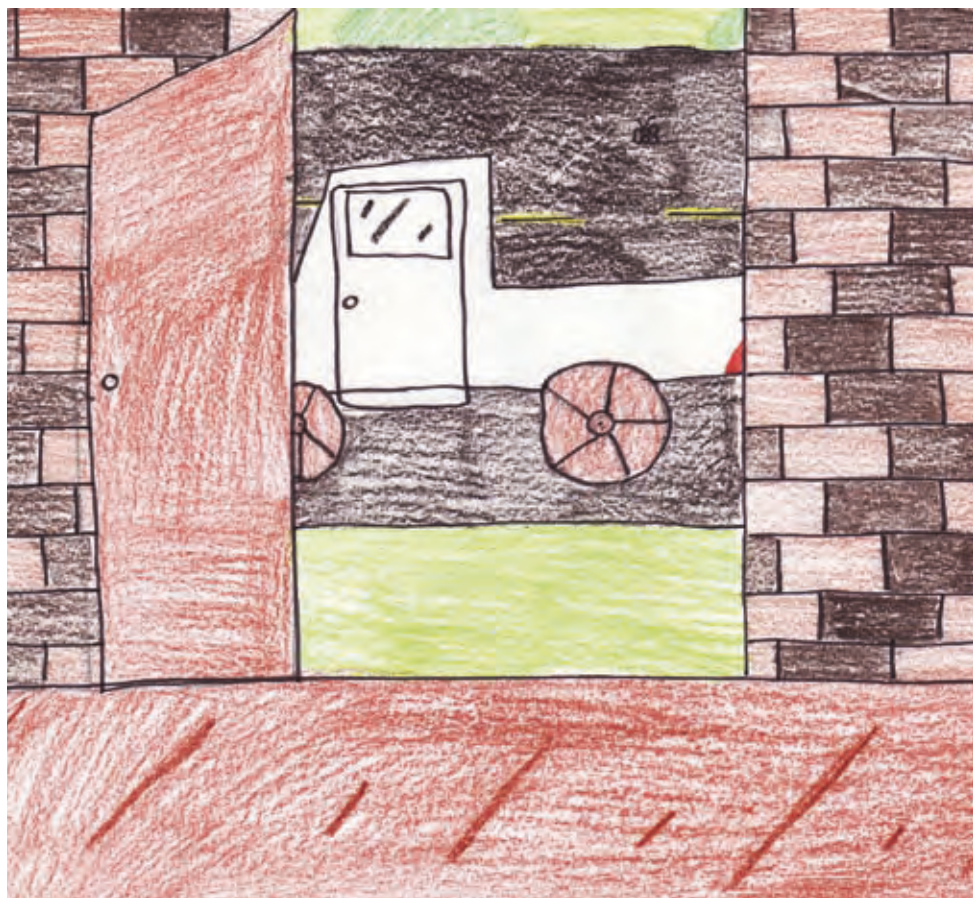


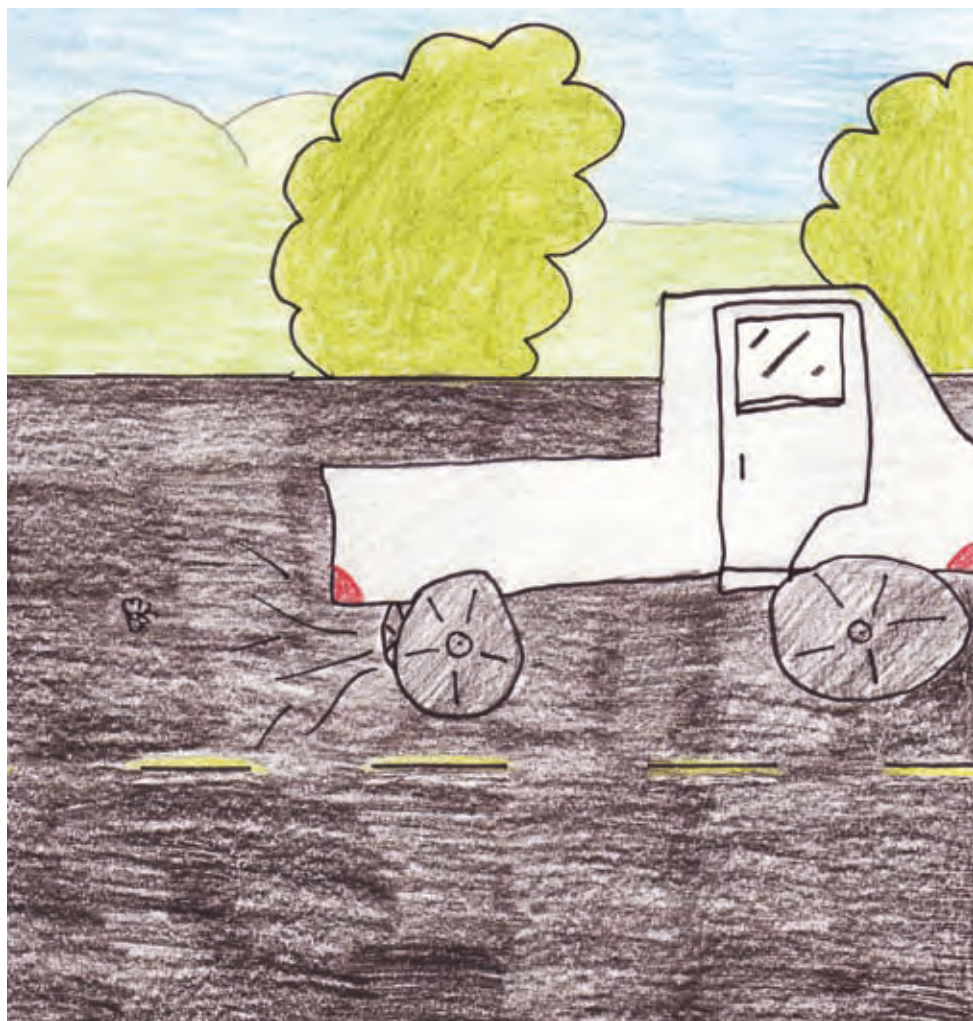
Whilst flying around the back of the warehouse Danny saw a drum out of the corner of his eye. On the label it read, 'Not Harmful to Dung Beetles!'

Danny almost jumped out of his skin when he read the words on the man's shirt. They said, 'Hi, my name is Wayne.'

Danny knew straight away that it was Wayne from the farm that Danny lived on. Wayne was about to pick up a drum that said, 'Harmful to Bugs!'

Danny flew straight at his face and annoyed him until he went to the back of the store and saw the other better drums of drench. Wayne laughed and picked up three of these drums and as quick as lightning he was gone.





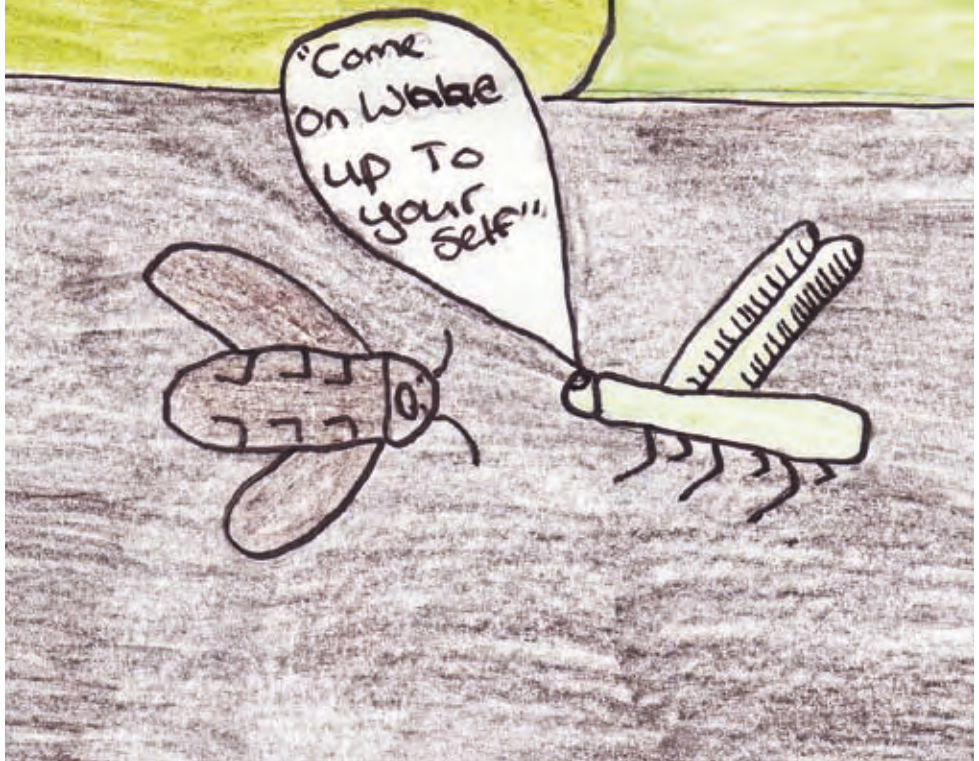
Danny tried to catch up with the farmer, but choked on the dust coming from the back two tyres of the truck. Little rocks hit him, and everything went very dark as Danny passed out.

Waking up from his sleep, Danny was startled by a chatting sound above him.

"Hello young fellow," whispered a grasshopper in an elderly fashion. Danny looked at him with his eyes sparkling.



Getting his head around what had happened, Danny was still mumbling in a daze to himself. Mr Grasshopper told Danny to wake up to himself and tell him what had happened.



Mr Grasshopper told Danny the way to get back to the farm, but Danny found he couldn't fly as he had hurt his wing.

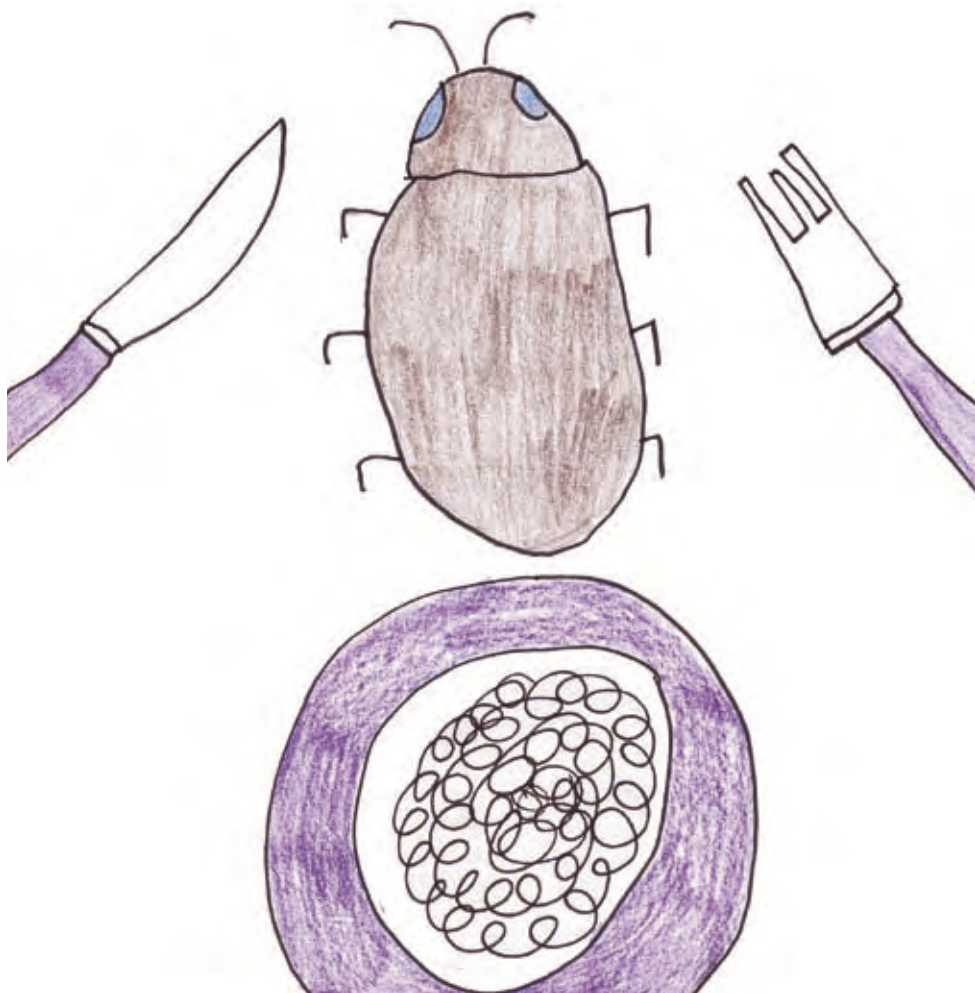
Mr Grasshopper kindly bandaged Danny's sore wing. This worked well and he was finally on his way again.



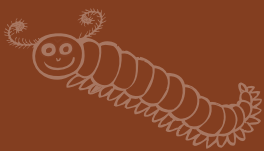


When he reached home he saw that Timmy was recovering very well.

He also noticed that Wayne had drenched his cows with the new drench that was not harmful to dung beetles.



Timmy was fed the new dung and he felt a lot better. The dung beetles lived happily for the rest of their lives.



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Narrabri Public School, Grade 6 2009



Central West
catchment
management authority



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