

BOOKRAPT™

THE BAY OF PLENTY CHILDREN'S LITERATURE ASSOCIATION INC
www.bookrapt.org.nz info@bookrapt.org.nz



***Ben and the Icky-Ooky-Sticky-Smick* – Sally Sutton** illustrated by Gary Venn

Publisher: Walker Books

RRP \$29.99

Some people are bug-lovers and others prefer creepy-crawlies to stay outside under a rock. Young Ben is enchanted by anything that is spiny and slimy. His parents and sister can't understand Ben's obsession with weird, wriggly bugs. Even the cat is unimpressed.

Ben's favourite insect is his pet icky-ooky-sticky-smick. He keeps it in a glass tank in his room and feeds it popcorn. However, wild creatures are naturally inclined to seek freedom. Ben's insect escapes and the hunt begins.

A series of startling experiences follows as the family find wriggly wonders in unexpected places. Ben is delighted by the unusual discoveries and adds them to his tank. But his pet remains on the loose. Clever strategy is needed to locate the missing insect. Fortunately, Grandad arrives and he also appreciates the beauty of bugs. The pair work towards a satisfactory outcome.

Quirky illustrations match the imaginative life-forms conjured up by the author. Microscopic views of bugs highlight the diversity of insects. The digital images accentuate unique features of the miniscule creatures – and the humans!

This amusing story opens up the possibility of a bug hunt for readers to investigate the living world around them.

Reviewed by children's book author Jean Bennett

Author's website:
www.sallysutton.co.nz

Illustrator's website:
www.garyvennillustration.com

