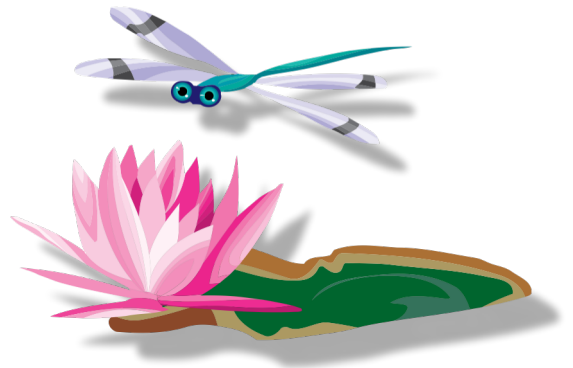


FLIGHT, J.R.Poulter 2019

Helicopter dragonflies

Hover, dart,

Stop, start!



Butterflies flitter by,
Fairly fairy, gently fly,

Soft as a summer breeze's
Sigh...



Fleas hop,

Drop,

Stop mid-flight

To bite!



Flies zip,

Loop, slip

Down into

The garbage tip.



Bees buzz,

Balls of fuzz,

Busy, busy

Daylight hours

Making honey from the flowers!



Insect flight and the relationship between insects and plants, Teacher Notes and Activities,

by J.R.Poulter 2019

The poet recently heard a talk on the development of new flight technologies. Interestingly, the scientists were studying insects, how they flew, the structure of their wings and their flight patterns. Their idea was to adapt these natural flight skills to new types of planes and hover craft.

Activity: Take the children into a garden area in the school grounds or nearby park. Ask them to list any insects they see, draw them or photograph them with their phones. Back in class, these insects can be identified and their roles in nature noted. Draw pictures of the typical flight path of each insect [they can be very different].

Plants and insects depend on each other. Nectar from flowers feeds butterflies and bees. Flies help break down dead and decaying matter.

Not all plants are friendly to insects. One such plant is the Venus Flytrap.

Activity: Look up information on this plant and how it catches and digests insects. It is not the only plant that eats insects. Find at least two other plants that eat insects, find a picture of the plant and at least four facts about each plant.

Discussion: Can you grow an insect eating plant in your garden? What would be the advantages of having such a plant? What are the good things that insects do to help keep our world livable? How do insect help us.

Activity: If possible, keep an insect eating plant in the classroom to study. Children could capture insects like ants, fleas, flies or moths and bring them to school to feed the plant.

Activity: If possible, take the clas to visit an apiarist [beekeeper] or a factory that makes honey products.