

A photograph of a forest at night, filled with numerous glowing fireflies. The fireflies are scattered throughout the scene, appearing as small, bright yellow-green lights against the dark background of trees and foliage. The text "Next Time You See a" is in white, and "FIREFLY" is in large, bold, yellow letters with a glowing effect.

Next Time You See a FIREFLY

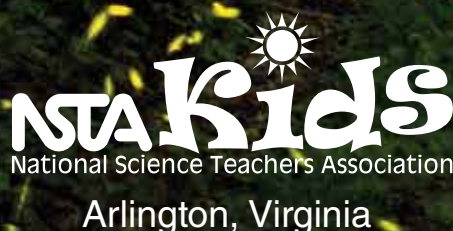
BY EMILY MORGAN


NSTA Kids
National Science Teachers Association

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Next Time You See a **FIREFLY**

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To Jeff, my perfect mate.



*“Every mystery solved brings us to the
threshold of a greater one.”*
—Rachel Carson

A NOTE TO PARENTS AND TEACHERS

The books in this series are intended to be read with a child *after* he has had some experience with the featured objects or phenomena. For example, go outside together on a summer evening and watch the fireflies. Notice that some fly around while others perch in the grass or on a bush. Count the seconds between each flash and see if you can detect any patterns in the flashes. Share stories about a time when you caught fireflies as a kid, then gently catch some fireflies and place them in a jar or bug box so you can take a closer look. (Be sure the container allows air in and place a moist piece of paper towel in the bottom so the fireflies won't dry out.) Ask your child what he is wondering about the fireflies, and share what you wonder. Then read this book together and discuss new learnings. You will find that new learnings often lead to new questions. Take time to pause and share these wonderings with each other. Don't forget to let the fireflies go before the night is over. As you'll find out from this book, they have a lot to do!

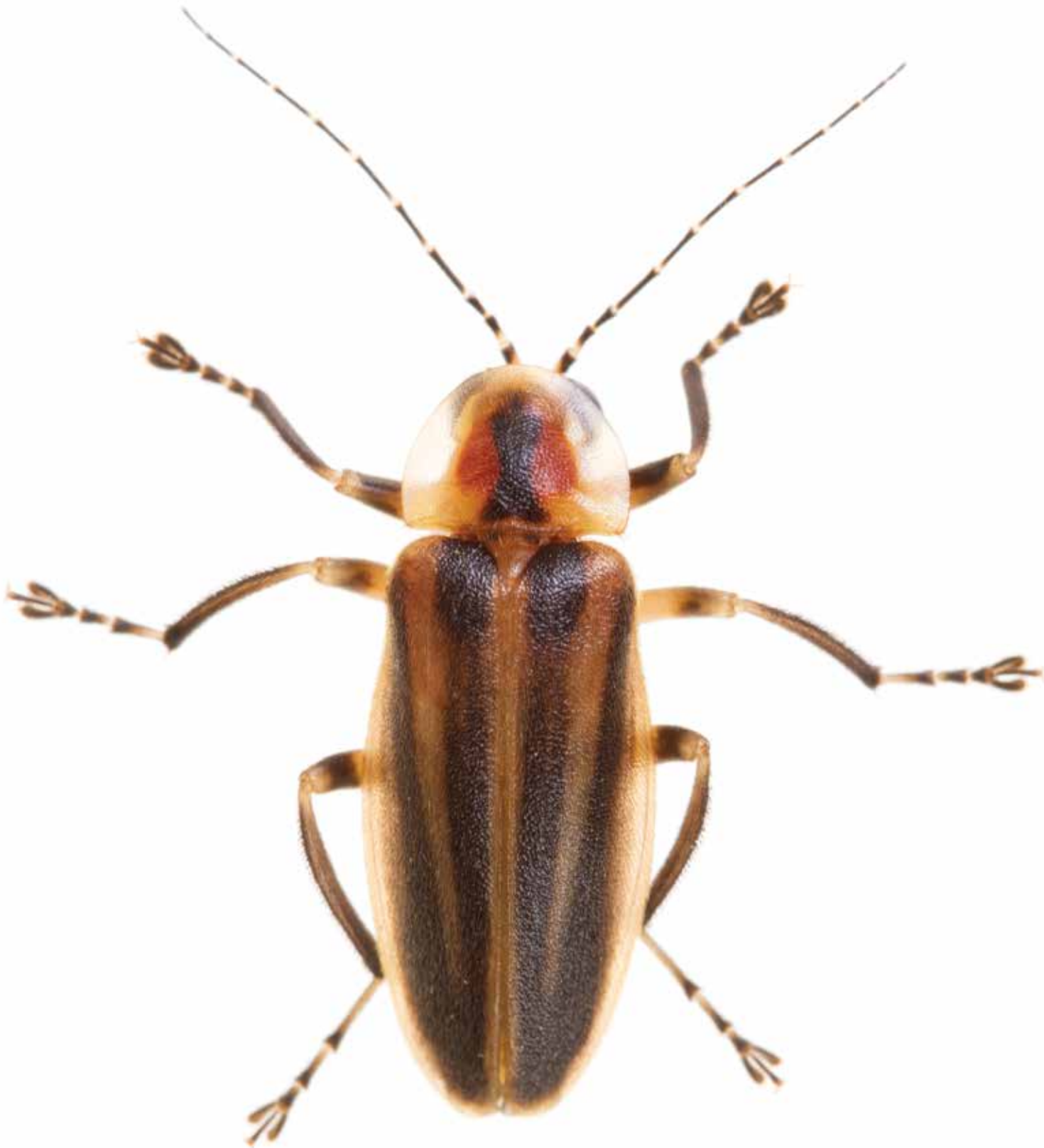
This book does not present facts to be memorized. It was written to inspire a sense of wonder about these interesting insects and to foster a desire to learn more about the natural world. Children are naturally fascinated by fireflies, and when they learn why fireflies flash and about each species' own flashing pattern, these summertime insects become so much more remarkable. My wish is that after reading this book, you and your child feel a sense of wonder the next time you see a firefly.

—Emily Morgan



Fireflies are one of the most fascinating insects because of their ability to produce light inside their bodies. Have you ever wondered why fireflies flash?

When you look closely at a firefly, you will see that like all adult insects, it has six legs.



You will also notice that fireflies have very large eyes to help them see at night.



Next Time You See a FIREFLY



Every summer children enjoy watching fireflies twinkling in the twilight, but after reading this book, they'll see the insects with new eyes. Share *Next Time You See a Firefly* with a child. Discover why fireflies flash and how they live secret lives underground before coming out to fill the evening with their glimmers of light. Together you'll also realize that if you catch fireflies, you must let them go: Fireflies have a lot to do!



Awaken a sense of wonder in a child with the *Next Time You See* series from NSTA Kids. The books will inspire elementary-age children to experience the enchantment of everyday phenomena such as insects, seashells, and sunsets. Free supplementary activities are available on the NSTA website.

Especially designed to be experienced with an adult—be it a parent, teacher, or friend—*Next Time You See* books serve as a reminder that you don't have to look far to find something remarkable in nature.

Grades K-6
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