


РАССКАЗЫ О НАСЕКОМЫХ И ПТИЦАХ

КНИГА ДЛЯ ЧТЕНИЯ
НА АНГЛИЙСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ
В VII КЛАССЕ ВОСЬМИЛЕТНЕЙ ШКОЛЫ

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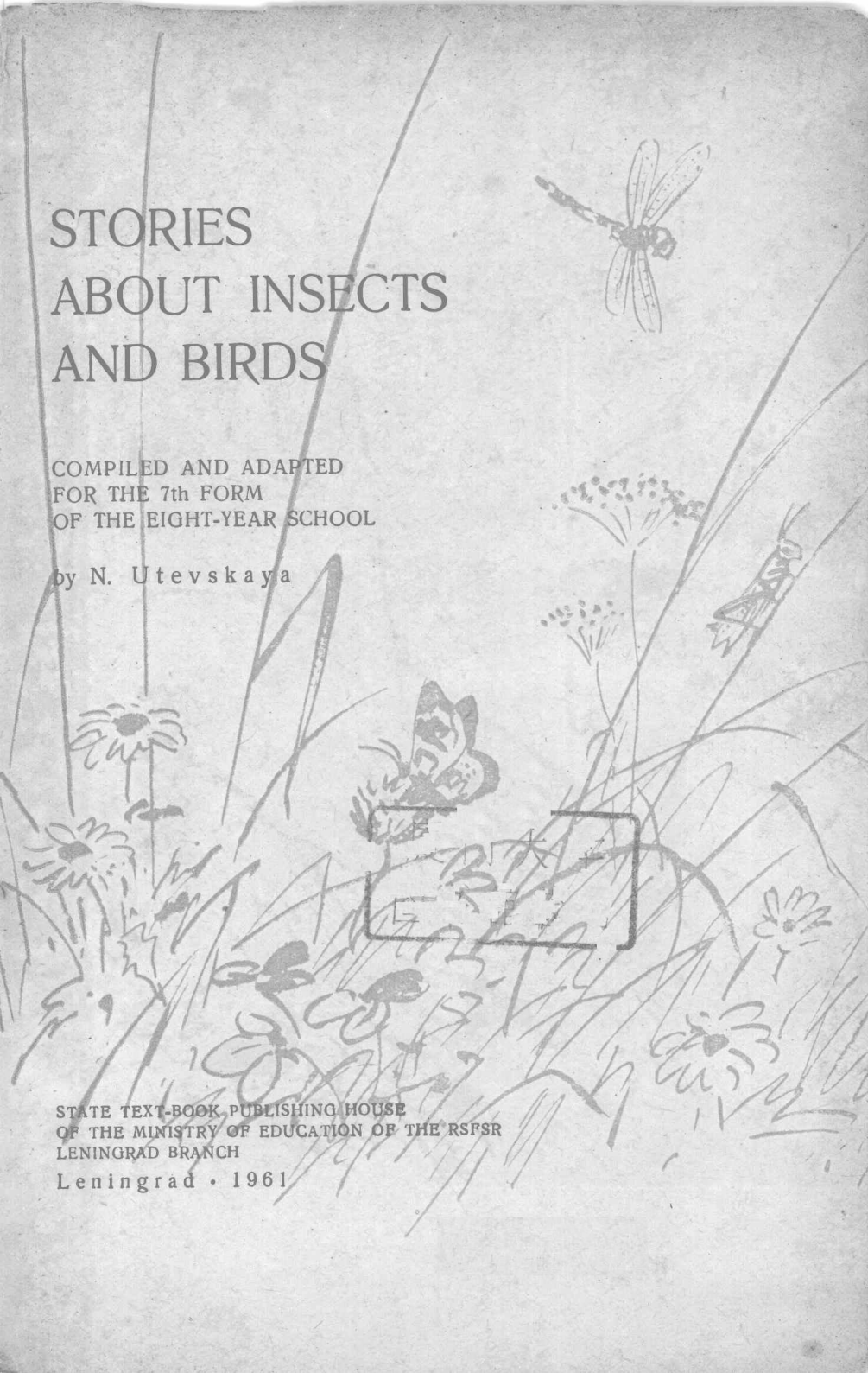


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STORIES ABOUT INSECTS AND BIRDS

COMPILED AND ADAPTED
FOR THE 7th FORM
OF THE EIGHT-YEAR SCHOOL

by N. Utevsкая



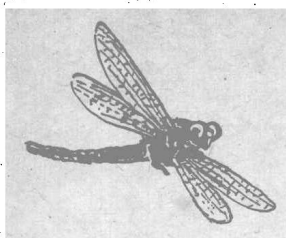
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DEAR FRIENDS!

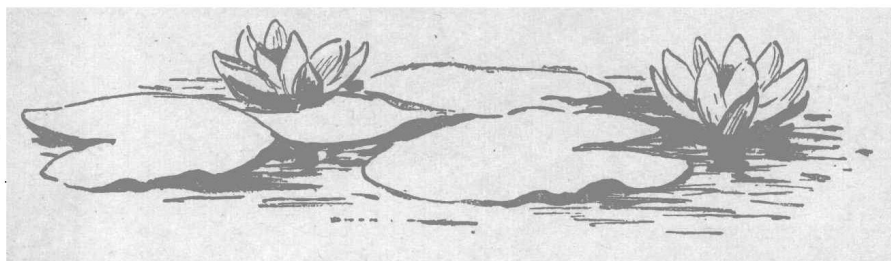
We all know that our fields and woods are full of living beings. We can see with our own eyes animals that walk about, birds that cheer us with their merry songs, insects that live in the air and on the ground.

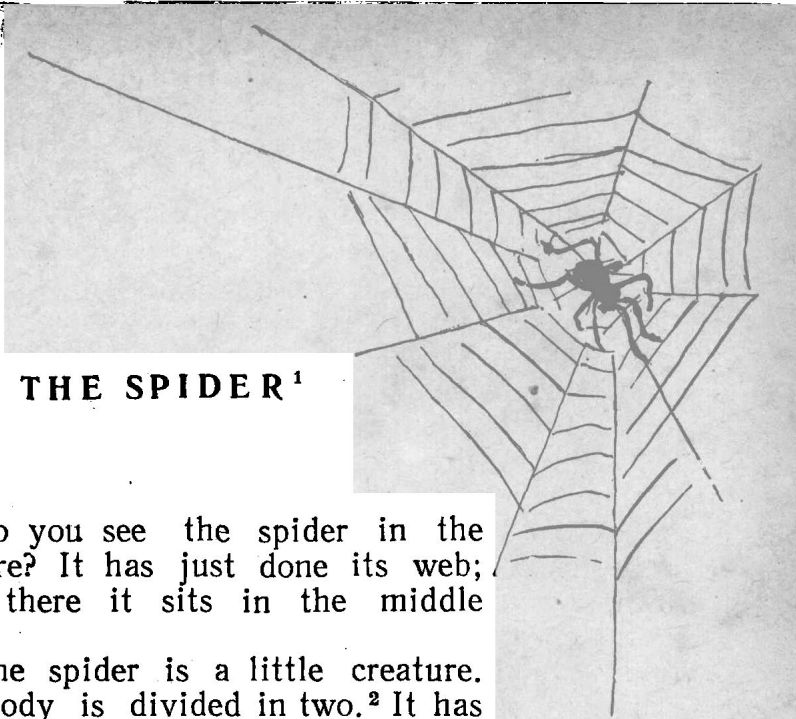
Many of them help us in our everyday work. They are our friends. Some of them, however, do us harm. So we have friends and enemies among insects, birds and other animals.

In this book you will find some interesting facts about their life and habits.



THE LIFE OF INSECTS





THE SPIDER¹

Do you see the spider in the picture? It has just done its web; and there it sits in the middle of it.

The spider is a little creature. Its body is divided in two.² It has four pairs of legs and eight little eyes.

The spider loves work. It begins to work as soon as it begins to live. Every spider is a weaver. Even the youngest spider knows how to weave its web just as well as the oldest.

The silk of which it makes its web comes from its body. It is like hairs.³ Many of these hairs come out at the same time, but then they are all formed into⁴ one rope of silk. It is so thin that a hundred of them together are only as thick as a human hair.

¹ spider ['spaidə] — паук

² is divided in two — разделено на две части

³ It is like hairs. — Он похож на волосы. (Существительное hair в ед. числе значит «волосы», во множ. числе — «отдельные волосы».)

⁴ they are all formed into — все они сплетаются в

First the spider fastens one end of the silk thread to a leaf or to a piece of wood; then it goes and fastens the other end.

When the spider fastens both ends, it can run down the silk and fix some more threads. These are the cross ropes of the web. Then it weaves other lines round them, and makes about twenty rings.

All this beautiful silk comes from the spider's body. The spider works hard and fast, and it finishes its work in less than an hour. The web is then so strong that the wind cannot blow it away, and the rain cannot break it. The purpose of the spider's web is to catch insects, which are its food.

Insects cannot walk or fly out of the web, because the spider covers it all with a sort of stuff like glue, which sticks to anything that touches the web ¹ and holds it fast.

Not all the spiders have the same sort of work to do.

Some spiders are masons. They build houses the size of ² a big thimble. They make doors in them, which they shut after them when they go in. They can even fasten the door of the house from the inside, so that no robber can get in.

The garden spider lets its threads float in the air ³ till they stick to plants or to the branches of trees. It then uses these threads as the roads or bridges to cross from one place to another.

¹ to anything that touches ['tʌtʃɪz] the web — ко всему, что прикасается к паутине

² the size of — размером с

³ lets its threads float in the air — пускает паутинки летать по воздуху

Questions:

1. What does the spider look like? ¹
2. What is every spider, when it is born?
3. How does it weave its web?
4. How does the spider work?
5. Is the web strong?
6. Why can't the insects walk or fly out of it?
7. What do the mason spiders build?
8. How does the garden spider cross from one place to another?

THE SHOW IN THE GARDEN

One evening about six o'clock the children's father came into the house and said, "Well, ² Jack and Mary, ³ do you want to see a wonderful show?"

"A show!" the children cried at once. "Are we going to town?"

"No, indeed! ⁴ We needn't go to town ⁵ to see this show. It has come to us." The father smiled as he led the way out of the house ⁶ to a bench in the garden. "Now look and see if you can find my show," said their father.

The children looked where he pointed and there, on the back of the bench, they saw a spi-

¹ What does the spider look like? — Как выглядит паук?

² well — *здесь*: ну

³ Jack *чит.* [dʒæk]; Mary *чит.* ['meəri]

⁴ No, indeed! — *здесь*: Совсем нет!

⁵ we needn't go to town — незачем ехать в город

⁶ led the way out of the house — повел (детей) из дома

der. She began to make her web. She spun out a long line which caught not far away on another part of the bench.¹

Mrs. Spider² ran quickly across this little bridge and fastened it at the other side.

Now she spun other threads and fastened them all at the centre. They looked like the spokes of a wheel.

Then she began at the centre and worked round and round.

At the edge she stopped.

"Has she finished the web?" asked Jack.

"Wait and see," his father answered. "And then you will find that she has not."

Soon Mrs. Spider went to work again. She started at the outside and went round and round towards the centre. Just as she reached the centre, a fly got into the web. At once Mrs. Spider ran to the fly and began to wrap it round and round with silk. Then she went back to the centre of the web.

"That must be her breakfast," said Mary.

"I don't see why the spider doesn't get stuck in her own threads,"³ Jack said as he looked at the beautiful web.

"Come here, and I shall show you," his father answered. "Feel this thread that goes round and round."

¹ caught... on another part of the bench — зацепилась... за скамейку в другом месте

² Mrs. ['mɪsɪz] Spider — *шутл.* госпожа Паучиха (здесь существительному spider соответствует местоимение she)

³ doesn't get stuck in her own threads — не запутывается в собственной паутине

Jack touched it with his finger and so did Mary.¹ The thread clung to their fingers.

"Now touch this one," and he pointed to one of the threads which ran across the web from the centre to the outside. The children touched it and found to their surprise that it was not sticky at all.

"You see," said their father, "Mrs. Spider is very wise. She uses two kinds of thread in her web. She makes sticky threads to catch her food, and cross threads for her to walk on."² They are quite dry."

It was almost dark when the children went back to the house. Jack said, "I have seen many spider-webs but never before have I seen a spider make it"³ and I did not know about the two kinds of thread in web."

THE SPIDER AND THE FLY

"Will you walk into my parlour?"

Said the Spider to the Fly.

"'Tis"⁴ the prettiest little parlour

That ever you did spy."⁵

¹ and so did Mary — и Мэри тоже (потрогала)

² for her to walk on — чтобы ходить по ним самой

³ never before have I seen a spider make it — я никогда раньше не видел, как паук плетет ее

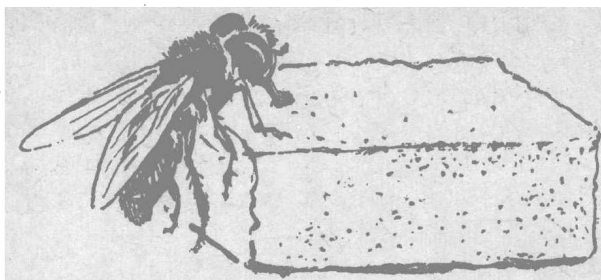
⁴ 'tis = it is

⁵ that ever you did spy — которую вы когда-либо видели (глагол did употреблен здесь в утвердительном предложении для усиления его смысла)

The way into my parlour
Is up a winding stair,
And I have many interesting things
To show you when you are there!"

"Oh no, no," said the little Fly,
"To ask me is in vain,¹
For who goes up your winding stair
Can never come down again."

¹ in vain — напрасно



THE LIFE OF A FLY¹

What becomes of the flies in winter? They do not hide in corners, or sleep all winter, as some animals do. All, except very few of them, die when the cold weather comes.

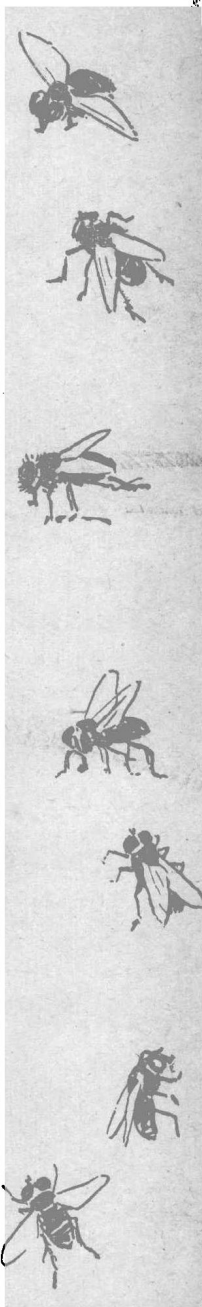
Then where do all the flies come from in summer?

Before the flies die, they lay their eggs in some out-of-the-way place,² where they remain during the winter months. When the warm weather comes, the little creature gets out of the egg, but it is not a fly. It is a little white worm — a maggot. This worm finds much food near, as the mother fly laid the egg in a place where the little one³ could find food. It begins

¹ fly [flai] — муха

² in some out-of-the-way place — в каком-нибудь укромном месте

³ little one = little worm (местоимение one часто ставится, чтобы не повторять ранее упомянутое существительное)



at once to eat. During the first days of its life it eats twice its own weight of food,¹ and as it grows its appetite becomes greater. With such an appetite it is not strange that the creature grows quickly. After a time it stops to eat, and begins to make a little case for itself, in which it shuts itself up for a long sleep. At this stage it does not see, and it does not move.

By and by,² however, it wakes up, forces its way out of the case³ and comes out a fly with eyes, feelers, wings and legs just like those of its mother.⁴ All the butterflies, moths and other insects begin life in the same way.

Flies have a very good sight. When you look at the eye of a fly through the microscope, you see a great number of very small windows. Each of these little windows is really an eye, and there are about four thousand of them in each big eye.

The feet of a fly are no less wonderful than its eyes. With the help of its feet the fly can climb up a rough⁵ surface; it can also walk on the ceiling overhead and does not fall. Do you know why?

The fly has two sharp claws on each foot, which help it to climb up a rough surface. Besides that, the fly makes a kind of strong glue or cement

¹ it eats twice its own weight of food — она съедает в два раза больше пищи, чем весит сама

² by and by — вскоре

³ it ... forces its way out of the case — она вылезает (выбирается) из оболочки

⁴ just like those of its mother — точно такие же, как у ее матери (those заменяет перечисленные выше существительные)

⁵ rough [ɾɒf] — неровный, шероховатый

which wets the soles of its feet. That's why ¹ the fly does not fall from the ceiling.

Sometimes the fly stays too long in one spot, and the cement hardens so that it cannot lift its foot. It must then break off its leg.

It even happens sometimes that the fly becomes a prisoner in this way ² and stays there until it dies.

Questions:

1. What becomes of the flies in winter?
2. How do all the flies begin their life in summer?
3. What comes from the egg of a fly?
4. What do we call the little white worm?
5. What does the maggot do when it gets out of the egg?
6. What do you know about the sight of a fly?
7. What can you say about the eyes of a fly and about its feet?
8. Why does it not fall from the ceiling?

MISTER FLY

What a sharp little fellow ³ is Mister Fly,
He goes where he pleases, low or high,
And can walk just as well with his feet to the sky,
As I can on the floor;

At the window he comes
With a buzz and a roar,
And over the smooth glass
Can easily pass
Or through the keyhole of the door.

¹ that's (that is) why — вот почему

² in this way — таким образом

³ what a sharp little fellow — что за ловкий малый

He eats the sugar and goes away,
 Nor ever once asks ¹ what he must pay;
 And sometimes crosses the teapot's steam,
 And comes and plunges his head in the cream;
 Then on the edge of the jug he stands,
 And cleans his wings with his feet and hands.
 This done, ² through the window he hurries away,
 And gives a buzz, as if to say, ³
 "At present I haven't a minute to stay, ⁴
 But I'll peep in again in the course of the day."
 Then again he'll fly,
 Where the sunbeams lie,
 And neither stop to shake hands ⁵
 Nor say good-bye:
 Such a strange little fellow is Mister Fly,
 Who goes where he pleases, low or high,
 And can walk on the ceiling
 Without ever feeling
 The fear of falling down from the sky! ⁶

Memorize the Proverbs:

1. To weave spider's webs. — Плести паутину.
2. A fly on the wheel. — Муха на колесе (человек, сильно преувеличивающий свое значение, свои заслуги).
Сравните с русской пословицей: «Мы пахали».
3. A fly in the ointment. — Муха в мази.
Сравните: «Ложка дегтя в бочке меда».

¹ nor ever once asks — и ни разу не спрашивает

² this done — сделал это

³ gives a buzz, as if to say — жужжит, словно говоря

⁴ I haven't a minute to stay — я не могу задерживаться ни на минуту

⁵ to shake hands — чтобы поздороваться

⁶ without ever feeling the fear of falling down from the sky — совершенно не испытывая страха упасть с неба

THE GRASSHOPPER¹

Very often when you walk along a path in the meadow or in the garden you can see a grasshopper who hops into the air on your approach.² It is rather a large greenish insect. There are long-horned and short-horned³ grasshoppers.

Short-horned grasshoppers live on the ground or near it. Long-horned grasshoppers live in the leaves of trees. They eat grass and leaves. A grasshopper has six legs. It uses its front legs to hold the food. Its hind legs are very long. It rubs them against

¹ grasshopper ['grʌ:ʃɒpə] — кузнечик

² on your approach [ə'prəʊtʃ] —

при вашем приближении

³ long-horned — с длинными
усиками, short-horned —
с короткими усиками

