SHARED READING EDITION

Ava Builds a Bridge for the Beetles

Ava builds a bridge | Suggested ages 5-7



Can Ava help three little beetles cross a muddy gap? Listen, discover, and try a bridge of your own.

Read together

Let a grown-up read aloud, or take turns. Pause to talk, imagine, and ask questions. The story text is complete; the cover picture is a shared illustration, not a picture of every event.

Print on US Letter at actual size, or choose Fit for A4. Use single-sided printing for activity cards. Black-and-white printing is suitable.

A muddy gap

After rain, Ava found a muddy groove between the beetle garden and the patch of tall marigolds. Three lady beetles waited beside it.

The first try

Ava laid one craft stick across the groove. It reached the other side, but it tipped when she pressed it gently.

A wider bridge

She added a second stick beside the first. The bridge grew wider, yet both sticks still slipped into the soft mud.

A steady idea

Ava studied the garden bench and noticed its legs stood on broad wooden feet. Wide supports helped the bench stay steady.

A better base

She placed two flat bark pieces at the groove's edges, then rested the craft sticks across them. The bridge no longer sank.

Test it gently

Ava tested the bridge with three small pebbles, one at a time. It stayed level, so she removed the pebbles.

Across the bridge

The lady beetles crawled over the dry bridge toward the marigolds. Ava watched without touching them and cheered softly.

Try, learn, improve

Ava learned that a strong bridge needs a steady base. Her first tipping bridge had shown her exactly what to improve.

A little more to discover

Talk together

What happened at the beginning? What changed? Tell someone your favorite part and why you chose it.

Make it your own

With a grown-up, place paper across two books and test it with a few light counters. Draw your plan, try one change, and explain what happened.

My picture or idea

Adults can write down a child's words. Different drawings and personal responses are welcome.