

## **Picture Book Proposal**

### **The Upside Down Insect With No Name Tag**

An un-named insect is detained, but gets out to Freedom, with help.

Picture book text of approximately 650 words  
by Hazel Edwards

## **The Upside Down Insect With No Name Tag**

I'm an Insect.

Just a little one.

THEY say I'm upside down.

But I get around.

I've got legs.

And a funny bone.

I can laugh or joke.

And I can cry.

'Pleased to meet you.

It's ok to shake any of my feelers.

Or do a Hi 5.'

This is the Insectary.

It's where THEY put insects who have no labels.

I have no name-tag.

But I know who I am.

I'm ME.

I want to go to School, outside.

I want to be free.

Three things get in the way.

First - No name-tag.

Second - THEY say I'm Upside Down.

I don't look at things their way.

Third - there's the BIG Question Wall.

I don't speak THEIR language, so I don't understand some of their questions.

But I'm willing to try.

You have to get over the BIG Question Wall to go to Freedom Land.

There's a gate, but it's locked.

I don't have the key.

And there's a No-Fly Zone above.

With a Bug-Zapper.

I know WHO I am, but not WHY I'm here.

Things were BAD where I was born.

I had to leave.

At first, I was on a boat.

Then I was in a camp.

Now I'm in this Insectary.

For too many reasons

and too many seasons.

Rainy Season. Super Hot Season. Nothing-to-Do Season and now,

Grumpy Season.

‘Do you speak Upsidedown Insect sounds? I ask. ‘My language has beautiful sounds like the wind. And the sun shining. And the smell of scats. Comfortable sounds. Familiar.’

Boss Bee shrugs.

He doesn’t understand me.

Bees buzz a lot.

They tell everybody what to do.

AND leave wing prints everywhere.

I know WHO I am, but not WHY I’m here.

I’ve got a few cousins outside.

Garden Bug, Mud Bug and Computer Virus.

We keep in touch, online.

There are lots of different insects inside.

We keep each other company – but everyone is sad.

All want to leave for Freedom, the country outside the Big Question Wall.

Our garden of smells has pollen.

Every shade of green.

GiANT is an A Insect.

That A group all have ANT in their name.

If you’re not a Bee, the rest are like me.

We’re the C group who don’t fit.

Even my scat patterns are different.

‘What’s your name?’ the Official asks me.

I use sign language.

‘Your name is too hard to say,’ the Official decides.

He writes down a simple name in his language, with a question mark ( ?)

‘Where do you come from?’

‘There,’ I point.

‘Where are you going?’

‘There,’ I point.

‘Have you got a name tag?’

I shake my head.

I want to do stuff, not just hang around.

I know WHO I am, but not WHY I’m here.

From twigs and leaves, I make a home-made name tag.

With a question mark.

I hang it from one feeler.

I’m a Question Mark Insect.

I show it to the Official. He nods and puts a tick on his list.

Next, I try the Wall.

My feelers leave prints which are my mark.

I take a running jump at the Question Wall.

Up, Up, Up and I DON’T get over.

I pick myself up.

A photo is taken of me by the Official.

If you're upside down, upside down, then you are the right way up.

But, inside, I'm the same.

I know WHO I am, but not WHY I'm here.

If I can't get over, I have to go THROUGH the wall.

I don't want to be here for another Grumpy Season.

I contact my cousin and ask him to bring something to the gate.

In return, I will help him later.

I know WHO I am, but not WHY I'm here.

I meet my cousin at the gate.

He has the key.

The gate opens.

I jog across No-Name Land to Freedom.

I know WHO I am.

I'm the Upside Down Insect.

I'm the answer, not the question.

## ART BRIEF

ENDPAPERS could map character's quest with feeler prints as marks across circles.

Inside is the Insectary. (a real Insectary has mutual dependence between insects and plants against threatening insects)

Outside is Freedom.

Inbetween is No-Name Land and a BIG Question Wall with a gate.

No-Fly zone above.

Cute Insecta, upsidedown.

Insect-prints across the pages.

Scats

The key which the Cousin brings to open the gate can be a symbol to promote discussion.

The Question mark is another symbol.

### **Writer:**

Author-educator Hazel Edwards OAM ([www.hazeledwards.com](http://www.hazeledwards.com)) is a National Reading Ambassador and the classic picture book 'There's a Hippopotamus on our Roof Eating Cake' is the best known of her 200 published books in many languages and adapted into other formats such as film and theatre.

She chose an insect viewpoint to universalize this story.

Hi-res author photo & bio here.

[http://www.hazeledwards.com/page/media\\_resources.html](http://www.hazeledwards.com/page/media_resources.html)