

**Title:** This is Your Life Cycle

**Author:** Heather Lynn Miller

**Grade Level:** 2-6

**Category:** Picture Book

**Synopsis:** Written as an episode for a TV show entitled “This is Your Life Cycle” Bob Beetle introduces Dahlia the Dragonfly to 3 mystery guests. Readers will learn about the different stages of an insect’s life as they watch and listen to Dahlia interacting with her guests. A hilarious read aloud.

**Thematic/Curriculum Connections:** Media Literacy, Life cycles, Insects.

**Activities:**

1. Define the following terms
  - Larvae
  - Nymph
  - Insect
  - Predator
  - Molting
  - Oviposter
  - Exoskeleton
2. Provide an illustration of the Dragon Fly Nymph and have the students identify the parts – gills, abdomen, thorax, head, antenna.
3. Drama: have the students act out the show.
4. Working in groups, have the students create another version of the show using a different animal, plant, insect or fish.
5. Write a commercial to advertise a product for the show.
6. Have an “Academy Awards” presentation for the best show. Come up with a name for the award and choose appropriate categories – such as fastest swimmer, smallest insect, fiercest predator, best story, shortest life cycle...
7. Have the students write a show on their own life cycle.
8. Have the students draw a timeline of their lives.

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9. What questions would you ask Dahlia or one of her mystery guests?
10. Write a poem about a life cycle.
11. Dahlia escaped hungry predators such as frogs, ducks, turtles and fish. What stage of her life cycle was she in and how did she escape? Where did she hide?
12. Dahlia became a predator too. What does she hunt and eat?
13. Write what happened after the last page of the book.