Junie B. Jones has a pet day problem! There’s going to be a pet day at school, only guess what? No dogs allowed! And that’s the only kind of pet Junie B. has! If Mother and Daddy won’t buy her a new pet, Junie B. will just have to find one on her own. Like maybe a jar of ants. Or a wiggy worm. Or—could it be—something even better?

In this guide, a science research activity encourages students to learn the basic characteristics of! mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and insects.

Junie B.’s Animal Menagerie
As Junie B. struggles to find just the “right” pet for Pet Day, readers are acquainted with a large variety of animal life. Have students list all the animals mentioned in Junie B. Jones Smells Something Fishy. Then, using Internet or library resources to identify characteristics particular to mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and insects, classify each animal.

Pre-Reading Activities
Junie B. tries to find a pet that she is allowed to bring to school in Junie B. Jones Smells Something Fishy. She discovers that an earthworm, ants, and a fly do not make good pets. Ask your students what kinds of animals might make good pets. Why? Then ask what kinds of animals would make bad pets. Why? Then create a class list of Good Pets/ Bad Pets.