

Word of the Week

“Facilitate”

- Is a verb. Verbs are action words, things you “do.”
- Is pronounced: ¹ fuh-SIL-uh-tayt
- Means: to make easier : help bring about
- In a sentence: “A good book and a quiet spot can facilitate a journey of the mind.”
- As with so many English words, it's easy to find a Latin origin for *facilitate*. It traces back to the Latin adjective *facilis*, meaning “easy.”
- For more information, see merriam-webster.com

Place of the Moment

Waitomo Glowworm Caves

Waitomo, New Zealand



Tubing through a cave lit with glowworms is a magical underground experience.



In 1887, English surveyor Fred Mace and local Maori Chief Tane Tinorau decided to explore the Caves of Waitomo. They entered the cave system on a tiny raft where a stream descends into the underground, and with their candles, they carefully navigated the stream through the caves. In the darkness, they noticed starlike lights scattered across the formations above their heads.

Thousands of glowworms were hanging peacefully above their heads, forming a magnificent bioluminescent cosmos.

The glow worm is a catch-all name for the bioluminescent larvae of various species. The larvae of the beetle fireflies (Lampyridae), beetle larvae (Phengodidae), and of *Arachnocampa*, a type of fungus gnat all bioluminescence. It is these fungus gnats that can be found in massive numbers in Waitomo caves. The fungus gnat larvae cling to rock walls and hunt with long strings of sticky mucus. When seen in large groups they are truly astounding.

Elated with joy, the two men would return many times to explore further. On an independent trip, Tinorau found a land entrance, which is the same entrance that is used today by tourists from around the world. Tourists started visiting in 1889 when Tinorau and his wife began leading tours. Today, many of cave guides are descendants of Tinorau and his wife, and the fungus gnats, with their long strings of sticky mucus, still glow beautifully.

Nipper

Nipper was doing some more searches on bats, and came across this really interesting article from The Smithsonian:



[Why Bats Are One of Evolution's Greatest Puzzles](#)

“Bats pop up in the fossil record around 50 million years ago during a time known as the Eocene. Paleontologists have recovered remains ranging from teeth and bits of jaw to stunning full skeletons in places as far-flung as Wyoming, Paris, Australia and India’s Vastan Mine.”

He’ll be reading more.

Library Skill

In the library, we had been having a lot of conversations about genres of fiction. Remember, the “genre” is like the “flavor” - it describes what sort of made up story it will be. Our library uses 13 different genres to organize the books, and we’re going to take a close look into them.

This week, we will be looking at the **Humor** genre. HUM on the spine, bright neon yellow tape.

What are some key words you’d use to describe a Humor book? “Funny” is obvious - what else can we add?

What are some examples of a Humor book you can think of?

Is this a genre you enjoy? Why or why not?

Reading for Pleasure

I’m going to keep asking... What is a book you are really enjoying? What is one thing about that book that makes it so great?