

# *Night of the Living Worms*

By Dave Coverly

## **Annotation**

What's a bird to do when his sibling is a big-time celebrity? It's a question Speed Bump has to deal with every single morning, because his brother happens to be the one and only Early Bird. You know, THE Early Bird, who ALWAYS gets the worm! Unfortunately, Speed Bump is a sleepy little bird with a big head and tiny wings who's worried he'll never live up to his brother. But he has a great buddy, the ever-hungry Slingshot, who knows how to lift his spirits. Together, they end up on an adventure deep in the nighttime forest, where they're forced to confront something more terrifying—and slimier—than they've ever imagined. It could all go horribly wrong . . . or it could just change Speed Bump's luck for good.

## **Book Talk**

If you love a funny book, this one will have you laughing out loud! A story of two brothers, and an Early Bird who always gets the worm. It's full of humor, fun drawings, and has a sequel! Even the most reluctant reader will love this one.

## **Book Trailers**

- Not currently available

## **Author on the Internet**

- Website: <http://www.speedbump.com/>
- Twitter: [@speedbumpcomic](https://twitter.com/speedbumpcomic)
- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/davecoverly>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/speedbumpcomic/>

## **Items to use in a library display**

- Birds
- worms
- dirt
- replicate the music posters on page 9
- “Early Bird Sleeping DO NOT DISTURB” sign

## **Book Club Discussion Questions/Topics**

- An onomatopoeia is the formation of a word from a sound associated with what it is named. An example is the word ‘buzz’. Find the examples throughout the book.
- Why is Slingshot learning French? When will he use his French?
- At the beginning of the book, how does Speed Bump feel about his brother Early Bird?
- What does the phrase, “The early bird gets the worm,” mean?
- What does Speed Bump eat, besides worms, and how does he find his food?
- When Speed Bump and Slingshot went out at night, what were some of the things they encountered on their adventure?

- What are the nightcrawlers planning? How does Speed Bump plan to help his brother?

### **First Line of the Book:**

- “A little bird tweeting in the window at the top of the large Sycamore tree woke Speed Bump from a restless sleep.”

### **Non-Fiction Companion Title(s)**

- Pair this book with non-fiction titles on worms and nightcrawlers

### **What to Read Next**

- *Night of the Living Shadows: A Speed Bump & Slingshot Misadventure*, Dave Coverly

### **Other Books by this Author:**

- *Dogs are People, Too: A Collection of Cartoons to Make Your Tail Wag*

### **Additional Resources**

- Music: Beethoven, The Beatles, Katy Pary, Charlie Parker (from p. 9), Billy Holliday, Lady GaGa (from p. 55)
- Art/craft activity: Make your own slingshot
- Lesson ideas:
  - [Animal food chains](#),
  - [Worm Hunt](#),
  - [composting](#),
  - [Fact or Fiction: learning about worms using Diary of a Worm](#).