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# Let's

# Glow!

With  
PAM CARLSON

# Firefly-brarian



## Art:

### Luminaries – a family craft:

Purchase colored paper bags from either a craft or gift store or [www.papermart.com](http://www.papermart.com). Trace the outline of a firefly on the outside of the bag and cut out the silhouette. Purchase small votive candles for each bag. Use sand or kitty litter to weigh down the bags. Place the bags along a sidewalk, place a candle in each one, and adults light them. Check out [www.ehow.com](http://www.ehow.com) for more instructions, tips, and warnings. Alternative to bags: natural luminaries otherwise known as jack-o-lanterns and watermelons.

### Lampshades – a teen craft:

Purchase lampshades at a craft or home décor store or bring in one from home. Use Modge Podge (available at craft stores) to “glue” pieces of tissue or wrapping paper onto the shade. Use Tacky or fabric glue to apply fabric. Paint a final coating of Modge Podge on the shade for a shiny finish. You may also glue a trim around the bottom. Inspired by Family Fun Magazine, 12/06.

### Firefly Stick Puppets – a preschool craft:

Use clip art for a pattern. Cut out the fireflies and glue them to craft sticks. Color and sprinkle with golden glitter.

**Sing together:** 1 little, 2 little, 3 little fireflies, 4 little, 5 little, 6 little fireflies,  
7 little, 8 little, 9 little fireflies, lighting up the sky!

### Stained Glass Sun Catchers:

Place a transparency on top of a pre-drawn design or coloring sheet. Color with permanent markers, outlining the picture in black. Punch a hole at the top and thread a piece of fishing wire through for hanging. Tape to a window or be really fancy and use a suction cup hook.

### Silhouettes:

Tape white paper to a wall. Stand sideways a few inches from the wall. The “draw-er” traces the shape of the face while the “holder” shines a flashlight around the person's face. Cut out the white shape and trace around it on a black sheet of paper for an old-fashioned decoration. From [www.kaboose.com](http://www.kaboose.com)

### Firefly Goblet:

Glue sparkling jewels to a plastic cup. Safe to drink but be sure to wash by hand, not in the dishwasher.

### Shiny Shapes:

Bend gold and silver chenille stems into various shapes to hang from a ceiling, doorknob, or elsewhere. Inspired by *American Girl Library's Celebrate*, 1998





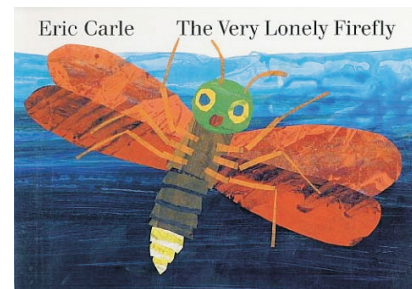
**Firefly Flashlight:** Cut out wing shapes from yellow fun foam and glue them to the sides of a flashlight. Add large Googly eyes and draw on a smile using a permanent marker. If the flashlight has a key ring or handle, thread cord through it, add pony beads for a flash of color, and tie the string in a knot for a necklace. From [www.girlscoutspc.org](http://www.girlscoutspc.org)

**Mobile:** Create a mobile using cut out shapes of the “fakeout” fireflies from *The Very Lonely Firefly* by Erica Carle – a lantern, light bulb, candle, and headlights. Add a picture of the firefly to the handle of the mobile and decorate it with a glitter pen or glue and glitter to create fireworks. Variation: glue the shapes onto a strip of paper to form a headband.

## Games

**Pictionary:** Suggested things to draw are sun, star, camp fire, birthday candle, flashlight, sunburn, fireworks, light bulb, lamp. Play in teams of kids against grownups.

**Flashlight Pounce:** Shine a flashlight on the floor and kids race to pounce on it before it moves. From [www.theideabox.com](http://www.theideabox.com)



Most firefly larvae are found in rotting wood or other forest litter or on the edges of streams and ponds at night. Some Asian species are fully aquatic (due to the presence of tracheal gills) and live underwater, feeding on aquatic snails.” (from *The Firefly Files* [www.iris.biosci.ohio-state.edu/projects/FFiles/](http://www.iris.biosci.ohio-state.edu/projects/FFiles/)). To help remember this information play **Hide & Seek:** Cut out several firefly shapes from bright yellow paper and hide around a meeting room in the library, in the library itself, or outside. The one who finds the most is the winner. Or try **“Toss a Firefly”:** fill a plastic blanket box about one third full with water. Float glass or plastic bowls on it. Place paper firefly shapes in the bowls and attempt to toss ping pong balls into the bowls.

“The greatest number of firefly species (highest species diversity) are found in tropical Asia and Central and South America. (from *The Firefly Files* [www.iris.biosci.ohio-state.edu/projects/FFiles/](http://www.iris.biosci.ohio-state.edu/projects/FFiles/)). Challenge your audience with “Where in the World?” Hang a large world map on the wall. Divide group into two teams. Call out the name of a country in one of the areas listed above. First to find it on the map wins.

“...the most generally accepted hypothesis is firefly larvae use their luminescence as a warning signal (aposematism) that communicates to potential predators that they taste bad because they have defensive chemicals in their bodies. These larvae also increase both the intensity and frequency of their glow when disturbed (Sivinski 1981). An experimental study of whether mice could learn to avoid glowing objects by associating a larval-type glow with a bad tasting object further supports the aposematism hypothesis ([Underwood et al., 1997](http://Underwood et al., 1997)).” (from *The Firefly Files* [www.iris.biosci.ohio-state.edu/projects/FFiles/](http://www.iris.biosci.ohio-state.edu/projects/FFiles/)).

**Morse code:** try translating the dots and dashes into bright messages using flashlights.

## Snacks:

**Cookies:** Frost store-bought cookies and top with “twinkling” sprinkles.

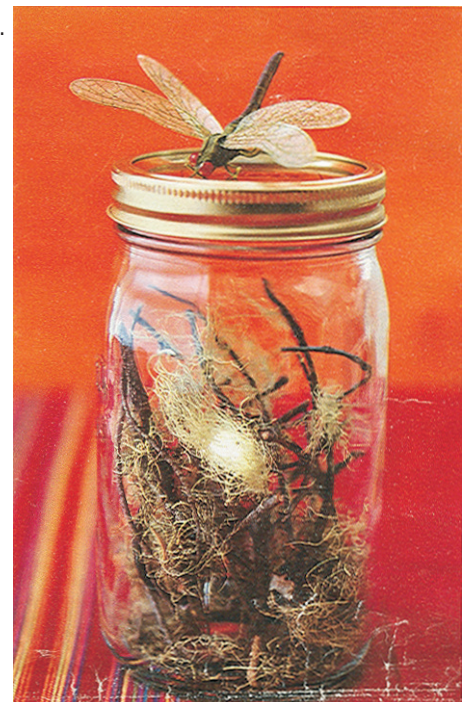
**Bright Starfish Goldfish** (from Pepperidge Farm)

**Edible Campfire:** Thank the Boy Scouts for this yummers idea!

### Supplies Needed:

- Paper Plate or Napkin (Safety Circle)
- Small Cup with water/juice (Water Bucket)
- Fork (Rake or Shovel)
- Toothpick (Match)
- Mini Marshmallows or Jelly Beans or M&M's & Cheerios or Raisins (Fire Ring)
- Potato Sticks or Shredded Coconut (Tinder)
- Pretzel Sticks or Chinese Noodles (Kindling)
- Pretzel Logs or Bread Sticks (Fuel Logs)
- Red Hots or Red Licorice (Sparks, Small Fire)
- Candy Corn (Large Fire)

Use the cheerios and marshmallows to form the fire ring and the rest of the ingredients to create your fire.



## Prizes

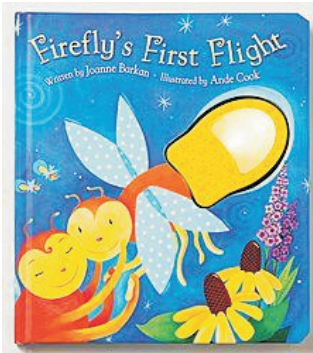
Purchase glow sticks from a hardware, Target, Wal-mart, or other store or from an on-line company such as Northern Products ([glow-sticks.com/store](http://glow-sticks.com/store)). Light them together in a darkened room, perhaps shouting “Lumos!” just before doing so.





## Story Time:

Tell a tale holding a flashlight under your face.



Barkan, Joanne **Firefly's First Flight** (2005)

Little Firefly is just a little afraid of the dark. His mother, however, reassures him, saying that there is nothing to be afraid of -- especially since he carries his own light with him wherever he goes. With his light to guide him. Readers can help Little Firefly "let his light shine" too by pressing the built-in light module.

Bedford, William **The Glow-Worm Who Lost Her Glow** (2005)

Sad because she has lost her glow, Georgina the glow-worm embarks on a journey to find it.

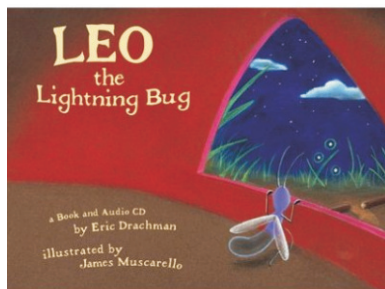
Brinckloe, Julie **Fireflies!** (1985)

A young boy is proud of having caught a jar of fireflies but as the light begins to dim, he realizes he must free them or they will die.



Carle, Eric **Very Lonely Firefly** (1995)

A lonely firefly goes out into the night searching for other fireflies.



Drachman, Eric **Leo the Lightning Bug** (Book and CD) (2001)

Leo cannot light, he retreats to his cave to come up with a solution. Wins our hearts and gains self-confidence in his struggle to make his very own light.

Eastman, P. D. **Sam and the Firefly** (1986)

Sam the owl and Gus the firefly have fun playing together at night until Gus begins to make mischief with his light.

Flynn, D. K. **Freddie the Firefly** (2007)

Young Freddie wants to compete in a flying contest despite the protests of his parents.

Gerber, Carole **Firefly Night** (2000)

A young Chippewa girl follows a firefly as it reveals the secrets of the night.

London, Jonathan **When the Fireflies Come** (2003)

A young boy celebrates the sights, sounds, and activities of a perfect summer day and evening.



Pfeffer, Wendy **Firefly at Stonybrook Farm (Smithsonian's Backyard)** (2004)

In the backyard of the big white house on Stonybrook Farm, Firefly crawls out of the ground and flies into the night sky. He joins other fireflies in the busy backyard. Can he use his flashing light to attract a mate? And what will happen when a little girl tries to catch him?

Pinczes, Elinor **My Full Moon is Square** (2002)

When the full moon over Peekaboo Pond is covered by a cloudy haze, a bullfrog needs the fireflies' help so he can continue reading to them.

Ross, Katherine **Twinkle, Twinkle Little Bug** (1996)

Big Bird captures a lightning bug and decides to keep it in a jar.

Sturges, Philemon **Ten Flashing Fireflies** (1995)

Two children catch fireflies on a summer night, put them one by one into a jar until all ten are caught, and then they let them out to watch all ten fly away.

## Music:

Song: **Flicker Firefly-brarian**

By "Billy Gorilly --- Happy Birthday Gertie" on CD  
Release: Jan. 2008





**Poem:**

Needed, two voices. "Fireflies" by Paul Fleischman's *Joyful Noise: Poems for Two Voices*

# .....Fireflies.....

**VOICE ONE**

**VOICE TWO**

Light .....	Light is the ink we use
Night .....	Night
is our parchment .....	
.....	We're fireflies
fireflies .....	flickering
flitting .....	
.....	flashing
fireflies .....	
glimmering .....	fireflies gleaming
glowing Insect calligraphers .....	Insect calligraphers
practicing penmanship .....	
.....	copying sentences
Six-legged scribblers .....	Six-legged scribblers
of vanishing messages, .....	
.....	fleeting graffiti
Fine artists in flight .....	Fine artists in flight
adding dabs of light .....	
.....	bright brush strokes
Signing the June nights .....	Signing the June nights
as if they were paintings .....	as if they were paintings
.....	We're
flickering .....	fireflies
fireflies .....	flickering
fireflies .....	fireflies.

