



STORY TIME

THE THING ABOUT BEES: A LOVE STORY

Story Time Description

Let's get the buzz on bees while reading *The Thing about Bees: A Love Letter* by Shabazz Larkin. This book is a love poem from a father to his two sons, and a tribute to the bees that pollinate the foods we love to eat. Bees are very important to nature, they are a key part of the pollination process which allows flowers and other plants to reproduce. After the story the author includes a double-page spread of 3 kinds of bees, showing which ones are more likely to sting.

Children's Fiction and Nonfiction Books about Bees and Pollination

- *The Honeybee Man* by Lela Nargi
- *What if There Were No Bees?* by Suzanne Slade
- *The Honey Makers* by Gail Gibbons
- *The Bee Man* by Laurie Krebs and Valeria Cis
- *Beauty and the Bees* by Aaron Burakoff
- *Bee and Me* by Alison Jay
- *Honeybees Busy Day* by Richard Fowler
- *Bee Still: An Invitation to Meditation* by Frank J. Sileo PhD
- *Bee Calm: The Buzz on Yoga* by Frank J. Sileo PhD
- *Bee Heartful: Spread Loving Kindness* by Frank J. Sileo PhD
- *Being a Bee* by Jinny Johnson and Lucy Davey
- *I Am a Bee: A Book About Bees for Kids* by Rebecca McDonald
- *These Bees Count* by Alison Formento
- *Bees and Wasp* by James Maclaine
- *A Wasp Builds a Nest: See Inside a Paper Wasp Nest and Watch it Grow* by Kate Scarborough
- *The Flight of the Honey Bee* by Raymond Huber
- *Explore My World: Honey Bees* by Jill Esbaum
- *National Geographic Readers: Bees* by Laura Marsh
- *The Bee Book: Discover the Wonder of Bees and How to Protect Them for Generations to Come* by DK (Emma Tennant)
- *Bugs, Bees, and Other Buzzy Creatures* by DK
- *National Geographic Kids Everything Insects* by Carrie Gleason

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- *The Buzz on Bees: Why Are They Disappearing?* by Shelley Rotner
- *If You Love Honey: Nature's Connection* by Martha Sullivan
- *The Honeybee* by Kristen Hall
- *In the Trees Honey Bees* by Lori Mortensen
- *You Wouldn't Want to Live Without Bees!* by Alex Wolf
- *The Bee Tree* by Patricia Polacco
- *The Beautiful Bee Book* by Sue Unstead
- *Save the Bees (Save the Earth)* by Bethany Stahl
- *Give Bees a Chance* by Bethany Barton
- *The Bee Dance* by Rick Chrustowski
- *The Reason for a Flower: A Book About Flowers, Pollen, and Seeds* by Ruth Heller
- *The Clover and the Bee: A Book of Pollination* by Anne Ophelia Dowden
- *Sip, Pick, and Pack: How Pollinators Help Plants Make Seeds* by Polly Cheney
- *What is Pollination?* by Bobbie Kalman
- *Animal Pollinators* by Jennifer Boothroyd

Other Useful Resources

Yoga for Kids: Getting Buggy with It

www.playfullearning.net/resources/yoga-kids-getting-buggy

Nature is a source of wonder for our children and Yoga provides an engaging and fun means of expression and further exploration of that nature. Children can imagine taking on the qualities of the natural elements that exists around them and, in doing so, deepen their connection.

Buzz About Bees

www.buzzaboutbees.net

Links to articles about bees, list of ways to help bees, and a list of friendly flowers and shrubs that will attract pollinators to your yard

Backyard Books Series

www.us.macmillan.com/series/backyardbooks

Children will learn about all kinds of backyard bugs and spiders in these nonfiction picture books. These accessible, fully illustrated books are perfect for reading aloud. Young readers will learn how they would experience life if they were one of these backyard creatures.

National Geographic Kids

www.kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/honeybee

Information, fun facts, visuals, and videos on honey bees

YouTube

- *Bees for kids* – Watch bees in a hive. See how they fill cells with honey and spot the queen.
- *Busy Bees* – Check out what these buzzing insects are up to and how you can tell the difference between a bumblebee and a honeybee
- *Sesame Street: B is for Bees* – Find out why bees are very important in helping plants grow
- *Sesame Street: Honeybee Hullabaloo* – Dance along to this catchy tune while learning facts about honeybees

Play and Grow

www.playandgrow.com/buzz-going-around-bee-aware

Yoga & mindfulness activities, a great lesson on how explore the variety of honey, and sing along to “I’m Bringing Home a Baby Bumblebee”

*I'm Bringing Home a Baby Bumble Bee
Oh I'm bringing home a baby bumble bee
Won't my Mommy be so proud of me!
Cause I'm bringing home a baby bumble bee....
OUCH! It stung me...*

DIY Science Camp: Bees – Start with a Book- Summer Science

www.startwithabook.org

Hands-on, activities, book list, websites, apps, and much more!

National Wildlife Federation

www.nwf.org

Great resources for turning your outdoor space into a spot that supports local wildlife? Use the tip sheets and videos to guide you in creating a go-to garden for bees, butterflies, birds, and other pollinators

Easy Science for Kids

www.easyscienceforkids.com/all-about-honey-bees

Information on honey bees, including a life cycle video and a Q & A

Audubon Society www.audubonva.org

Information on how to attract pollinators to your garden

Pollinator Partnership www.pollinator.org

Pollinator Partnership's mission is to promote the health of pollinators, critical to food and ecosystems, through conservation, education, and research.

Plant Virginia Natives www.plantvirginiannatives.org **Download the guide**

Native Plants for Virginia's Capital Region is a FREE guide published by the **Plant RVA Natives Campaign**. This guide showcases the attractive variety of plants native to the Virginia Capital Region, which includes Henrico, Hanover, City of Richmond, Chesterfield, Charles City, New Kent, Powhatan, Goochland, Cumberland, and Amelia.

Bee Safety Tips

Are you afraid of bees? It's important to know that **most bees will not sting you unless you swat at them or threaten them first**. Still, there are indeed some bees that are more aggressive and could leave you with a nasty sting. So you want to be able to tell the difference. Remember this “**Fuzzy bees: Fun to watch. Shiny bees: Stay away. Remember too that size does not matter. Large bees can be very social and some small wasps can swarm and be very mean**”.

- Don't kick old logs or rotten fruits and vegetables laying on the ground
- Never throw rocks or sticks at large hives hanging from a tree branch or high up
- Don't poke sticks and fingers into holes in wood structures or trees
- Never try to catch a bee
- Be very careful and watch where you step if you're playing barefoot in the grass
- If a bee flies close to you, just stay still till it passes. Once it knows that you are not a flower it will move along.

Parents, if you suspect there is a nest of stinging bees or wasps nearby, look into safe ways to remove the nests without using pesticides. Pesticides are also a common killer of hummingbirds, which aren't much bigger than some large bees. So if you like the birds, don't spray the bees. There are many great websites for safe solutions to problem insects and for more information about bees.

Exploration – Take a Walk in Your Backyard and Neighborhood

As you walk around your neighborhood or in your backyard to try and find bees and other pollinators, you can ask question such as:

- Where do you normally see bees?
- What bugs and insects do you hear?
- How many bees do you see?
- Did you see any bugs and insects on flowers?
- What color are the flowers?
- Why do bees like flowers?
- If you were a bee or which one would you be?

Thing to do at Home to Reinforce a Positive Connection between Children and Bees and Other Pollinators:

- Go outside to look for bees and other pollinators in your backyard or neighborhood (pollinator treasure hunt)
- Learn about different types of bees
- Take daily walks to your local park to observe different bees, other pollinators and insects
- Visit an apiary to learn about bees (allow children to ask the bee keeper questions)
- Visit an orchard to learn how bees pollinate the fruits we love to eat
- Plant native plants in your yard to attract pollinators
- Go on a flower hunt
- Use a magnify lens to observe bees pollinating flowers
- Provide non-fiction books and concrete materials about bees and other pollinators
- Utilize resources from this post