

Title of Book: **Blossom's Big Job**

Level: **Grade 1/2/3**

Instructional Focus: **If we are patient and work hard like a bee then great things will happen.**

Before Reading

This book is about...

a hard-working bee who encourages trust and perseverance while your students learn about pollination and how honey is made.

New Vocabulary to go over with students:

- **"Beekeeper"** is a person who owns and takes care of bees for honey and for pollination.
- **"Nectar"** is a sugar-rich liquid produced by plants and is found in their flowers and blossoms. Bees collect nectar and make it into honey.
- **"Pollen" and "Pollination"** while collecting the nectar for honey, bees transfer **pollen** (powdery substance) from male flowers to female flowers. This is called **pollination**, a task that is vital to the survival of plants and agriculture. In fact, one third of our global food supply is pollinated by bees. Thanks bees!
- **"Mature"** is when something is fully developed and done growing. In agriculture plants that have grown to their full height or fruit that's ripe are **matured**.

Questions to begin conversation:

Ask students what they think about bees? Are bees a good thing or a bad thing? Are we sometimes afraid of bees?

Look at only the cover of the book. Let's make some predictions and guess what the book is going to be about only by looking at the front page.

For the teacher or parents...

This reading guide is to help create conversation and allow students to explore the text and pictures of story more than simply reading the book. Feel free to add in any questions or skip questions as the conversation takes place. This resource was created to facilitate conversation, but every student is different and will analyze the story in a different way.

During Reading

For a class...

In groups of five have students take turns reading around in a circle. Use following prompts to help with guided reading and ensure students can make predictions based on pictures and context of the reading.

At home...

If this is being read at home read along with your child or children. Make sure to take turns and encourage conversation about the book and what is going on. The more you can explore and guide questions the more your students will be able to get out of the guided reading.

Questions to ask students for Self-Monitoring: while you are going through the reading use these guiding questions for student self-monitoring and comprehension.

Questions:

- After reading the first page, do you remember what a beekeeper is? Have you ever seen a bee farm before?
- (page 4 stop) What is the job of the Queen Bee? The Queen Bee is the mother of the hive and lays about 1500 eggs per day! She gives birth to all the bees in the entire hive.
- (page 6 stop) Do you remember what pollen and nectar are? What is the difference? Pollen is what helps pollinate all the flowers and lets them grow into fruits, vegetables and crops. Nectar is what bees use to create delicious honey when they bring it back to the hive.
- (stop page 9) Do you remember a time that you had to be patient and keep working hard? Think to yourself for a few seconds on a time when you had to wait and be patient and keep working hard to get something done. Did you keep going or give up?
- (stop page 12) Blossom was patient and worked hard and she got a great reward. What would have happened if Blossom was not patient and gave up? Would there have been any pumpkins?
- Go through the final page and read through the bee facts.

Major Teaching Points

Students will:

- Make predications based on the pictures and clues in the story.
- Learn more about a bee's role in agriculture.
- Learn how hard work and patience can really pay off in the end.
- How can we have a mindset and determination of a bee?

After Reading

Five Finger Re-Tell... (Can we remember the characters, setting and the beginning middle and end?)

1. Characters: Blossom, Queen Bee, the other Bees.
2. Setting: Honeybee Farm.
3. Beginning: Blossom was very excited to pollinate a bunch of flowers and help the queen bee.
4. Middle: The queen bee gave Blossom a very special job and blossom worked extremely hard and did not give up on the job even when it got tough.
5. End: Blossom's did not give up and her hard work paid off and she was able to pollinate and help grow the biggest fruits on the farm!



Final Conversation for Comprehension...

- How can we have an attitude like a bee and not give up? Think of one thing that has been hard this week that you stuck to and were patient. Did something good come from it? Maybe, we still must be patient and the good will come from our hard work.
- Were the pictures helpful in predicting or would just the words be good enough?
- Why do pictures help us predict so much better? Can a picture say 1000 words?
- Can books be impactful to our real lives and why is reading a silly story about a talking bee impact our lives?
- If we read the book one more time is there anything else that we can find out about the book, Blossom, or how bees help in agriculture? Make sure to read with a critical eye and ask lots of questions.
- How does a bee make honey?
- How does a bee help flowers to grow into fruit, vegetables and other crops?