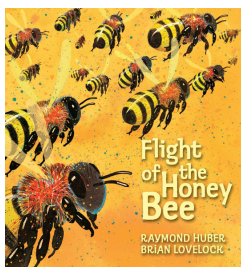




# Walker Books Classroom Ideas



## Nature Storybooks: Flight of the Honey Bee

Author: Raymond Huber  
 Illustrator: Brian Lovelock  
 ISBN: 9781921529665  
 ARRP: \$27.95  
 NZRRP: \$29.99  
 August 2013

\*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

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## Outline:

The cold is coming and Scout is on a daring flight in search of the last flowers of autumn. Scout's mission is very dangerous, but it is also vital, because the flowers provide the precious nectar the hive needs to make honey. Can the hive make enough honey to survive the long winter months?

## Author/Illustrator Information:

Raymond Huber lives in New Zealand. He has been a social worker, gardener, primary school teacher, lecturer, and is currently a writer and editor. He's written Science and English textbooks and short stories for children. *Sting*, is his first novel for Walker Books Australia, was short-listed for the NZ Post Book Awards for Children & Young Adults, Junior Fiction Category, 2010; and the Sir Julius Vogel Awards, Young Adult Category, 2010; as well as being a Storylines Notable Book, Junior Fiction Category, 2010. His second junior fiction novel, *Wings*, continued the adventures of the honey bee named Ziggy.

Brian Lovelock is a scientist working in the power industry in New Zealand. He has painted all his life but has only recently ventured into the world of book illustration. His previous titles with Walker Books Australia include *Your Mother Didn't Do That!* and *Roadworks*, which won the Picture Book category in the 2009 New Zealand Post Book Awards for Children & Young Adults. Brian was recently long-listed for the CILIP Kate Greenaway Award for his work on *Demolition*.

## How to use these notes:

This story works on many levels. The suggested activities are therefore for a wide age and ability range. Please select accordingly.

**These notes are for:**

- Primary years 2+
- Ages 7+

**Key Learning Areas:**

- English
- Science

**Example of:**

- Non-fiction
- Narrative non-fiction

**Themes/ Ideas:**

- Bees
- Insects
- Nature

### National Curriculum Focus:\*

Science  
 Year 2  
 ACSSU030  
 ACSU032  
 ACSIS037

Year 3  
 ACSSU044  
 ACSHE050  
 ACSHE051

\*NB this book is a useful resource for studies of biological sciences throughout the F-6 Australian Curriculum.

English  
 Year 2  
 ACELA1460  
 ACELA1463  
 ACELA1465  
 ACELA1466  
 ACELA1468  
 ACELA1469  
 ACELT1587  
 ACELT1589  
 ACELT1590  
 ACELT1593  
 ACELY1665  
 ACELY1666  
 ACELY1668  
 ACELY1671

Year 3  
 ACELA1475  
 ACELA1477  
 ACELA1478  
 ACELA1483  
 ACELT1594  
 ACELT1596  
 ACELT1598  
 ACELT1599  
 ACELT1600  
 ACELT1601  
 ACELT1791  
 ACELY1678

\*Key content descriptions have been identified from the Australian National Curriculum. However, this is not an exhaustive list of National Curriculum content able to be addressed through studying this text.

## Raymond Huber on *Flight of the Honey Bee*

I was always scared of bees until I got a real live beehive for my birthday. After watching their fascinating organised lives, I came to like bees (but I still wear a protective suit when opening the hive!).

Honey bees and humans have been partners for ages: we give them homes and they pollinate our food. But the world's bees are now endangered, so I wrote this book to show how intelligent and essential (even appealing) bees are. I imagined the viewpoint of a flying bee and all the challenges she'd face out in the world. For added thrills, I made Scout meet a few more dangers than the average bee on an average day!

Writing a picture book is a bit like creating a poem – there are limited words, so every word has to work hard (like a bee) to suggest character and story, to be accurate and to delight the ear.



## Discussion Questions and Activities

### Physical characteristics

Draw a picture of Scout and label the parts of her body as described in the book. Write a brief description of what each part is used for.

Honey bees are just one type of bee that exist. Research and list some other kinds of bees and their similarities and differences to honey bees.

Scout does a special dance on the wax comb to describe to the other bees where the flowers are. Play a game of “Bee Charades” with you class where each student takes a turn at miming a description of a place in your school or local area and the rest of the class have to guess.

### Honey bee habitat

Look at the honey bee's hive on pages 6-9. Do you think this hive was made by bees or humans? Why do you think that? What is the purpose of man-made beehives? Research what man-made beehives and bee-made beehives look like. Compare the two and list similarities and differences. Why would humans create beehives?

In what areas might you find honey bees? Research other kinds of bees and find out what types you might find where you live.

### Literature and context

Find other books written by Raymond Huber and those illustrated by Brian Lovelock in your school library. Are their other books similar or different to this one? Write about which one you prefer and explain why.

Find other books about honey bees in your school library. How do the authors of the other books deal with the subject of honey bees differently to Raymond Huber and Brian Lovelock?

### Examining literature

Is this book fiction or non-fiction? Is it a mixture of both? What clues are there as to what kind of text this book is?

The text in this book is presented in two font styles. Why do you think the text is presented this way? Read the book using each font separately and then discuss how the different fonts change the purpose and alter the perception of *Flight of the Honey Bee*.

Identify the events in a honey bee's life as described in this book. Have students work in small groups to present this as a Keynote/PowerPoint presentation.



# Walker Books Classroom Ideas

As a class, write a list of the facts about honey bees as presented in the book on the IWB.

Which writing style do you prefer: the descriptive storytelling style or the informative, factual style? In what types of texts would each of these writing styles usually be used? For example, novels, short stories, newspaper articles and reference books.

The author uses descriptive language, or imagery, on many occasions in the book. For example, "Scout's wings hum into life" and "An arresting smell drifts on the breeze." What other examples can you find? How does this description help bring the world of the honey bee to life?

There are many examples of metaphor ("an ocean of flowers", page 10), alliteration ("a flash of feathers!", page 12) and simile ("Eyes as black as polished stones", page 10) in this book. List other examples of these literary devices that the author has used throughout the book.

Punctuation, such as exclamation marks, dashes and ellipses (...), is used to create excitement and suspense in the book. What examples can you find?

## Responding to literature

Before beginning a study of this title use an online or IWB polling tool to conduct a survey to ascertain students' reactions to honey bees. Ask participants questions like:

- Are you scared of honey bees?
- How do they make honey?
- Are honey bees aggressive to humans?

Redo the poll after reading *Flight of the Honey Bee* and discuss results.

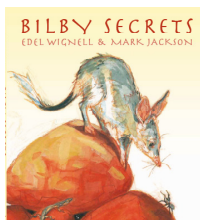
Do you think a bee would make a good pet? Why or why not? Hold a class discussion.

How would you feel if you encountered a swarm of honey bees on their way to collect nectar? Write a diary or blog entry.

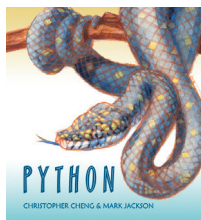
Whose point of view is this book told from? Look at the spread on pages 18-19. Rewrite this scene from the point of view of the wasps. Think about the reasons the wasps would want to attack the honey bees.

Write a book review on *Flight of the Honey Bee*. Write about what you liked about the book and if you think the author and illustrator did a good job of conveying information in an interesting way. Mention any books that are similar to *Flight of the Honey Bee* and make a recommendation as to who you think will like this book.

## Other great books in the Nature Storybooks series



**Bilby Secrets**  
Author: Edel Wignell  
Illustrator: Mark Jackson  
9781921529320  
AU\$29.95/NZ\$31.99  
Classroom ideas available



**Python**  
Author: Christopher Cheng  
Illustrator: Mark Jackson  
9781921529603  
AU\$29.95/NZ\$32.99  
Classroom ideas available



**Big Red Kangaroo**  
Author: Claire Saxby  
Illustrator: Graham Byrne  
9781921720420  
AU\$27.95/NZ\$29.99  
Classroom ideas available