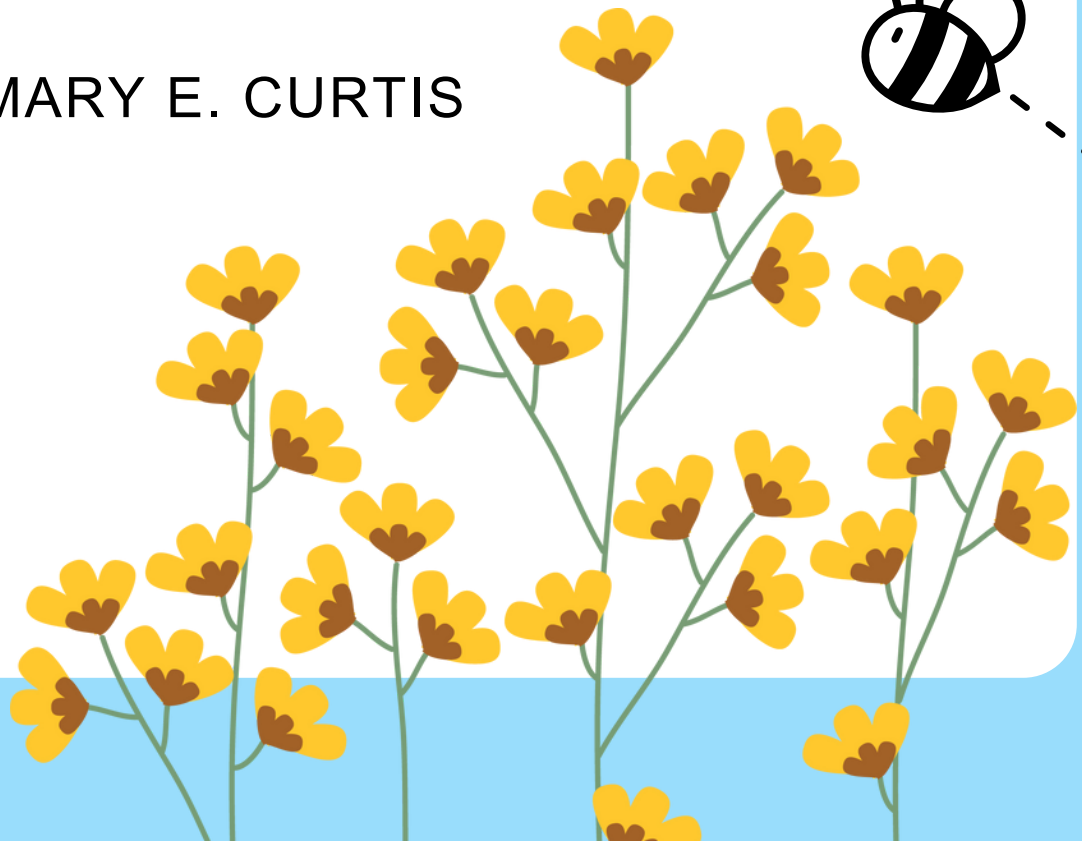


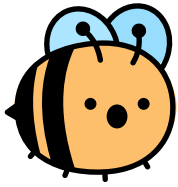


To bee or not to bee.

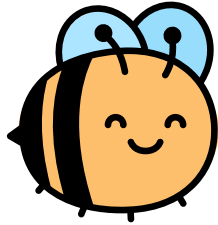
BY MARY E. CURTIS



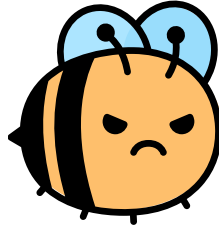
Cast:



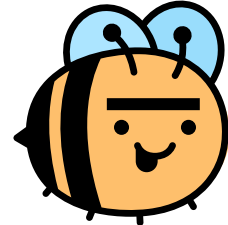
Little Bee



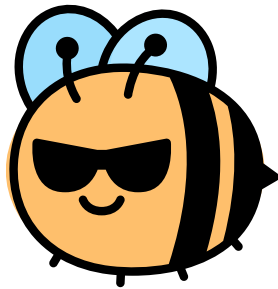
Nice Bee



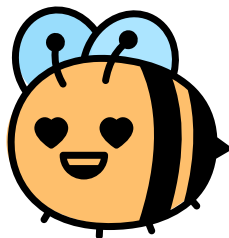
Grumpy Bee



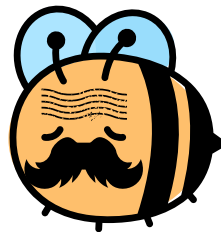
Silly Bee



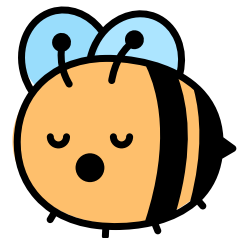
Big Bee



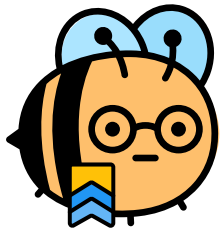
Lovely Bee



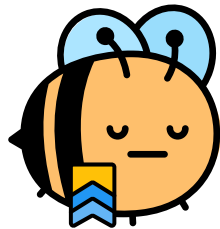
Elder Bee



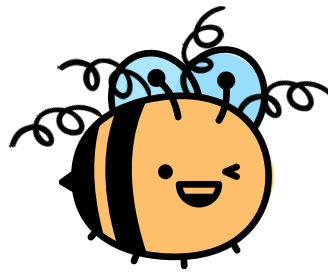
Sleepy Bee



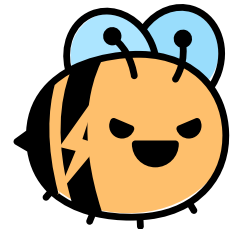
Scout 1



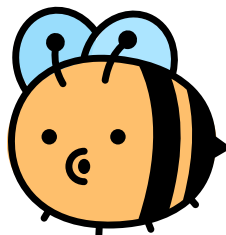
Scout 2



Fluffy Bee



Speedy Bee



Worker Bee

NARRATOR

Once upon a time not so long ago - in fact, it was yesterday - there was a beehive not far from here. It was not a wild beehive like you might find in a hollow tree. It was a human-made beehive, and it was home to a very busy thriving group of bees. It had all the usual kinds of bees: bees who maintained the nest, bees who collected nectar to be made into honey, nursery bees who took care of the baby bees. Everybody had a job to do, and everyone was quite busy, because of course, they were bees.

In the hive was one particular little bee. He'd managed to find his way out of the nursery, but he wasn't quite old enough or big enough to be a worker bee. But he so very much wanted to help!

All the big bees were flying in and out, as bees do.

GRUMPY BEE

Buuzzzz!

SPEEDY BEE

Buuzzzz!

LITTLE BEE

Hey! Hi! Where are you going?

SPEEDY BEE

Buzzz. Out of the way kid! We're busy!

LITTLE BEE tries to get the attention of the big bees as they go by.

LITTLE BEE

Hey! What are you doing? Can I come?

GRUMPY BEE

Of course, you can't come! You're too little! How's a grub like you going to collect pollen? Buzz off, kid!

LITTLE BEE

I am not a grub! I'm a big bee! I can so collect pollen! What's pollen?

One of the big bees' lands to talk to the little bee who is making a nuisance of himself.

NICE BEE

Goodness gracious, little one! What's pollen? How long have you been out of the nursery?

LITTLE BEE

I don't know. I can't tell time. They told me to stay here and stay out of the way. I'm not in the way! What's in the way?

OTHER BEES ZOOMING BY

Buzzzzzz. Buzzzz! Watch it, kid! You're in the way!

LITTLE BEE

But I want to help!

NICE BEE

But, little one, you ARE helping! Just be being here

LITTLE BEE

But I'm not doing anything!

NICE BEE

Yes, you are. You are... you are... you are a lookout!

LITTLE BEE

I am? What's a lookout?

NICE BEE

Well, it's a bee, a very important bee, who... looks out.

LOVELY BEE FLYING BY almost hits LITTLE BEE
Look out, kid!

LITTLE BEE
Oooh! Like that?

NICE BEE
Um, yes. Sure. You stand here and you... look out. And if someone needs help or if you see anything dangerous you yell.

LITTLE BEE
Dangerous? Like what?

NICE BEE
I don't know. Maybe if you saw a bear. Or a wasp.

LITTLE BEE
Ooooooh. What's a wasp?

NICE BEE
The biggest ugliest thing you can imagine. But you need to stand here and not get in the bees' way. Can you do that? It's a very important job.

LITTLE BEE
I can do it!

NICE BEE

Alright then. Be a good bee! I've got to go. I've got all this nectar to unload! See you around.

NICE BEE goes into the hive. The bees keep flying in and out.

NARRATOR

So Little Bee began his job as a lookout. He looked and he looked, but to tell you the truth, he didn't see much besides a bunch of bees going in and out of the hive.

THE BEES

Buzzzz Buzzzzzz Buzzzzzzzzzz

LITTLE BEE (*waving at the bees*)

Hi! Hi there!

WORKER BEE

Buzz off, kid.

LITTLE BEE

I'm helping!

SILLY BEE

Good for you, kid.

Some BEES land nearby.

FLUFFY BEE

Phew! Muggy today! You all having any luck? I've been flying all morning, and I haven't seen anything but mowed lawns. Humans sure don't make it easy for bees when they don't leave any plants for us to pollinate. They call it weeds. I call them job security.

SLEEPY BEE

My wings are worn out!

FLUFFY BEE

You know what? I'm not going out again until I hear from the scouts. There's no point in flying around in circles.

NARRATOR

And whiles the bees sat there resting when they should be moving, here comes the biggest bee in the hive known to all as BIG BEE. Big Bee was, well, we'll let her tell it. She does like to talk about herself.

BIG BEE lands close by.

BIG BEE

Phew! Hot day! Been lugging these nectar sacks for miles!

LITTLE BEE

Wow! What are nectar sacks?

BIG BEE

See these pouches on my hips?

LITTLE BEE

Yeah?

BIG BEE

That's where I store the nectar that I collect when I'm out in the field so that I can bring it back here to the hive so we can make honey.

LITTLE BEE

Ooooooh! I LOVE honey! Honey is the best!

BIG BEE

I bring in the most nectar out of any bee in the hive! I've won awards for the most nectar gathered for three weeks in a row!

LITTLE BEE

That's amazing! How do you do it?

BIG BEE

Stamina! Fortitude! Strong wings! I'm the first bee out of the hive in the morning and the last on out at night! I've got the biggest stretchiest pollen pouches.

LITTLE BEE

I want to win awards too!

BIG BEE

Well, you aren't going to do it by sitting around in the doorway!

LITTLE BEE

Oh, I'm not sitting around. I'm looking out! I'm a lookout!

BIG BEE

What are you looking at?

LITTLE BEE

Well, I'm... I'm looking at... I'm not sure right now but I'll know it when I see it.

BIG BEE

Looks to me like you're goofing off.

LITTLE BEE

What's goofing off?

BIG BEE

What you're doing. Sitting around doing nothing!

LITTLE BEE

Well, what should I be doing? Oooh! I just made a joke!
Bee doing? Get it?

BIG BEE

You're not funny, kid.

LITTLE BEE

I'm kind of funny

BIG BEE

You're not funny at all! You're just a lazy bee sitting around making unfunny jokes while all the other bees are busting their stingers for the hive.

LITTLE BEE

But I can't fly that well yet. Watch.

LITTLE BEE tries to fly around and crashes into the hive.

BIG BEE

You're right. Your flying stinks! Why don't you practice flying instead of sitting around doing nothing?

NICE BEE from earlier comes out of the hive.

NICE BEE

What's going on, Big Bee?

BIG BEE

Nothing. Just talking to the lazy, good for nothing standing around while the rest of the bees work.

LITTLE BEE

But I am working! I'm a lookout!

NICE BEE

Yes, you are, little one. And you are doing a very good job. You've managed to spot the biggest bully in the whole hive!

BIG BEE

Hey! Who are you calling a bully? You're just jealous because I'm the most productive collector in the hive! You wish you could bring in as much nectar as me!

NICE BEE

Well, I've got news for you. That whole last load you brought in was the wrong nectar!

BIG BEE

Wrong nectar! How could I bring in the wrong nectar?
Nectar is nectar! And I bring in the most!

NICE BEE

For your information, Ms. Know-It-All, this hive is collecting wildflower nectar. That last batch you brought in was from tupelo trees. It all had to be dumped!

BIG BEE

But I can get more nectar from trees faster!

NICE BEE

No, no, no! We are only collecting wildflower nectar!
Remember: over two feet tall, not at all! Weeds are our friends!

ELDER BEE

What the hive is looking for in particular are these 6 flowers: #1 Coreopsis - the Queen loves her some nectar from this Florida beauty. And what the Queen wants, the Queen gets! #2 Heal-All - is a beautiful purple color, also making it a favorite of royalty. #3 Sneezeweed.

ALL THE BEES

Achoo!

WORKER BEE

Do we have to collect sneezeweed?

The BEES sneeze again.

WORKER BEE

It makes my nose itch.

ELDER BEE

Well, there is probably plenty of Joe Pye Weed (#4) and Fleabane (#5) out there so don't fret. And don't overlook Lantana, #6, even though it's not native to Florida. Plenty of nectar for everyone!

BIG BEE (flying off)

GRRRRR. Fine.

LITTLE BEE

Big Be is kind of mean.

NICE BEE

Don't worry about her. She just thinks she's a big shot.

LITTLE BEE

She said I was good for nothing.

NICE BEE

That is absolutely not true! You are serving the hive in the best way that you can right now. When you are older and bigger, you will serve the hive in different ways. Maybe you will be a collector. Maybe you will work in the nurseery with the baby bees. Who knows? There are many jobs in a hive, and they are all important, and they all contribute. We all cooperate to make a stringer better hive!

LITTLE BEE

But I don't feel like I'm doing anything now.

NICE BEE

But you are! You are watching the older bees. You are learning from them whether you know it or not, and one day you will join them. Until then, you are looking out. You're like safety patrol!

LITTLE BEE

Cool!

NARRATOR

Just then, a buzzing was heard approaching the hive.

ALL THE BEES

Scouts! Scouts!

THE SCOUTS land.

SCOUT 1

ATTENTION! YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE! AN
UNMOWN FIELD HAS BEEN SPOTTED! EVERYONE
PAY ATTENTION!

SCOUT 2

We have found all the flowers we're looking for! Now
everyone LISTEN UP! This is where the flowers are:

You put your right foot in,
You out your right foot out,
You lift your left leg up,
and shake it all about.
You follow the line they showed us,
Where flowers are all out.
Yes, that's what it's all about.

*THE SCOUTS do a dance to indicate where the flower
are located. The OTHER BEES nod their heads.*

SCOUTS

Now everybody!

ALL THE BEES

You put your right foot in,
You out your right foot out,
You lift your left leg up,
and shake it all about.
You follow the line they showed us,
Where flowers are all out.
Yes, that's what it's all about.

SCOUT 1

Everybody got that?

ALL THE BEES

Yep! Got it! Let's go! I'll beat you there!

NARRATOR

And off they flew!

NICE BEE

Now you stay here, Little Bee. I've got to fly. Keep alert!
You never know when you might be needed! I have to go
collect. I'll see you when I come back.

NICE BEE joins all the other bees flying to the field trying
to find the flowers.

NICE BEE

I thought they said it was on this block. Remember one step, two step, wiggle wiggle wiggle?

FLUFFY BEE

No. I'm pretty sure it was one step forward, one step back and then three wiggles.

SLEEPY BEE

No. It was one step forward, two steps back, wiggle wiggle turn around wiggle!

They're all flying in circles.

WORKER BEE

Wait! Look! I see a vacant field. They haven't mowed it! Look, wildflowers!

LOVELY BEE

So many! Woo hoo!

SPEEDY BEE

Look! I've found Coreopsis!

They fly among the flowers that the children hold up in the audience. The bees land on them.

NICE BEE

I've found Sneezeweed!

ALL THE BEES

Achoo!

FLUFFY BEE

Look at all the Fleabane!

BIG BEE

Heal-All over here!

ELDER BEE

The queen is going to be so happy!

GRUMPY BEE

What's this new stuff? I haven't seen it before.

ELDER BEE

It's called Lantana. It's not native to Florida, but it sure is everywhere!

GRUMPY BEE

Wow! Nice colors, good nectar, and the flowers are like landing pads! I'd give it 2 thumbs up if I had thumbs.

SILLY BEE

Let's take some of that back as well!

THE BEES make happy buzzing sounds as they collect the nectar.

NARRATOR

Soon the bees were as busy as... um... well, bees as they stuffed their pollen pouches full of nectar. They were so busy, in fact, that they were not paying attention to the sky and did not notice the big black cloud rising up over the horizon.

SLEEPY BEE (looking up)

Oh no!

LOVELY BEE

It's going to storm! Quick! Grab all the nectar you can! We've got to get back to the hive before it rains! if we get washed into a puddle we could drown!

THE BEES fly around frantically trying to grab all the nectar.

LITTLE BEE

STORM! STORM COMING! TAKE COVER!

NARRATOR

As the bees scrambled to get back into the hive, the rain came down in torrents. A puddle at the entrance to the hive began to grow and grow until it started to spill into the hive!

LITTLE BEE

Careful! Careful! There's a puddle! bee careful!

THE BEES land safely around the hive.

BIG BEE

Watch out! Incoming with full nectar pouches! Clear out of the way!

BIG BEE comes in for a landing and slips in the puddle and gets flipped over.

BIG BEE

Whoops! Whoa! Hey! I'm stuck! Help! Somebody help me! The puddle's getting bigger! Help!

THE OTHER BEES mill about in confusion.

LOVELY BEE

What do we do? Somebody do something!

WORKER BEE

I don't know what to do! I collect nectar! That's all I know how to do.

GRUMPY BEE

I don't want to get involved!

SPEEDY BEE

I'm too busy!

SILLY BEE

I don't think we had a class in this!

BIG BEE

Help! The water's almost over my head!

LITTLE BEE

Out of the way! Out of the way! Safety Bee here! Hold up there, Big Bee! Hold on! Grab my leg! I've got you! And one, two, three.

NARRATOR

And Little Bee launched herself into the puddle and dragged Big Bee to safety.

SLEEPY BEE

Good job, Little Bee! Good thing you were here! Woo hoo Little Bee!

BIG BEE

Well, gosh, Little Bee, you saved me! Bees can drown in a very small amount of water! Thank you, Little Bee!

LITTLE BEE

You're welcome! Bee more careful! See what I did there?
bee more careful?

THE OTHER BEES laugh

BIG BEE

Yeah. Still not funny. But I sure appreciate what you did for me, Little Bee. I'm glad you were standing around doing nothing, because you know what? You were doing something very important.

LITTLE BEE

It's okay, Big Bee. I'm glad I was there for you. Always remember: Bee true to your hive!

BIG BEE

Okay, Little Bee. I've got to go drop off my nectar- my WILDFLOWER nectar. See you soon!

BIG BEE buzzes off.

SPEEDY BEE

Hey, Little Bee! You think it's safe to go back out?

LITTLE BEE (*looking*)

Yes! The storm seems to be over!

SPEEDY BEE

Cool! Thanks, Little Bee! Catch you on the way back in!

SCOUT 1 BEE (*flying in*)

Incoming! Whew~ That was a storm! I had to hide under a palm frond!

LITTLE BEE

Wipe your feet before you go in the hive!

SCOUT 2 BEE (*flying in*)

You got it, Little Bee!

ALL THE BEES (*as they fly in and out*)

Hi, Little Bee! How's it going!

LITTLE BEE

Hi! Hi, guys! What's up? BEE careful there! Watch where you're flying!

NARRATOR

And the bees came, and the bees went, as bees do.

THE END