BEYOND THE BOOK GUIDE

The Thing About Bees: A Love Letter by Shabazz Larkin

Book Summary

Have you ever felt scared because you didn't know much about something? If so, you'll love The Thing About Bees! A lot of things are scary until we learn more about them and what they do. Sometimes, the first step to not being scared of something is to learn three new things about it. Readers will follow along as the author explains the important role bees play in the world and teaches us that love can conquer fear after all.

Before Reading the Story

- Discuss what you see on the cover of the book.
- Make predictions on what the story may be about.
- Discuss what you already know about bees.
- Have you ever seen a bee up close? If so, discuss how you felt and where you were.
- What fruits and vegetables do you eat that you think a bee pollinates? Search for videos of bees pollinating plants.

Target Vocabulary

- **Pollen:** the very fine, usually yellow, dust that is produced by a plant and eaten by bees.
- **Pollination:** to move pollen from one plant to another
- **Nectar:** a sweet liquid made by plants and used by bees to make honey
- **Process:** a series of changes that happen naturally to produce something
- **Presto:** suddenly, as if by magic
- **Prance:** to walk or move in a lively and proud way
- **Sting:** to cause a quick, sharp pain
- **Picnic:** a meal that is eaten outdoors
- **Drizzle:** to pour a small amount of liquid over something
- **Mood:** the way someone f[illegible]

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During the Story

- Read the book aloud with the pictures facing your child.
- Make predictions about the story based on the pictures.
- Provide definitions and connections for any of the target vocabulary words that may be unfamiliar.
- Have your child repeat the words that they do not know.
- Relate the details in the story to events and experiences in your everyday life.
- Ask questions throughout the story to help your child understand what's being read.

After Reading the Story

- Have your child retell the story in their own words using the pictures.
- Using materials available (e.g. paper, pencils, markers, crayons), create a picture or poem about bees.
- Discuss three new things the book taught you about bees.
- Discuss the traits of a nice bee and compare them to the traits of a rude bee.
- Google or search Youtube for videos about beekeepers. Discuss what you learned from your search.

Example Questions to Ask

- What is the worst thing of all about bees?
- When bees sneak up behind you they fill you with _____.
- Bees help pollinate the plants that give us our favorite fruits and vegetables. Tell me about some fruits and vegetables that you love.
- Why would life without bees be sad?
- How did the narrator explain that bees are just like you?
- Tell me about a time you were in a bad mood. How did your parents help you feel better?
- What happens when a bee and a flower love each other?