Reading notes, discussion ideas and activities for exploring the *Bee Boy* series by Tony De Saulles

**Half BEE. Half BOY. Melvin Meadly is . . . BEE BOY.**

As a bee, Mel is ready to defend his hive against all enemies, taking on killer wasps, terrifying hawkmoths, and battling queen bees. And there’s more!

In these three stories, Melvin also has to battle with bloodsucking vampire mites, giant zombees, and devious Crispin Crump . . . But first he has to win over his neighbours and his schoolmates, and convince them that bees are not scary—this world needs bees for its survival!

These enjoyable stories, all of which are illustrated in black and yellow, are full of fascinating facts about bees. Their life cycles, the threats and predators that they face, and their life-giving pollination are all discussed in the books, which are also a springboard to finding out much more about the vital and amazing world of bees.

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**About the author**

**Tony De Saulles** worked as a book designer before turning to illustration and writing. He lives in the countryside and is learning to be a beekeeper. Tony has been illustrating Scholastic’s best-selling *Horrible Science* series for 20 years, which has sold more than ten million copies in over thirty countries. *Bee Boy* is his first project with Oxford University Press. You can find out more about Tony on his website: [www.tonydesaulles.co.uk](http://www.tonydesaulles.co.uk)

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For teachers and reading groups

Here are some ideas for children’s discussions and activities, including research, creative writing, art, and further reading.

**Booktalking**

**Introducing each book**

Look at the cover and the blurb, set the scene, and read the first chapter aloud to introduce the book—and maybe read one or two additional tasters from further on, to draw people into the story. Talk about it how it fits into the *Bee Boy* series.

Read the book all the way through, either aloud to everyone together, or letting people read and experience the book for themselves.

You can also listen to author Tony De Saulles reading from the books on his website: [https://tonydesaulles.wordpress.com/videos/](https://tonydesaulles.wordpress.com/videos/)

**Talking about the book: some booktalk questions**

Get everyone to share their first responses to the book. This could be with everyone together, or children could discuss in small groups and then share their main feelings and questions with everyone.

Then explore further what people think about the story. Encourage lots of discussion—there are no wrong answers; all are good!

Here are some questions you might use:

- How did you feel when reading this book? And how did you feel when you’d finished it?
- Which parts of the story do you remember most?
- Did you skip any parts? Which parts?
- Was there anything that took you by surprise?
- Were there any parts that didn’t make sense to you?
- If you gave up on the book, can you say why?
- What were the funniest bits for you?
- Talk about some of the things you learned from reading this book.
- Are there things you’d now like to find out more about?
- What single word (or two!) describes this book for you?

**Your favourite of the three Bee Boy books: tell everyone about it!**

When you’ve read all three books in this series, ask people to choose their favourite and put together a five-minute talk to tell everyone all about it.

Here are some tips for giving a talk:

- Give an overall summary of the series, briefly describing Mel, his passion for bees, and his ‘magic’ skill—and explaining why bees matter.
- Include one or two sentences summarising what happens in each book.
- Say which is your favourite of the three, and why.
- Don’t forget to show people what the books look like!
You’ll find each of the 16 words from the wordsearch below in the *Bee Boy* books!

Look for them in the squares, running upwards, downwards, left-to-right and right-to-left.

What do you know about each of these words? They all have something to do with bees. Look them up and see if you can find out even more.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DRONE</th>
<th>WORKER</th>
<th>QUEEN</th>
<th>HONEY BEE</th>
<th>HIVE</th>
<th>POLLEN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NECTAR</td>
<td>MITES</td>
<td>WASPS</td>
<td>HAWKMOTH</td>
<td>LARVA</td>
<td>EGGS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMOKER</td>
<td>CHEMICALS</td>
<td>HONEYCOMB</td>
<td>WAGGLE DANCE</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

You’ll find each of the 16 words in the squares, running upwards, downwards, left-to-right and right-to-left.

(The answers are at the end!)
Here are 12 facts about bees.
Can you spot the fake ‘fact’ lurking here?!
And can you see one that is just partly true?
See what you think—the things bees do are amazing!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bee facts—which one is the fake? And which one is partly true?</th>
<th>True or false?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. In a hive there are can be up to around 50,000 bees.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Beekeepers use a smoker device to calm bees in a hive.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Over the course of its life, one bee gathers enough nectar and pollen to make 1/12th of a teaspoon of honey.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. A honey bee visits around 2,000 flowers a day.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. After a drone has mated with a queen bee, it dies.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. A queen bee lays 2,000 eggs a day for two to five years.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. A worker honey bee can sting many times.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Bees in a hive need around 16kg of honey to tide them over the winter months.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Honey bees have four wings and five eyes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. When honey bees perform a waggle dance they are shaking off the scent of a good place for flowers, so the other bees know which scent to search for.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11. Bees need to make a total of 2 million visits to flowers in order to produce 500g of honey.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12. Bees make 11,400 wing strokes per minute, causing their buzzing sound.</td>
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</table>

(The answers are at the end!)

You’ll find more facts in the last two pages of *Clash of the Killer Queens.*
You could collect the facts you find most amazing and **make your own Bees Fact File.**
Here’s a quiz about the three stories in the *Bee Boy* series. You need to choose a, b, or c for the right answer.

N.B. One of these questions has two correct answers, and one has three!

1. Where does Mel live?
   a. London’s West End  
   b. The top floor of Meadow Tower flats  
   c. By the sea

2. How many honey bees are there in his hive?
   a. 500  
   b. 5,000  
   c. 50,000

3. What happens when Mel uses the smoker to calm the bees?
   a. The smoke spirals around him, and he finds he is inside the hive and has turned into a bee  
   b. The hive catches fire  
   c. The smoke drives the bees out of the hive

4. What do we call the bees who look after the queen and the baby bees, build the honeycomb, and clean the hive?
   a. Busy bees  
   b. Worker bees  
   c. Servant bees

5. Why do Mel and his mother call a meeting of all their neighbours?
   a. To start a beekeeping club  
   b. To tell them that bees are dangerous  
   c. To explain how important bees are for pollinating plants so that fruit and vegetables can be produced

6. Which bugs do Mel’s bees have a fierce battle with?
   a. Spiders  
   b. Wasps  
   c. Ants  
   d. Hawkmoths

7. What happens when the new queen bees hatch in Mel’s hive?
   a. They start laying eggs straight away  
   b. The worker bees choose one to be their queen and drive the others from the hive  
   c. The new queens battle with each other to be the hive queen until only one is left alive

8. How much honey does Mel get from the honeycombs in his hive?
   a. 28 jars  
   b. 100 jars  
   c. 10 jars

9. What awful thing happens to Mel’s hive?
   a. It is stolen  
   b. Someone takes the roof off, the rain gets in, and all the bees die  
   c. Someone poisons the bees
10. How does Mel know that all the bees in the classroom will stay together as a swarm?
   a. Bees always follow the scent of the queen bee wherever she goes
   b. He has put a lid on the waste-paper basket
   c. He puts them all in a bag

11. In *Attack of the Zombees*, what happens when people at school eat the honey sponge pudding?
   a. They turn into bees
   b. Their faces turn yellow and they are sick
   c. They start speaking with buzzy voices

12. When Mel and the worker bees fly off and follow the directions in the waggle dance, what do they find?
   a. A flower shop
   b. A dark factory and a field full of giant flowers
   c. A garden full of roses

13. What is bee 46664 doing inside a big yellow poppy?
   a. Sniffing its scent
   b. Slurping up the nectar to store in her throat and take back to the hive to use for honey
   c. Sleeping

14. What happens to bee 46664?
   a. She becomes a monster zombee
   b. She is sick
   c. She dies

15. What is Crispin Crump’s plan?
   a. To destroy all bees
   b. To create giant bees who will produce millions of jars of honey
   c. To create giant bees for a blockbuster horror film

16. What insect-eating plant does Mel use to grab and guzzle the zombees?
   a. Venus flytrap
   b. Pitcher plant
   c. Sundew plant

17. In *Curse of the Vampire Mites*, why are the mites such a threat to the world?
   a. They are eating all the plants
   b. They are feasting on bees’ blood and stopping bees from pollinating flowers
   c. They are biting humans and feasting on their blood

18. Because of the damage done by the mites, honey is really expensive—how much does Mel’s mum have to pay for a jar of honey?
   a. £10
   b. £5
   c. £50

19. Why is the Tunnel House Café kidnapping beekeepers and their hives?
   a. They need more staff in the café
   b. To use their honey to make better cakes
   c. To get their honey for making and then selling Gigglefizz

20. Who helps Mel to defeat and capture these hive robbers?
   a. Priti
   b. Mr Jolly
   c. Detective Inspector Meadly, Mel’s mum

(The answers are at the end!)
Who’s who in Bee Boy?

These characters all appear in the Bee Boy books, and they are telling you something about themselves, but the statements have been put next to the wrong people!

Can you match each person up with the right description?

A. I’m Mel’s teacher. I’m into nature and animals and bugs.

B. I’m Mel’s neighbour. I like bees and I help him with his hive.

C. I’m Dan’s mum. I live near Mel, and I keep bees at the bottom of my garden.

D. I like playing computer games, and I can be a bit of a troublemaker.

E. I’m a bee-keeper—and sometimes I turn into a BEE!

F. I’m a millionaire businessman with a devious plan to make millions of jars of ‘Bees’ Knees’ honey.

G. I got Mel interested in bees, and I work to save and protect the world’s bees.

H. I’m Mel’s friend. He says I’m brainy, brave, and funny too.

I. I’m the school librarian and also a beekeeper. I get kidnapped by the Tunnel House Café owners.

J. I’m Sir Crispin’s nephew. I face my fear of bees—and I’ve decided I don’t want to be a celebrity after all.

K. I’m a honey-lover and a good guy. Mel was wrong about me!

L. I’m Mel’s mum, and I’m a detective inspector for the police.

(The answers are at the end!)
Things to talk about—and to find out

*If the bee disappeared off the face of the Earth, man would only have four years left to live.* Maurice Maeterlinck, *The Life of the Bee*

*Bees are the batteries of orchards, gardens, guard them.* Carol Ann Duffy, *The Bees*

Save the bees

‘It’s a planet in a billion and we need to look after it!’ (p3, *Clash of the Killer Queens*)

This is what Mel’s friend Dan says about Earth. In his school project talk, Mel tells his classmates why bees are so important in looking after our planet.

🔍 Why is Earth a planet in a billion?

🔍 What does Mel mean when he says ‘NO BEES, NO WORLD!’

🔍 Below are five things which threaten bees’ survival. Can you add details to these—and can you think of any more? There’s quite a bit of information in all these *Bee Boy* stories.

Add all you can to the list, and in a column next to each write down at least one thing you could do towards saving the bees. Have a look at the tips on the last two pages of *Attack of the Zombees*. The smallest thing could help.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Threat to bees’ survival</th>
<th>Ideas for helping bees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pesticides</td>
<td>e.g. Don’t use these in your garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss of habitat</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Competition/threats from other insects</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate change</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
’We have got to do something.’ She sighs. ‘How about a meeting?’

(p75, Clash of the Killer Queens)

Mel’s mother says this when she and Mel are trying to get people to understand what bees are really like and why they matter. Perhaps in your school or library you could have a campaign to raise awareness about bees and start some actions to help them. Here are some tips for your campaign:

- Get your facts together. (See More reading [p18] and Some websites to explore [p19]).
- Decide who you want to get your message across to.
- See if there’s a local project you might join up with.
- Design a leaflet or poster to get people to the meeting.
- Put together a simple presentation to make your points.
- Make time for organising and getting action going after the meeting, to follow up the ideas it generates.
‘Workerz all ladies!’

‘Not lazy like men beez!’

‘Yezz, lazy drones just for making babeez wizz queen!’ (p47, Clash of the Killer Queens)

When he shrinks and gets into the hive, Mel finds out that there are three kinds of honey bees: workers, drones, and the queen.

See if you can find out more about each—what they do and the differences between them. You’ll find quite a bit of information in the Bee Boy books, especially from page 46 onwards in Clash of the Killer Queens.

Below is a picture of a honey bee. Talk about the different parts of its body and what they are used for: your Amazing bee facts (p4) will give you information about this.
When a worker bee visits a flower, she sucks the nectar from it with her tongue into a special crop in her throat and takes it back to the hive.

She has a structure on her leg—a pollen basket, made of rows of stiff hairs that arch to form a hollow space on the outside of her back legs. When she visits a flower, she combs grains of pollen into her baskets. Pollen from the flower also sticks to her hair.

You may not be able to do a waggle dance to tell this worker bee where there are lots of flowers, but can you help her find her way through the maze, to reach all that nectar and pollen?!
‘We’ll give the bees a home and they’ll give us honey!’ (p7, Clash of the Killer Queens)

Have a look at the X-ray view inside a beehive on page 6 of Clash of the Killer Queens.

You’ll see that the lower level is where the queen lays her eggs and the larvae are fed by the worker bees. In the top two levels are frames on which the bees build honeycombs of beeswax, storing honey within the cells of these honeycombs.

The frames can be lifted out and the honey extracted, as Mel does in Clash of the Killer Queens (p151 onwards).

Honeycomb cells are hexagonal. What is a hexagon? See if you can find out why this is a good shape for storing the honey.

The honeycomb is made from beeswax made by glands on the worker bees’ abdomens. The worker bees chew the wax and mould it into the six-sided honeycomb cells that together form a sheet of honeycomb from two to four feet long. An empty honeycomb weighs just a few grams, but when full of honey it can weigh kilograms.

‘Honey is one of nature’s miracles . . . delicious natural sweetness!’ (p32, Clash of the Killer Queens)

And honey is even more than a sweetener . . .

Be a researcher and see how many things you can add to these lists showing why honey is so special!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Honey in food and drink</th>
<th>Properties of honey</th>
<th>Uses of honey . . .</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Honey sponge</td>
<td>Sweetness</td>
<td>Antiseptic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honey on toast</td>
<td>Good for digestion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gigglefizz!</td>
<td></td>
<td>. . . and beeswax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Candles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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More to talk about from the Bee Boy stories

‘... sometimes the smoke wraps around me, it shrinks me, and I turn into ... A BEE’
(p3, Curse of the Vampire Mites)
This amazing thing happens to Mel, with the result that he can enter the hive, talk with the bees, and experience their world.

If you had this incredible shrinking power, which creature would you like to become? What would you enjoy about their world, and what would you not like at all?

I see Priti Kaur chuckling. I’m a joke and the whole school is laughing at me.
(p59, Clash of the Killer Queens)
When Mel is giving his school project talk, a bee has got into his hood—and then stings his teacher on her bottom . . . What’s the most embarrassing thing that has happened to you?! How did you deal with it?

Nature has cruel ways of selecting leaders. (p120, Clash of the Killer Queens)
What is Mel referring to here? Can you think of other creatures where this kind of fight for leadership is played out?
With humans, what are the different ways in which people become leaders?

Wow! It’s a swarm of bees. They’re looking for somewhere to rest and it looks like they’ve spotted the ideal place. (p161, Clash of the Killer Queens)
The ‘ideal place’ here turns out to be Norman Crudwell, dressed as a tree.
Mel has to rescue him by encouraging the bees to swarm into a waste paper bin, following the scent of their queen bee.

Look out too for birds swarming—for example starlings preparing to roost in the autumn, thousands of them in a swooping mass.
This is called a ‘murmuration’—see https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlife-guides/bird-a-z/starling/starling-murmurations/

Bees’ swarming and group behaviour is fascinating—have a look at this video of a bees’ waggle dance:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LU_KD1enR3Q

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So I’m in my bedroom, writing a list and getting my thoughts in order
(p95, Attack of the Zombees)
These are Mel’s notes about the horrible honey and the zombees, when he’s trying to work out what is going on. What do you find helpful when you want to sort your thoughts out? Lists like this? Talking to someone? Taking a walk?

Mel writes another list when he’s worried about what bee 33137 was trying to tell him (p143, Clash of the Killer Queens)—a list of all the good things he can think of to cheer himself up. Do you find this kind of list a helpful thing to do? Have a go at writing one now. Give it the heading ‘Reasons to be cheerful’!

He let his mask of confidence slip for a few minutes, but he seems to have put it back on. (p93, Attack of the Zombees)
This is Berty Crump, Sir Crispin’s nephew. To Mel and his friends, Berty has seemed to be a bit of a show-off, but they see another side of him when he is terrified by one of the zombees.
Do you ever put on a ‘mask of confidence’? In what kind of situations might you do this? Does it always help?

‘And he didn’t even get stung – well, just a few times, on the end of his nose.’
(p173, Clash of the Killer Queens)
A swarm of bees settle on Norman Crudwell when he stands dressed as a tree, and Melvin rescues him. He has a very red nose from being stung!
If you get stung by a bee, the main thing is to tell an adult as quickly as possible. How should the sting then be treated? And if a bee flies up to you, what should you not do?
A swarm of bees in May
Is worth a load of hay
A swarm of bees in June
Is worth a silver spoon
A swarm of bees in July
Is not worth a fly
Honeycomb

Have a look at the honeycomb pattern in the Beehives section (p12), and also see how the author, Tony De Saulles, uses this pattern on the books’ covers. On the endpapers immediately inside each book, he has used a design based on the faces of characters from each story.

Have a go at creating your own design for the endpapers, basing it on a honeycomb and adding any twirls or images you like!

Bee Boy Book Four!

What could Melvin’s next adventure be?!

Think of a plot for a new Bee Boy story.

🔍 You’ll need a new danger to be faced, a new enemy, and an idea for overcoming the danger. For inspiration have a look at your list of Threats to bees’ survival (p8) and see which ones haven’t been covered in depth in the first three Bee Boy books.

🔍 What new information about bees could you include in your story?

🔍 Don’t forget to give Melvin the chance to be a bee again!

🔍 The Amazing bee facts on page four could give you some useful material for your story. The customs and superstitions about bees below may also give you some ideas.

🔍 Keep it simple!

When you’ve collected your ideas, and shaped up a plot, set it all out on an A4 sheet, with

🔍 the title of your book

🔍 the main characters

🔍 a paragraph with a brief summary of the plot

🔍 two or three sentences of blurb* to get people interested in reading your book.

*This is the story description found on the back of a book and/or inside the front cover.
Bees: some customs and superstitions

Here are some fascinating customs and folklore about bees that you might like to use in your story!

**Telling the bees**

This is a traditional European custom in which bees would be told of important events in their keeper’s lives, such as births and marriages, or departures and returns in the household. If the custom was omitted or forgotten and the bees were not “put into mourning”, then it was believed a penalty would be paid, such as the bees leaving their hive, stopping the production of honey, or dying.

**Painting beehive panels**

The art of painting beehive panels is a tradition unique to Slovenia that started in the eighteenth century. People painted fascinating pictures on the smooth wooden panels on the front of beehives, often telling stories. Some people believe it was done to bring good luck to the bees; others say it was to help bees find the right way to the hive. Either way, it made it easier for the beekeeper to remember individual hives.

**Some bee superstitions**

- If a bee flies into the house, it is a sign of good luck or of the arrival of a stranger; however, the luck will only hold if the bee is allowed to stay, or if you let it fly out of the house of its own accord. If you kill the bee you will have bad luck, or the visitor will be unpleasant.
- A bee landing on someone’s hand is believed to foretell money to come.
- If a bee settles on someone’s head, it means that person will rise to greatness.
- It’s bad luck to give away a hive: the bees must be sold for a fair price, matching what they are worth.
- Bees should never be moved from one place to another without being told beforehand.

**Some bee phrases**

Here are some phrases which have the word ‘bee’ in them. See if you know what they mean, and find out some more about how they originated:

a. the bee’s knees
b. bee in your bonnet
c. make a bee line for
d. busy bee
e. queen bee
f. sewing bee
g. put the bee on someone

(The answers are at the end!)
### More books by Tony De Saulles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Series</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>ISBN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Deep Dark Sea</td>
<td>Early Reader (non-fiction)</td>
<td>Orion</td>
<td>9781444015485</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Loch Ness Monster Spotters</td>
<td>Early Reader (fiction with facts)</td>
<td>Orion</td>
<td>9781510101852</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crabs, Dabs and Rockpools</td>
<td>Early Reader (non-fiction)</td>
<td>Orion</td>
<td>9781444015508</td>
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<tr>
<td>with Nick Arnold</td>
<td>Horrible Science series</td>
<td>Scholastic</td>
<td>Many titles</td>
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<tr>
<td>with Paul Mason</td>
<td>The Poo That Animals Do</td>
<td>Wayland</td>
<td>9781526303943</td>
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<tr>
<td>with Paul Mason</td>
<td>The Wee That Animals Pee (coming September 2019)</td>
<td>Wayland</td>
<td>9781526309723</td>
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### Bees: fiction

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<tr>
<td>DK</td>
<td>The Bee Book</td>
<td>Dorling Kindersley</td>
<td>9780241217429</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sara Lynn Latta</td>
<td>Bees and Wasps: Secrets of Their Busy Colonies</td>
<td>Capstone Press</td>
<td>9781543559118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James MacLaine &amp; John Francis</td>
<td>Bees and Wasps</td>
<td>Usborne</td>
<td>9781409544876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte Milner</td>
<td>The Bee Book (picture book)</td>
<td>DK Children</td>
<td>9780241305188</td>
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<tr>
<td>Piotr Socha &amp; Wojciech Grajkowski</td>
<td>The Book of Bees</td>
<td>Thames &amp; Hudson</td>
<td>9780500650950</td>
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### Bees: non-fiction

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<tr>
<td>Alison Jay</td>
<td>Bee &amp; Me (wordless picture book)</td>
<td>Old Barn Books</td>
<td>9781910646199</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laurie Krebs &amp; Valeria Cis</td>
<td>The Beeman</td>
<td>Barefoot</td>
<td>9781846862601</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Some websites to explore

Rowse Honey: Be a Bee Buddy

ABC Education (Australia): Interesting Bee Facts
http://education.abc.net.au/home#/!/media/2757884/interesting-bee-facts

YouTube/Bristol Nature Channel: Honey – How is it Made?
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4-zb9bmZ5Ls

YouTube: Why Do We Need Bees?
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6CxCTyxRFh0

San Diego Zoo: Information About Bees
https://animals.sandiegozoo.org/animals/bee

Friends of the Earth
https://friendsoftheearth.uk/bees

Save Our Bees
http://www.saveourbees.org.uk

Tony De Saulles: Bee Blog & Videos
www.tonydesaulles.co.uk
### Bees wordsearch

```
| Q | W | H | O | N | E | Y | C | O | M | B | Z | B | K | X | E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Y | P | I | X | V | N | M | B | C | I | A | S | F | W | N | C |
| Z | V | V | L | O | X | T | E | P | T | W | Q | X | O | P | N |
| B | M | E | B | X | R | A | T | C | E | N | W | G | R | B | A |
| S | F | Y | D | H | V | A | M | V | S | X | Z | W | K | G | D |
| W | X | N | X | T | V | W | Z | F | X | Z | B | G | E | J | E |
| V | M | K | G | O | V | B | W | X | Z | B | A | V | R | A | L |
| P | C | H | E | M | I | C | A | L | S | K | J | C | W | X | G |
| J | X | W | K | K | J | X | E | R | F | A | S | M | C | H | G |
| S | Q | Z | V | W | E | E | B | Y | E | N | O | H | B | G | A |
| P | W | X | V | A | Q | L | S | Q | N | T | U | X | Z | K | W |
| S | V | X | Z | H | W | A | D | P | O | L | L | E | N | J | X |
| A | P | B | V | J | X | W | Z | X | R | X | G | F | B | G | E |
| W | E | T | K | U | Z | L | J | G | D | S | Z | W | J | V | G |
| W | Q | U | E | E | N | Q | Z | V | X | Q | M | P | V | Z | G |
| W | J | Z | V | B | M | Q | B | X | F | R | E | K | O | M | S |
```

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## Bee facts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bee facts—Which one is the fake? And which one is partly true?</th>
<th>True or false?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. In a hive there are can be up to around 50,000 bees.</td>
<td>True</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Beekeepers use a smoker device to calm bees in a hive.</td>
<td>True</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Over the course of its life, one bee gathers enough nectar and pollen to make 1/12th of a teaspoon of honey.</td>
<td>True</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. A honey bee visits around 2000 flowers a day.</td>
<td>True</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. After a drone has mated with a queen bee, it dies.</td>
<td>True</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. A queen bee lays 2000 eggs a day for two to five years.</td>
<td>True</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. A worker honey bee can sting many times.</td>
<td>False*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Bees in a hive need around 16kg of honey to tide them over the winter months.</td>
<td>True</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Honey bees have four wings and five eyes.</td>
<td>True</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. When honey bees perform a waggle dance they are shaking off the scent of a good place for flowers, so the other bees know which scent to search for.</td>
<td>Partly true**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Bees need to make a total of 2 million visits to flowers in order to produce 500g of honey.</td>
<td>True</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Bees make 11,400 wing strokes a minute, causing their buzzing sound.</td>
<td>True</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*When a worker honey bee stings a human, its barbed stinger is lodged in the person’s skin and tears loose from the bee’s abdomen, leading to its death in minutes. N.B. A queen bee can sting many times as her stinger is not barbed.

**This is certainly possible, but the general belief is that in their waggle dance, bees are dancing a pattern which gives information about the direction and distance to patches of flowers offering lots of nectar and pollen.
Bee Boy quiz

Who's who in Bee Boy?
A. Miss Springfield
B. Mr Johnson
C. Daisy
D. Norman Crudwell
E. Mel Meadly
F. Sir Crispin Crump
G. Dan
H. Priti Kaur
I. Mrs Gashkori
J. Berty Crump
K. Mr Jolly
L. DI Meadly

Some bee phrases

a. the bee’s knees: something excellent; it may possibly refer to the fact that pollen is carried on the back of bees’ knees.

b. having a bee in your bonnet: being obsessed by an idea; you can't stop thinking about it; this could refer to when you get a bee caught in your beekeeper’s hood, as Melvin does!

c. make a bee line for: go straight to something; a ‘bee line’ is the shortest distance between two points, as when a bee is making for a patch of flowers.

d. busy bee: a person who is energetic and gets things done—like a worker bee!

e. queen bee: the leader or dominant person in a group—e.g. in a group of girl friends.

f. sewing bee: a small group of people, sharing a sewing activity.

g. put the bee on someone: to put pressure on someone for money—or to beat or finish off; this could be like ‘stinging’ someone.