

Classroom Ideas



Bee & Me

By Alison Jay HB with jacket:

ISBN: 9781910646052 £10.99 PB edition with jacket flaps: ISBN: 9781910646199 £7.99

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

© 2016 Walker Books Australia Pty. Ltd. Notes All Rights Reserved

Old Barn Books is grateful to Wallker Books Australia for the use of these Classroom Notes, which were originally prepared to accompany the Australian edition of the book. We welcome feedback from UK teachers and librarians. Please contact: info@oldbarnbooks.com

Outline:

We hear much about the plight of the bumble bee population and its implications for our planet's future. This beautiful picture book makes the story personal and brings a message of hope. A little girl befriends a bee, which takes her on a journey of discovery and to an action each child can take to aid in conservation. Bee & Me is both a story of friendship and an introduction to the ecology of the natural world. Alison Jay's original artwork brings the story gently to life, pointing up the sadness of a world without bees.

Author/Illustrator Information:

Alison Jay is an acclaimed picture book illustrator. She graduated from the London College of Printing, and has been a full-time illustrator ever since. She has illustrated a large number of books for children. Bee & Me was nominated for the CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2017.

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:

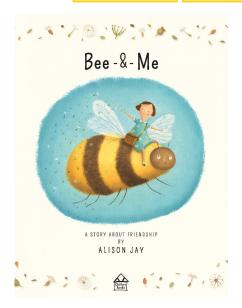
- Primary years F-2
- · Ages 3+

Key Learning Areas:

- English
- Art

Example of:

- Wordless
 Picture Book
- Themes/Ideas:
- Sustainability
- Friendship
- Looking after animals
 - Insects



PLANT YOUR OWN BEE-FRIENDLY SEEDS

This packet contains sunflower seeds. Plant in a p at an your window-sill, or in the garden in the summer. The best time toplant is from early. April indoors, or late May outside Choose a sunny, sheltered, spot.

Press down Inger-deep into soil or compost:
Cover with a layer of soil.
Water well and keep the soil moist (but not too wet).
The seedings should appear of yet a 1-22 days
Out doors, make sure you plant seeds about 45 cm apart.

Bees are attracted by the bright
yellow petals and will come to feed on the
nactura. Later, these essentially the seeds all gone the
Important Joa of priving when they are
all genes the drystems will make a great
bee hat of Jorthewinter.

Bee & Me (c) Alison lay 2016

AN OLD BARN BOOK
www.oldbarnbooks.com

Old Barn Books has sourced beefriendly sunflower seeds from www.plantableseedpaper.com and they are available in limited numbers for nurseries, schools and libraries on request. Please email us at info@oldbarnbooks.com.



Classroom Ideas

Discussion Questions and Activities:

Reading as a Class

Go through the book as a class and without trying to "read" the story, discuss what is happening on each page. Discuss the setting, the people, the actions characters are taking, the use of colour and composition.

Read through as a class with the teacher or librarian creating the story. Afterwards, ask students if they agreed or disagreed with the reader's interpretation.

Go through the book and write words that could appear on each page on post-it notes. These words could be dialogue between characters, actions/verbs, thoughts or feelings of characters, descriptive words/adjectives and descriptions of events taking place. Use these words as a starting point to write you own text to accompany the illustrations.

Reading in Small Groups

In small groups, have one student "read" the story to the group. The reader should interpret what is happening in the illustrations and tell the story creatively when reading to the group, rather than merely explaining what is happening on the page. Allow several members of the group to do the same. Follow this with a class discussion on how there is no right or wrong interpretation of the illustrations.

Exploring the Story

Compare illustrations of the city at the beginning of the book with illustrations at the end of the book. What has changed? What message do you think Alison Jay is trying to give readers?

Bees are very important part of nature. They are a key part of the pollination process which allows flowers and other plants to reproduce. They also produce honey and beeswax. Using the information page at the end of Bee & Me and other books in your library (such as Nature Storybooks: Flight of the Honey Bee by Raymond Huber and Brian Lovelock), gather information about bees and create a poster that displays interesting facts about bees. Think about what bees are found where you live, their life cycle, how to create a bee-friendly garden, etc.

How does Alison Jay show the passing of time in Bee & Me?

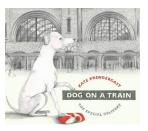
The subtitle for *Bee & Me* is "A Story About Friendship". Describe the friendship between the girl and the bee. Have a class discussion on what friendship means and that it can mean different things to different people. As a class create a word cloud using words that describe a good friend.

Further Activities

Visit your school library and find other wordless picture books (e.g. *Journey*, *Quest* and *Return* by Aaron Becker, *Mirror* by Jeannie Baker or *Footpath Flowers* by JonArno Lawson and Sydney Smith). Compare these books to *Bee & Me* and discuss how the stories are similar and different. Which style do you prefer? Why?

Write a story about the bee and the girl that could be a sequel to *Bee & Me* or fit into into the middle where bee and the girl are doing activities together while bee is growing. Check your draft for spelling and grammar. Illustrate your story.

Other wordless picture books from Old Barn Books:





8 c[˙cb˙UHfU]b ѾÓÞÁ JÏ Ì FJF€Î I Î 083

8 c[˙cb˙U8][[Yf ѾÓÞÁJÏ Ì FJF€Î I Î 144

à[c@Ás^Á Sææ^ÁÚ¦^}å^¦*æ•c

Also by Alison Jay:



How can tomorrow ever be as good as yesterday and how can we turn back time? Boy tries every scientific theory he knows of - until Granddad is able to reassure him that the future holds many great adventures and the best time is always now. ISBN: 9781910646212