



# “The Thing About Bees”

by Shabazz Larkin

## READING TIPS

Reading out loud with children is a great way to help develop reading comprehension skills. As they get older, these skills will help them understand more complex texts and the world around them. Here are some tips and tricks to help develop these skills with your young reader.

### WHAT THE BOOK IS ABOUT:

A love poem from a father to his two sons, and a tribute to the bees that pollinate the foods we love to eat.

### LEAP INTO LEARNING:

While reading this story, introduce new words that you come across. Point to the pictures that help explain what the word means. Here are some examples of words you might come across:

- **POLLEN** – sticky yellow dust that flowers make
- **NECTAR** – a flower’s sweet liquid that bees love to drink
- **POLLINATION** – when pollen gets moved from one plant to another. This helps the plant reproduce (or make more of itself)
- **ETIQUETTE** – good manners

### LET’S TALK ABOUT IT:

Talk about what is happening in the book as you read it to help with comprehension. This discussion helps kids think through and remember the themes of the book. Try to discuss the character’s feelings, predict what might happen, and summarize what you’ve read before a page turn. Here are some examples to get you started:

- The kids are running to escape the bees. I bet they don’t want to get stung. Have you ever had a bee buzz near you? How did it make you feel?
- There are so many delicious foods laid out on the picnic table. All of those foods would be gone without bees. Which foods do you see that you love? Which foods do you think you would miss most?
- There are a lot of different types of bees (and wasps) pictured. Can you guess what they do in nature, just by studying their pictures? Let’s read about them to find out!

### THINKING CAPS ON:

When you finish reading, here are some great follow-up questions:

- Why do we need bees?
- What are the different kinds of bees we learned about?
- How do we make sure we don’t get stung?
- The things we fear are often things we don’t fully understand. What is something you are scared of? Do you think we could try to learn more about it?
- Do you have a friend who might like to borrow this book so they can learn about bees, too? Lend it to them!

