

# CORBIN SPEAKS BEE

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ILLUSTRATED BY Divya George





Corbin Speaks Bee  
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*For all critters with secrets to share and humans  
with a desire to learn.  
A special thank you to Oxbow Farm &  
Conservation Center and the Oxbow Education Team  
for their support and inspiration. —Emma*

*To my parents and Deepti,  
for all your love and support. —Divya*





Corbin speaks Bee.



Well, kind of.



Corbin listens to the bees quietly,

secrets no one else is patient enough to notice!



watches them extra carefully,



and learns bee secrets . . .



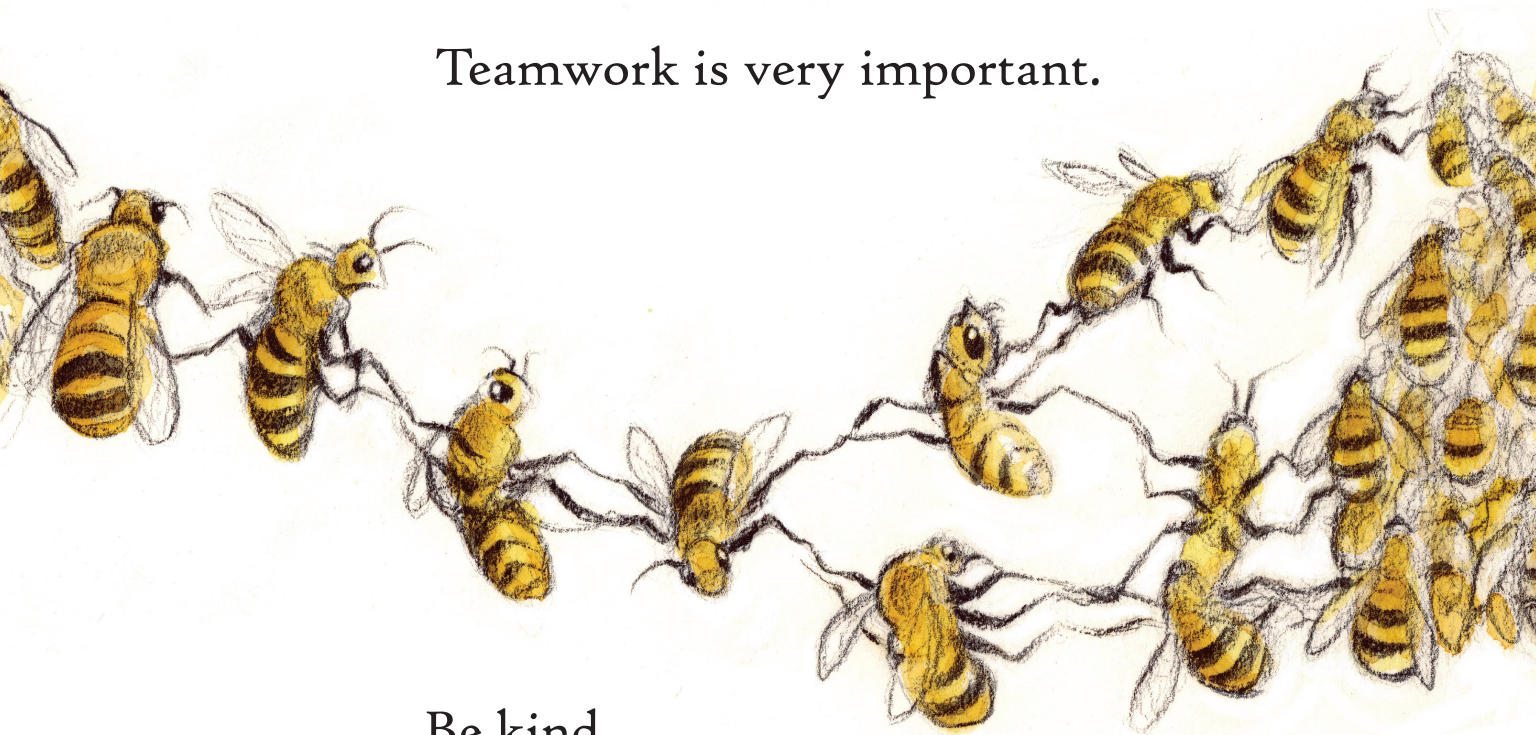


The bees teach Corbin.

Drink plenty of water.



Teamwork is very important.



Be kind.

Communication is a key survival skill.



Walk gently around plants in the schoolyard . . .



they could be another critter's lunch!



One day Ms. Allende says, “You’re going to learn about local flowers and bees! We’ll have an observation day in the schoolyard field tomorrow.”



Corbin is excited for his friends to speak Bee with him until . . .

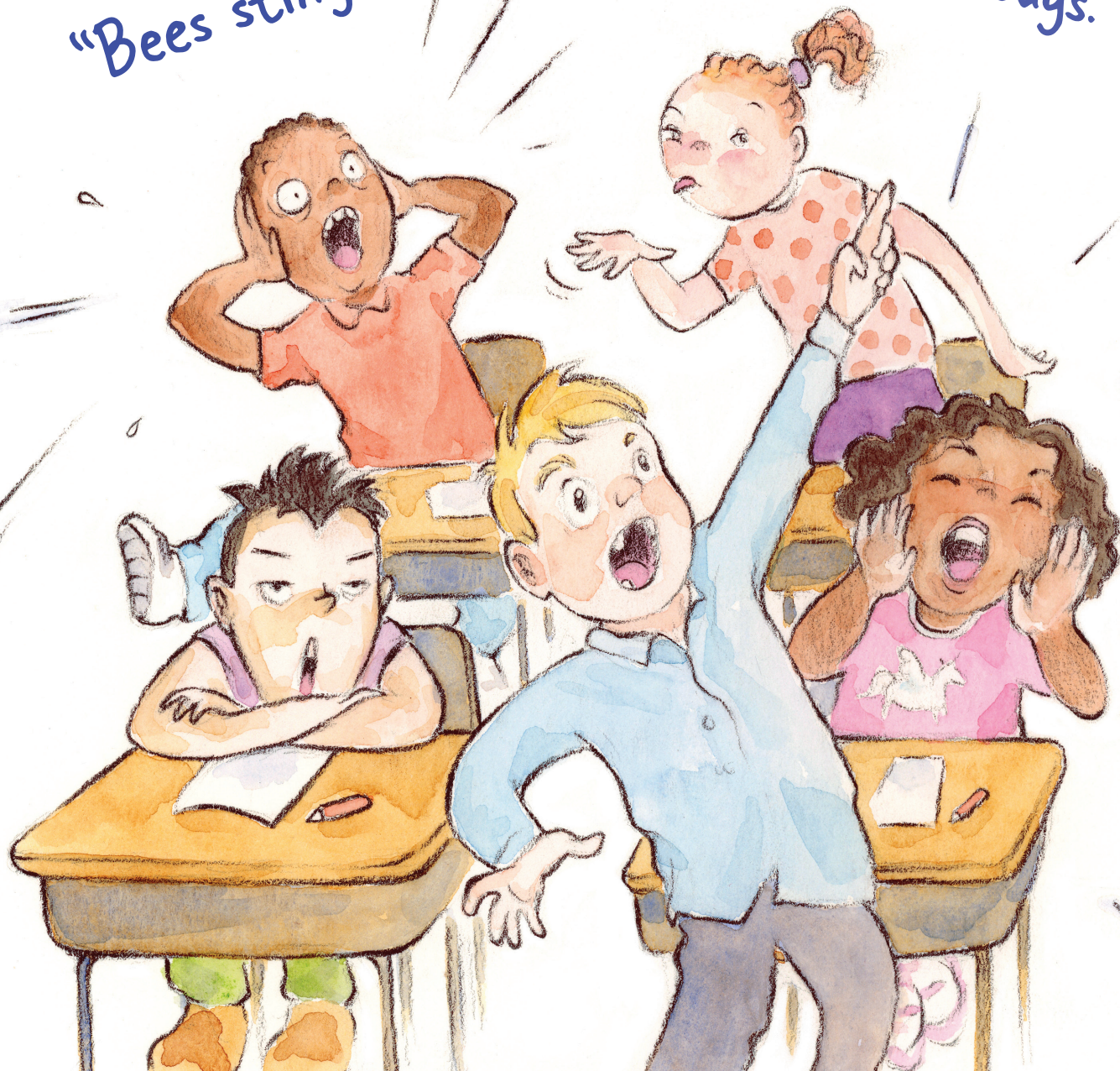




the classroom erupts!

"Bees sting!"

"Bees are bugs."



"Ewww, squash the bugs!"

"Bugs are boring!"

His heart sinks.







Corbin doesn't hear the dismissal bell ring or notice the other kids filing out of the classroom.

He shuffles home with "squash the bugs!"  
echoing in his ears.





All evening long, Corbin worries.

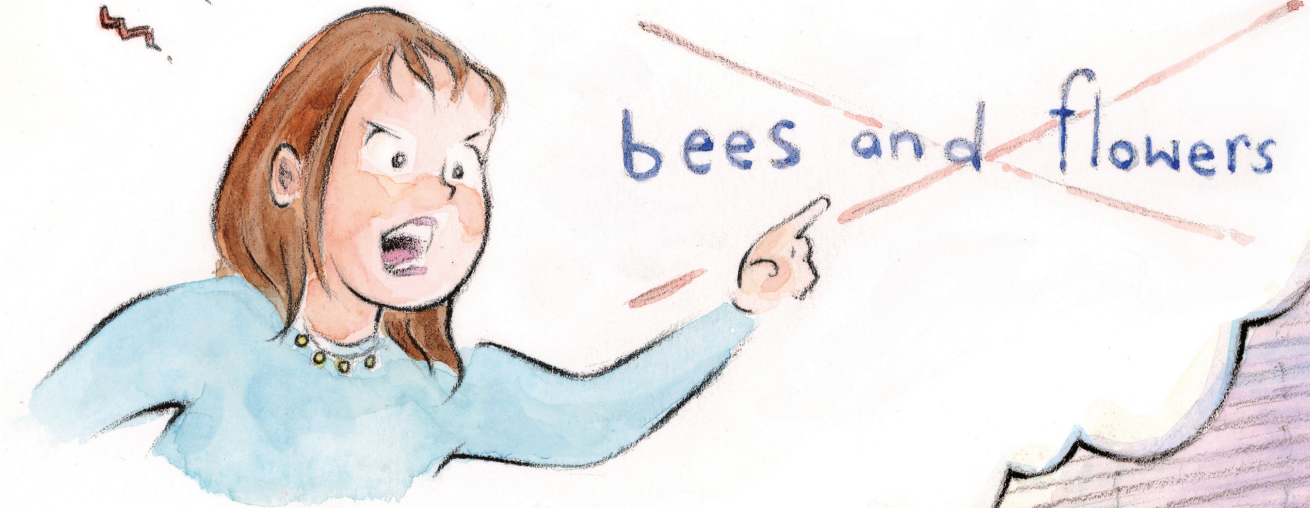
He worries Ms. Allende will cancel the special class time outside.



He worries his classmates will squash the bees.



He worries this is his only chance to share what he loves . . . and none of his classmates will even care.



He worries and worries and worries.





The next morning, Ms. Allende walks over to Corbin's table.

"Corbin, what's wrong?"

"I'm worried about the bees," Corbin mumbles.

"Would you like to be my helper today?" Ms. Allende asks. "We'll show the other students how to act around bees."



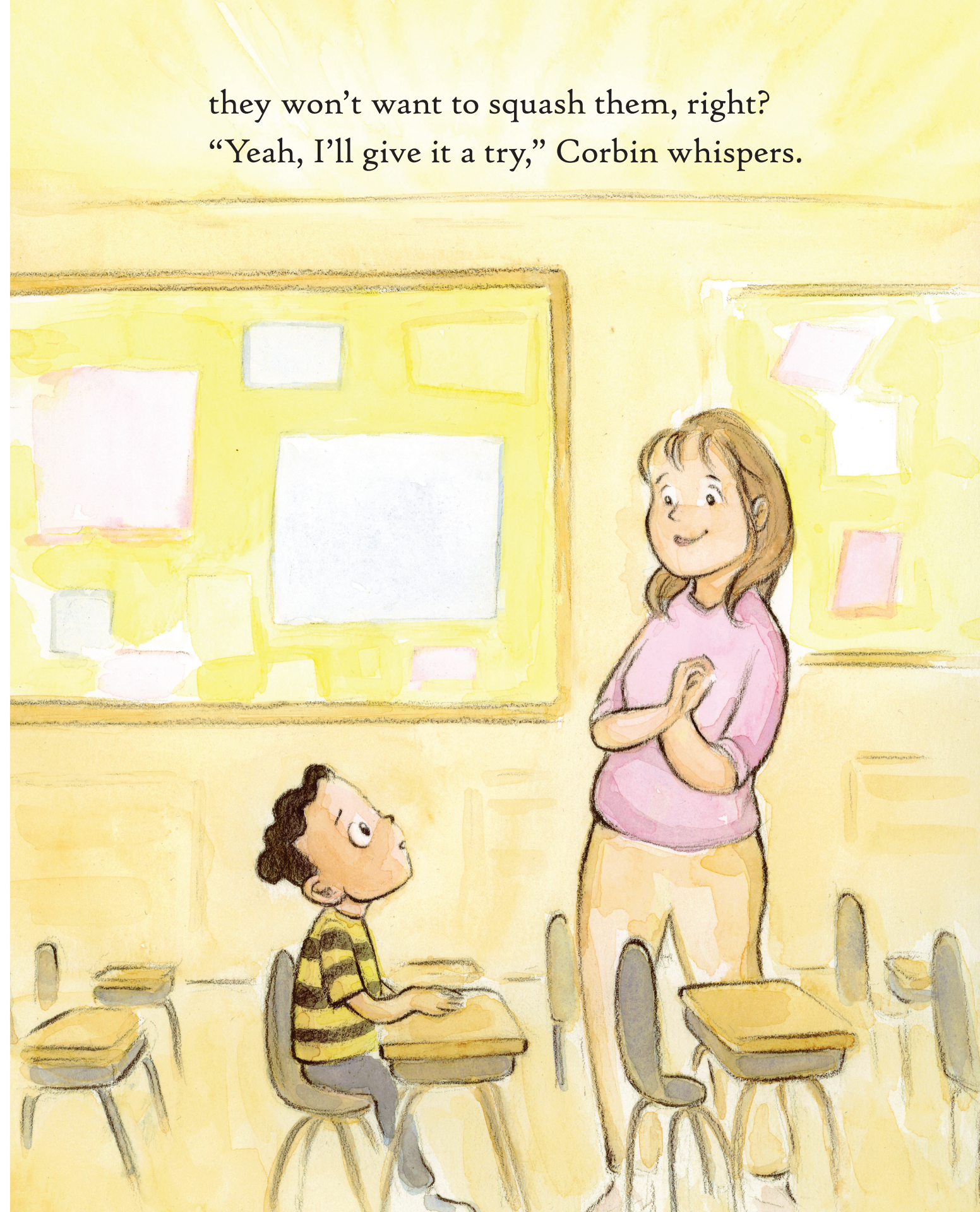


Corbin thinks about this.

Observing bees helped him understand how special they are, so if his class observes them . . .



they won't want to squash them, right?  
"Yeah, I'll give it a try," Corbin whispers.





Outside, Corbin teaches his classmates about speaking Bee.



Be patient and observe the different flight patterns.



Listen to the differences between an angry bee and a bee just going about its business. Who knew a buzz could sound curious!



Write or draw observations to remember important details later.



Watch how some kinds of bees belly flop right on top of a flower, but others don't.



See how gentle bees can be, especially when they're observed with respect and kindness.





Together, the class grows patient and confident.

They quietly spread out  
across the field,

count the bees,

and discover the fascinating  
secrets of what bees do for  
each other, for the flowers,  
and for humans.

Corbin excitedly buzzes around  
the field, helping his classmates  
feel as comfortable as he does.

And no one  
squashes any  
bees!

At the end of the day,  
the class gathers to share  
their observations.





Corbin is proud of how hard his class had worked at something that made them nervous.

It isn't easy at first, but with some practice, Corbin's class speaks Bee too!

Well, kind of.





And the bees teach them more every single day.



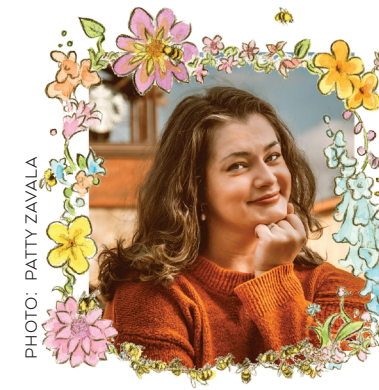




## FUN FACTS ABOUT BEES

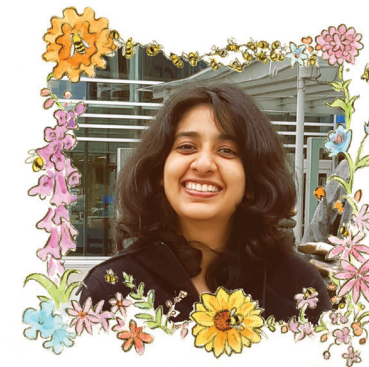
Bees are creatures great and small with lessons and wisdom to share. Below are some fun facts about them.

1. There are over 20,000 bee species in the world. About 4,000 species are native to the United States alone.
2. Not all bees make honey. Some bees live in colonies and make honey, while others are solitary bees that feed nectar directly to their offspring.
3. Bees don't simply rely on nectar to live—they need pollen too. Pollen is an excellent source of protein and nutrients to feed bee larvae and adults.
4. With no honey or hive to protect, solitary mason bees are very gentle and do not typically sting curious (but respectful) observers.
5. Different bees prefer different flowers. Smaller bees with smaller tongues prefer composite flowers like sunflowers, while larger bees with longer tongues like tube-shaped flowers like honey-suckle.
6. Bees cannot see the color red. They prefer yellow, blue, purple, and white flowers.



### About the Author

**EMMA PESIS** is an outdoor educator in the Pacific Northwest, facilitating place-based learning for children of all ages and in all weathers. Her book is inspired by her time consulting with teachers at schools on how to use their local outdoor spaces to support Next Generation Science Standards and classroom learning. She hopes this story will encourage students and teachers to explore their schoolyard in new and exciting ways.



### About the Illustrator

**DIVYA GEORGE** has always loved drawing ever since she could pick up a pencil, especially drawing creatures, whether humans, animals, or insects like bees! This led her to complete an MA in Illustration. She has been working since then as an illustrator, creating the artwork for a diversity of projects and stories, such as picture books, children's apparel, wall designs, and advertising.



