

Ag in the Classroom Book of the Month

THE THING ABOUT BEES

by *Shabazz Larkin*

"Sometimes bees can be a bit rude. They fly in your face and prance on your food." And yet... without bees, we might not have strawberries for shortcakes or avocados for tacos! Shabazz Larkin's *The Thing About Bees* is a Norman Rockwell-inspired Sunday in the park, a love poem from a father to his two sons, and a tribute to the bees that pollinate the foods we love to eat. Children are introduced to different kinds of bees, "how not to get stung," and how the things we fear are often things we don't fully understand.



To view this book on YouTube click [here](#).

Fun Facts

- *On April 18, 1975 the Georgia Assembly designated the honeybee as the official state insect.
- *Nearly one-third of our food is the direct result of pollination by insects.
- *More than 100 agricultural crops in the U. S. are pollinated by bees.
- *The annual economic value of pollination in Georgia is over \$360 million dollars a year.
- *There are 9 different families of bees and around 20,000 known species.
- *Honey bees live as large colonies in honeycomb structures built from beeswax called hives. There are 3 types of bees in a

colony, drones, workers, and queens. Worker bees are female, they collect pollen and nectar to feed the colony, they clean the hive, make the honey, take care of the offspring and groom / feed the queen. Worker bees live from 1 month in summer up to 9 months over winter. Drones are male, their one job is to mate with the queen, they live for 40 - 50 days. The queen bee's only job is to lay eggs, they lay up to 1,500 eggs a day. The queen can live for 2 - 5 years, and lay about 1 million eggs over her lifetime.

*To learn more amazing honey bee facts click [here](#).

Activities

- *DIY Seed Balls
- *Honey Mustard Pretzel Dip Recipe
- *Honey, Peanut Butter Yogurt Apple Dip Recipe
- *Color Page
- *Pollination Lesson using Cheetos
- *How Do Bees Pollinate a Flower Using Cheetos Recording Paper
- *Pollination using juice boxes and Cheetos
- *Bee Life Cycle
- *Bee Art Project
- *Beeswax Modeling Clay

Videos

- Georgia Farm Monitor- companies install beehives
- Georgia Farm Monitor- beekeeping a hobby for Georgia
- Power Worker
- Busy Bees- SciShow Kids