

Melissa's Magnificent Message



Author Frank Glew
Illustrator Sheila King

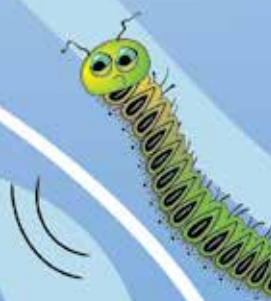


Award
Winning
Series



**This book is dedicated to my four
inspiring grandchildren in hope they
may enjoy and appreciate the wonders
of the natural world that is evident
in the humble little honey bee.**

**I sincerely appreciate the help of my
wife Sharon, entomology professors,
outstanding teachers, students, friends,
beekeepers, my grandchildren and
Fraser Gibson who helped make this
book possible.**



Melissa's Magnificent Message

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**The bee is more honoured than other animals, not because she labours,
but because she labours for others. – St John Chrysostom**

Melissa's Magnificent Message

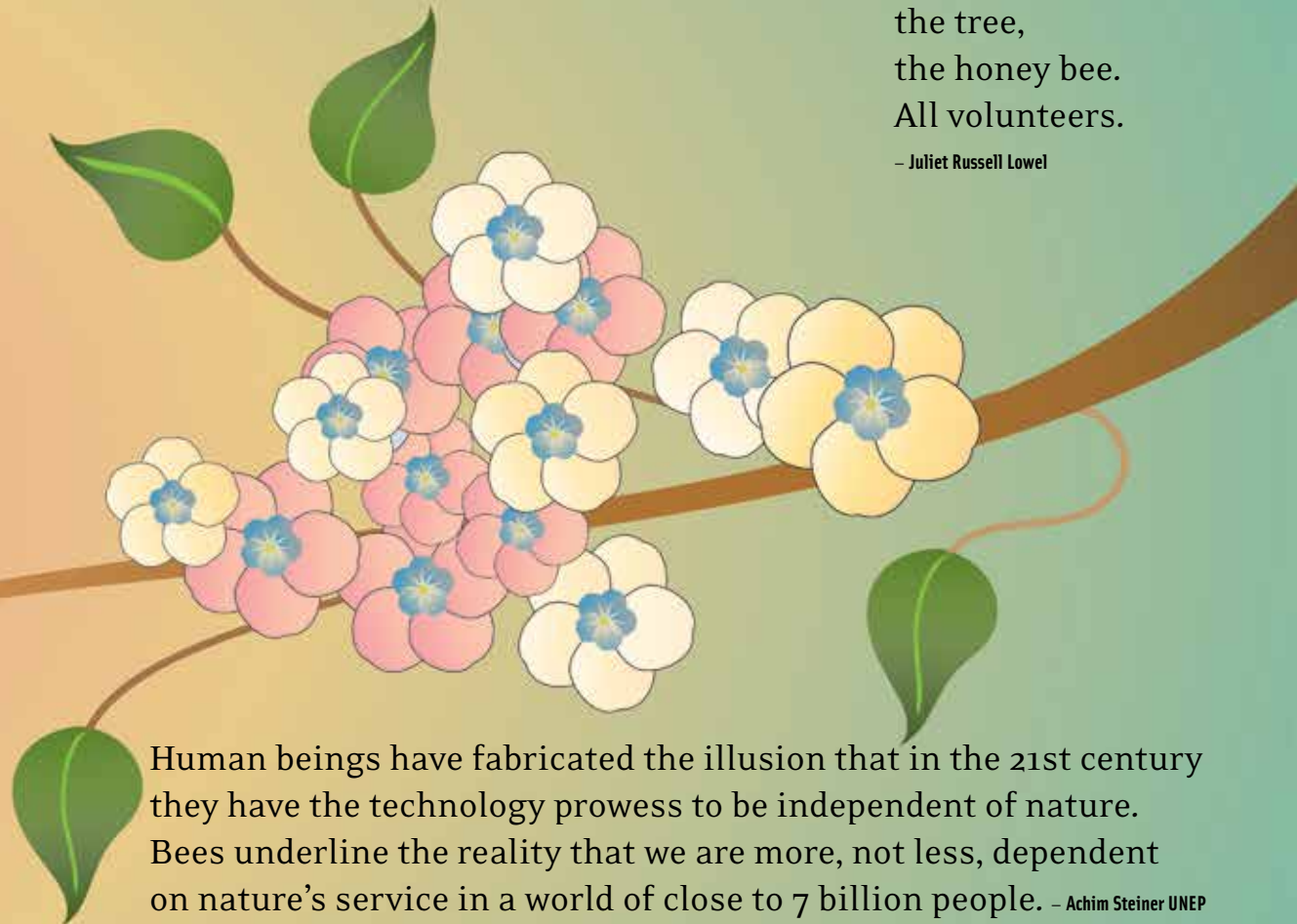


The breezes,
the tree,
the honey bee.
All volunteers.

– Juliet Russell Lowell

Author Frank Glew

Illustrator Sheila King



Human beings have fabricated the illusion that in the 21st century they have the technology prowess to be independent of nature. Bees underline the reality that we are more, not less, dependent on nature's service in a world of close to 7 billion people. – Achim Steiner UNEP

Bumble Island was the happy land of bees and honey. Thousands of wild animals and beautiful plants lived there. Majestic Melissa was one of the animals. She had five strange eyes and six very hairy legs. Melissa was a Honey Bee, a very wise **Honey Bee!** Sadly, no one knew that without Melissa, Bumble Island would be a huge disaster.



All of the Bumble Island animals had plenty of good food and clean water. The scent of wild flowers floated through the air. Melissa buzzed happily around the flowers singing a funny rap: **"You can always eat our honey but you can never eat your money."**



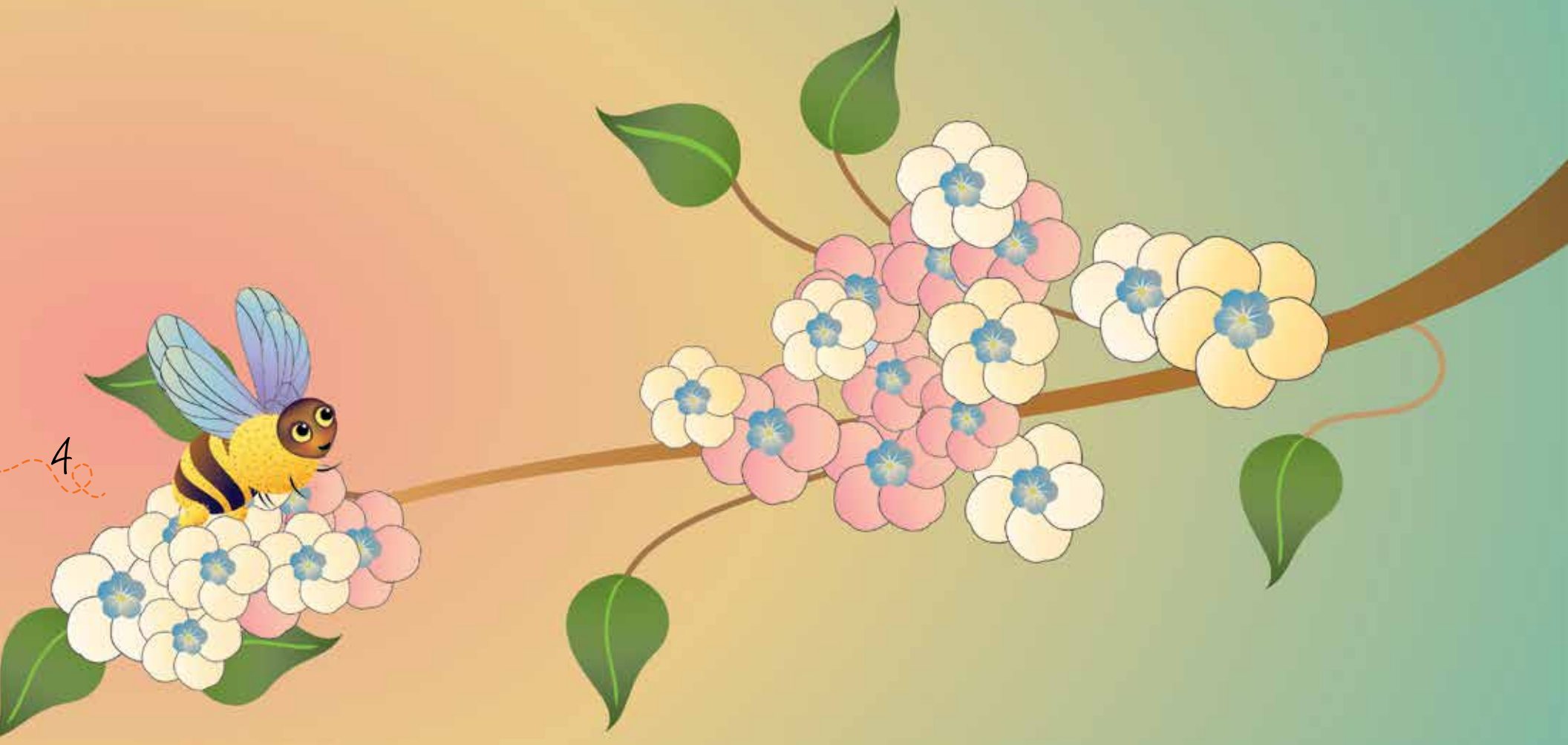
You can always eat our honey but you can never eat your money!



Everyone wondered why she sang this weird song.



Using her four fast wings, Melissa darted around Bumble Island visiting her best friend, the Monarch Butterfly. Melissa became famous in all parts of the island for her wacky dance and odd song. Many animals called her Meli, which means honey.



On her rear end, Meli hid a long, barbed, poisonous stinger that could spring out like a cat's claw. Some people screamed and dashed away the moment they saw her. Meli was surprised because she would not sting anyone unless she was protecting her family.



*"You can always eat our honey
but you can never eat your money!"*

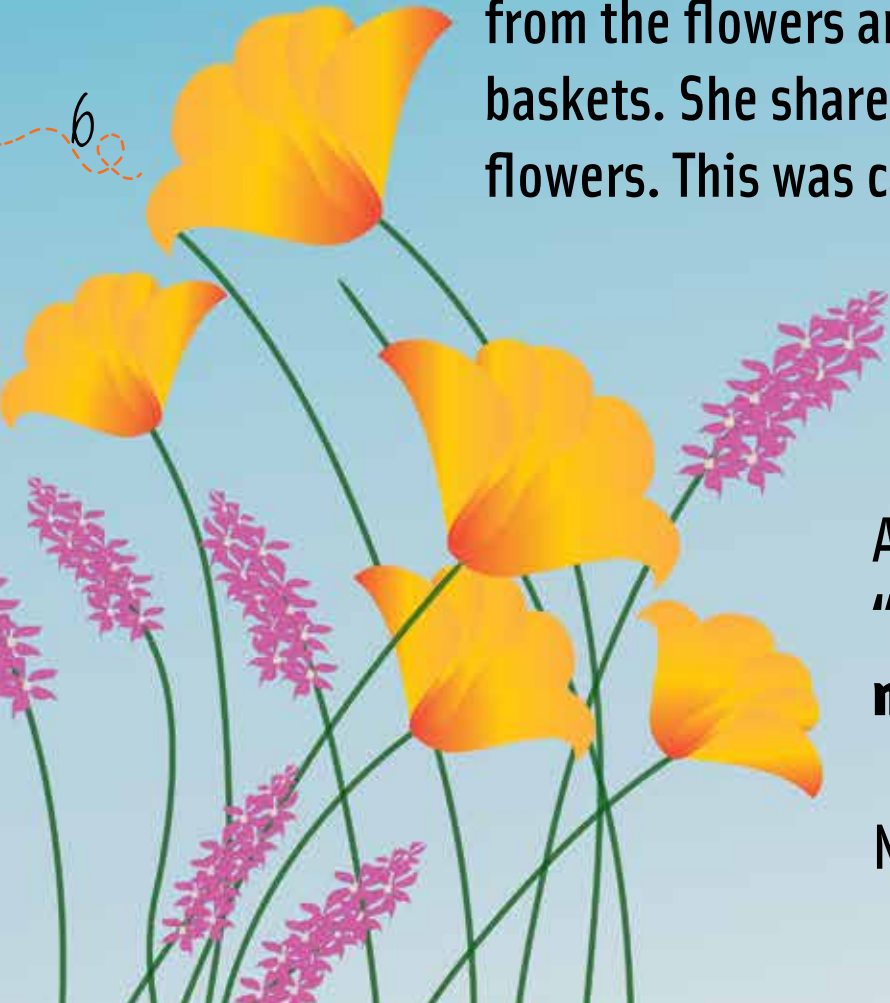


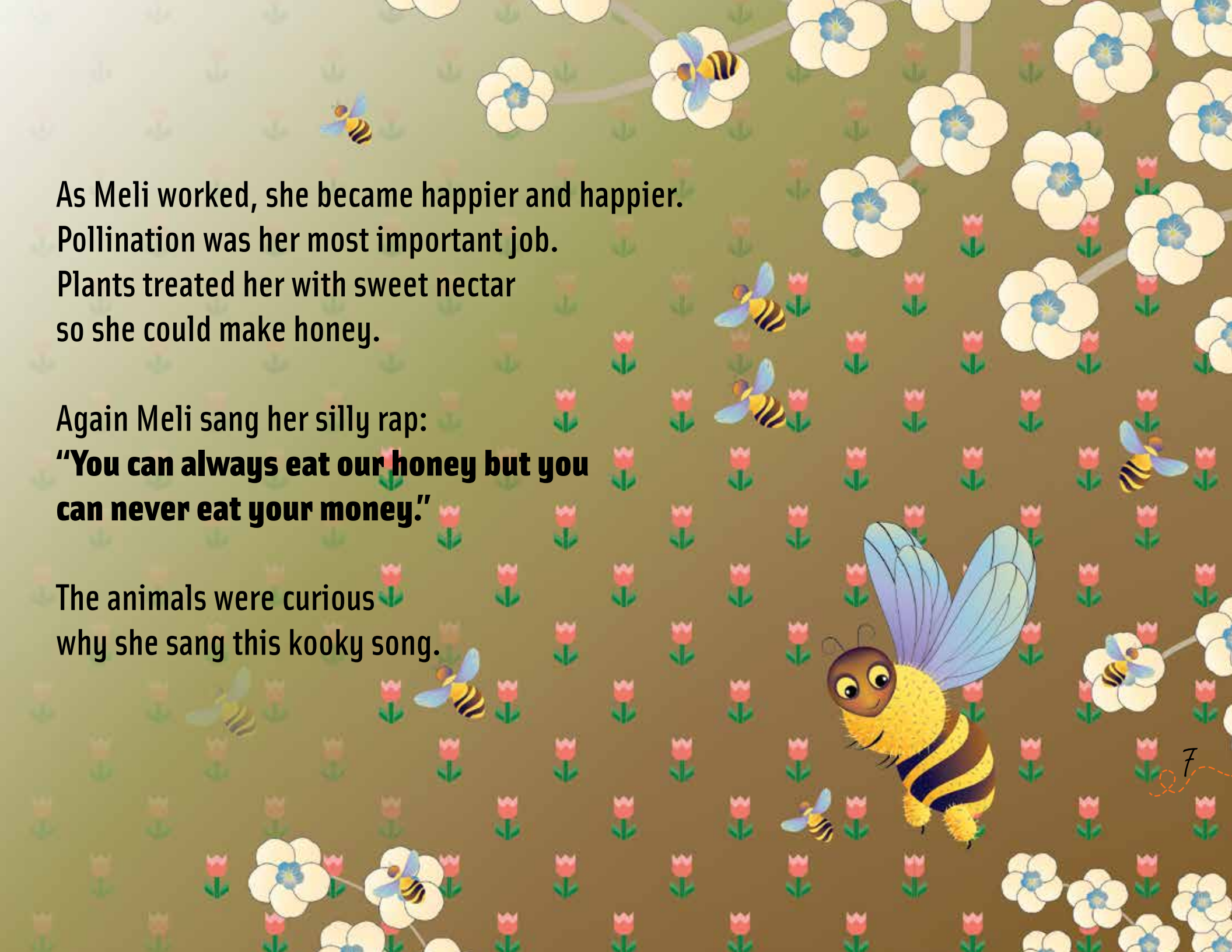
Each day Meli performed her magic while visiting flowers. She gathered golden pollen from the flowers and stuffed it in her leg baskets. She shared the pollen with other flowers. This was called pollination.



As she worked, Meli sang her funky rap:
"You can always eat our honey but you can never eat your money."

No one understood this freaky song.





As Meli worked, she became happier and happier.
Pollination was her most important job.
Plants treated her with sweet nectar
so she could make honey.

Again Meli sang her silly rap:
**"You can always eat our honey but you
can never eat your money."**

The animals were curious
why she sang this kooky song.



Trees such as apple, peach and cherry were visited.
All flowers needed to be pollinated or they would not
grow into fruit. Meli and her sisters raced to visit each
flower on every tree.

You can always eat our honey



To make boys and girls happy, Meli made sure she pollinated delicious fruit such as watermelon, strawberries and blueberries. She wondered if she should pollinate broccoli?


but you can never eat your money!



Bumble Island was such a bee-utiful and amazing place to live that everyone wanted to live there. Many new babies were born. More people meant more food was needed.

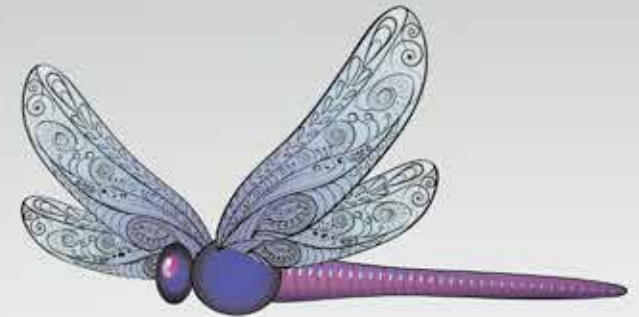
To make more food and more money, insects that ate farmers' crops needed to be stopped. New chemicals were made to get rid of the pesky insects. City people used the chemicals on their lawns and gardens. Insects eating any part of the plants, including the pollen, were poisoned.





This was a great idea for getting rid of the insects and making lots of money. However, it was a terrible idea for Meli and her sisters because **they** were insects. Bees already had many problems. Honey Bees were being eaten by little eight-legged vampire creatures called mites. Weird weather and fewer flowers made food harder to find. All these things put together caused a horrible problem for bees.

In a short time there were fewer and fewer insects.
Honey Bees, bumble bees, butterflies, ladybugs
and dragonflies were all insects!



Meli was bee-wildered. She knew that
without bees there would be much less
food and people might starve.



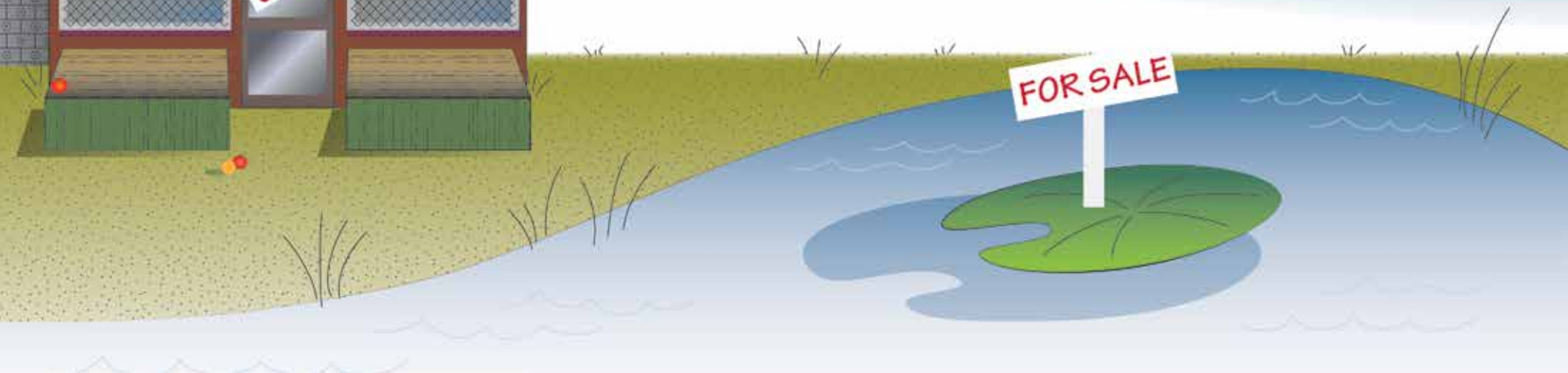
You can always eat our honey

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As the bees disappeared, so did many plants and animals including birds and frogs. Sadly, the grocery stores started running out of good food! Parents were worried about feeding their children. Bumble Island was in **big** trouble.

FOR SALE

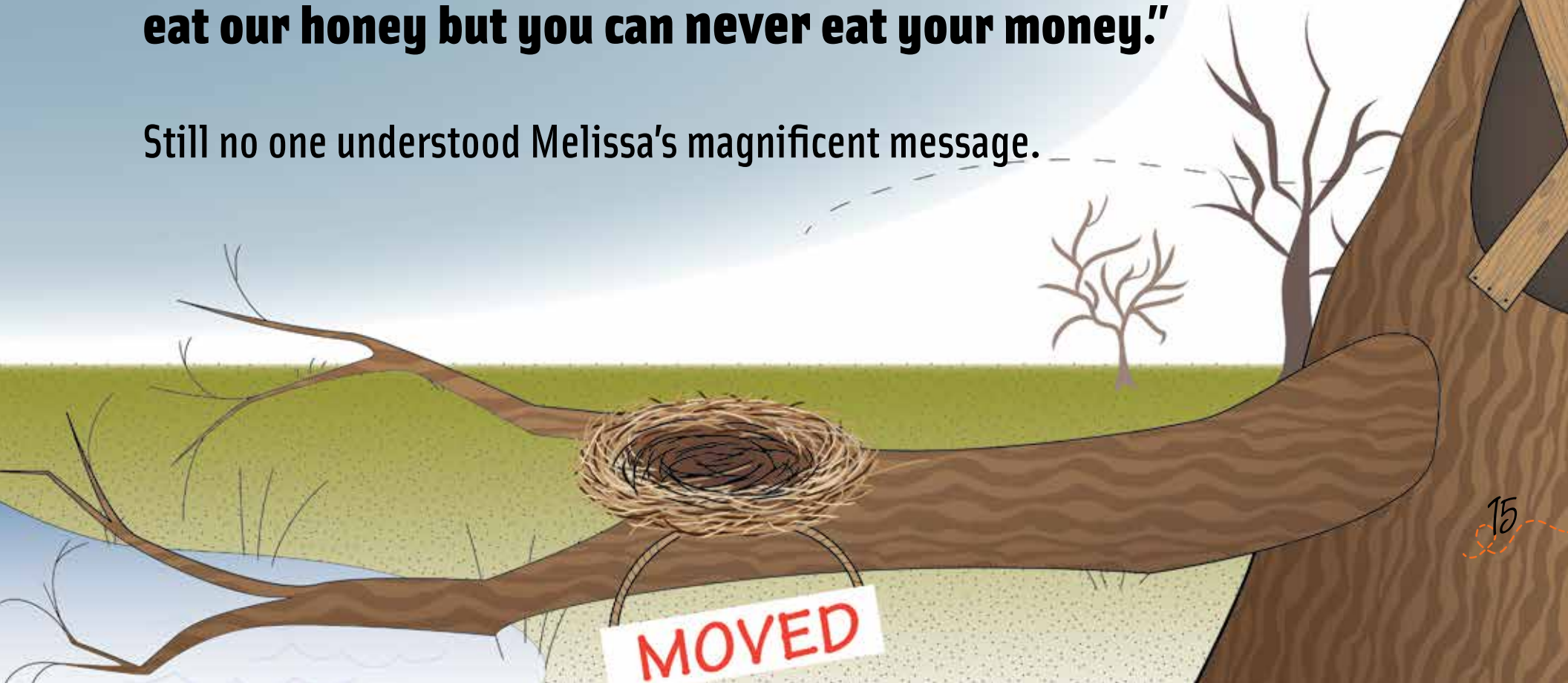


but you can never eat your money!

Meli warned the Bumble Island leaders about this serious food problem. She asked them to make new ways to grow food that did not harm all animals.

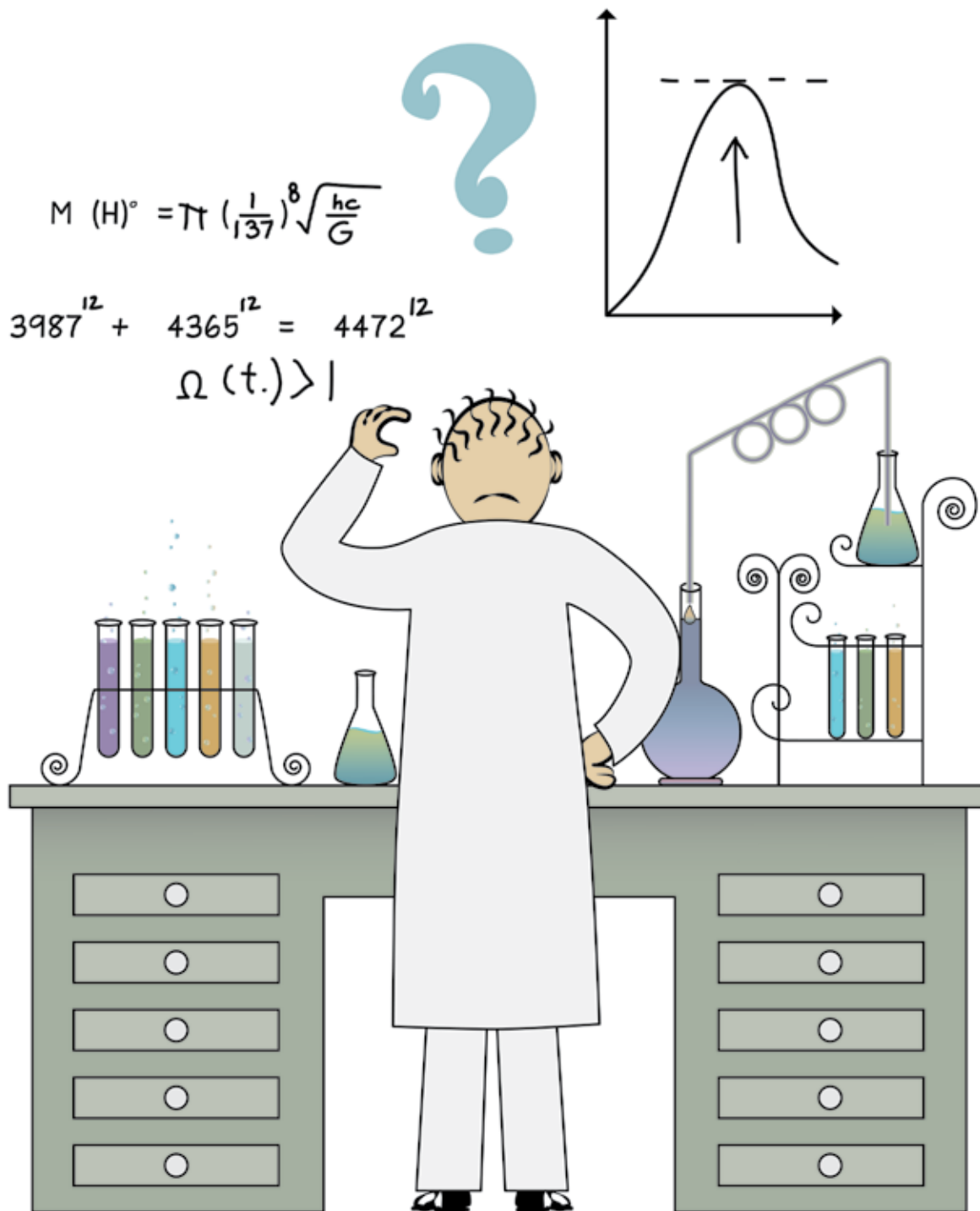
She sang her peculiar rap even louder: **"You can always eat our honey but you can never eat your money."**

Still no one understood Melissa's magnificent message.





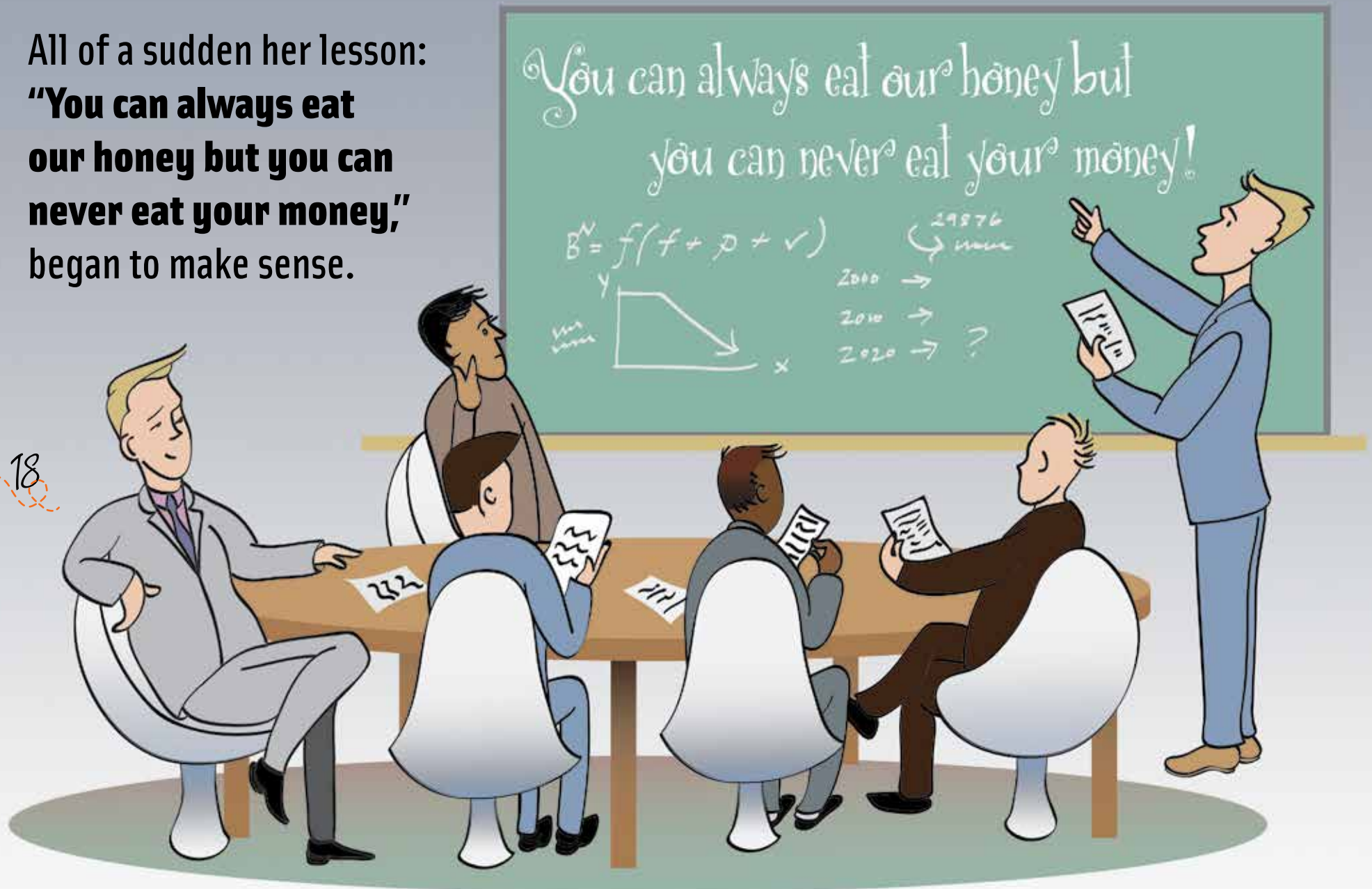
To brighten up dull lawns in the cities, Meli wished people would grow flower gardens and vegetable gardens without using poisons. Insects like her friend the Monarch Butterfly would easily find food. Honey Bees would pollinate the plants and make honey. This would help everyone.



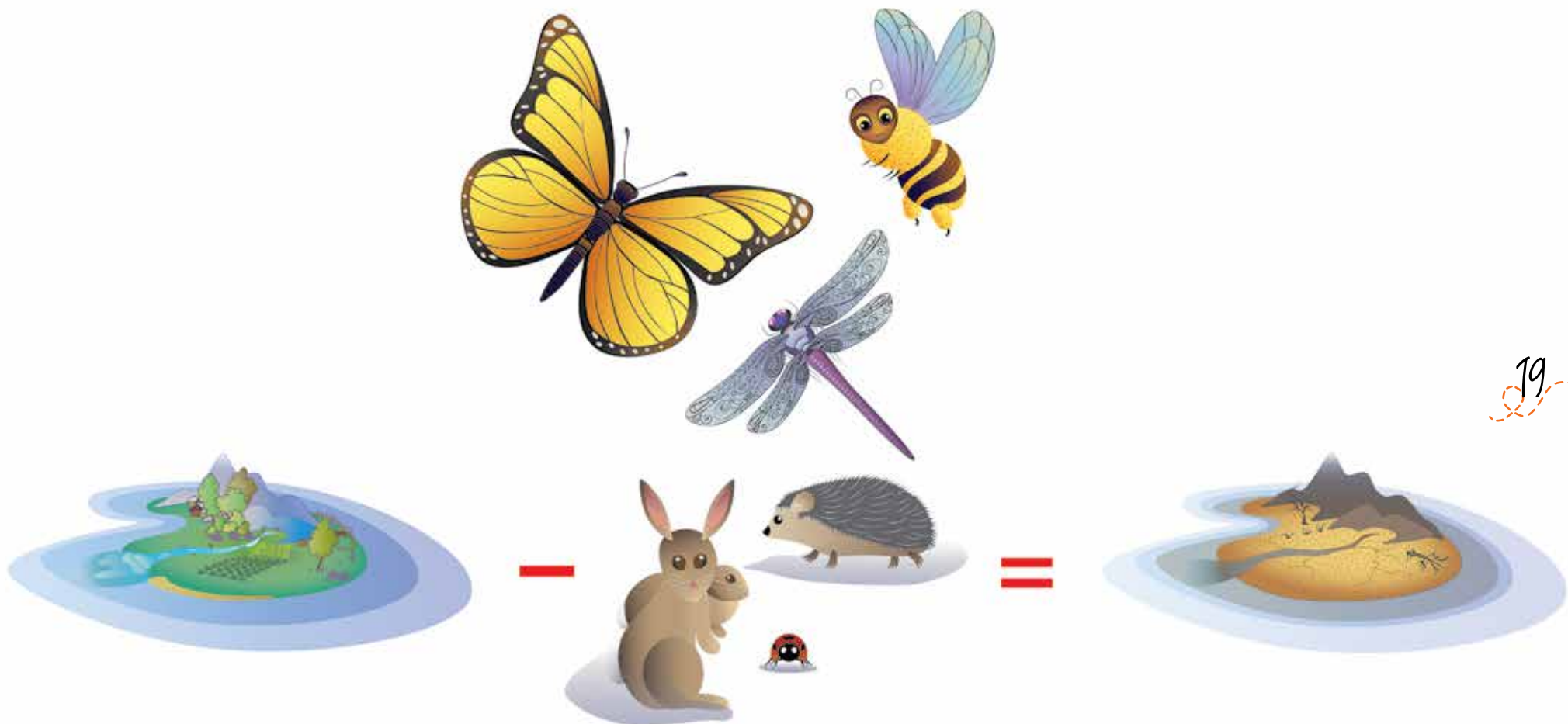
At first no one listened to Meli. The Bumble Island leaders needed good advice. Scientists were asked to study this serious problem. The leaders were bee-dazzled when scientists totally agreed with Meli. Too much good food would be lost without bees and other insects.

After many meetings, the wise leaders soon decided that Meli was right. Healthy food and nature were much more important than a few people making tons of money.

All of a sudden her lesson:
**"You can always eat
our honey but you can
never eat your money,"**
began to make sense.



The Bumble Island leaders now understood that without insects like Meli and her sisters, there would be fewer plants. Fewer plants meant much less food. Bumble Island might become as barren as the moon because everything was connected. This was everyone's problem.



People in the cities enjoyed making bee friendly gardens on their lawns. They grew sunflowers, vegetables, daisies and milkweed. Roadsides looked like colourful rainbow ribbons. Beekeepers started raising bees in the city! The bees were pleased to pollinate the many different flowers.



The leaders decided to control the chemicals that harmed all insects until they were proven safe. Beekeepers found ways to get rid of the mites. Some farmers created natural areas for bees near their fields. Fruit trees and wild flowers grew around their crops. This gave bees more healthy food.





School children were happy to make natural areas on their playgrounds. Monarch Butterflies were thrilled to find milkweed for laying their eggs. Ladybugs and birds ate insects that nibbled on garden plants. Meli and her sisters enjoyed working overtime visiting all the new flowers. Everyone worked together to make Bumble Island a better home.

Once again, Bumble Island became a wonderful place to live. Everyone learned a most important lesson from Melissa. There are many, many things much more important than making piles of money.

Finally everyone understood her clever message:
"You can always eat our honey but you can never, ever, ever eat your money."

Magnificent Melissa saved Bumble Island.



No bees, no honey; no work, no money. – Ancient Proverb



90% of fruits and vegetables depend on bees for pollination



Pollen leg baskets



Bee stinger



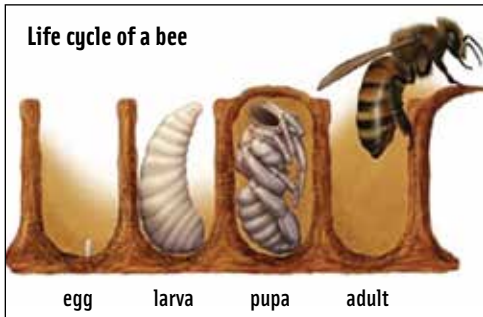
Bee's hairy head and tongue



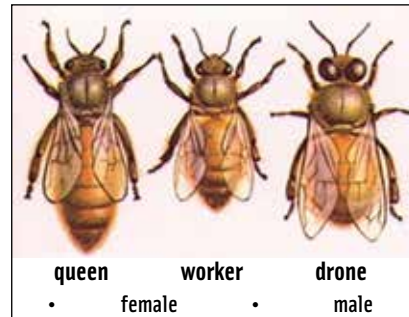
Mites on bees



Pollen sticks to the bees hairy body



Life cycle of a bee

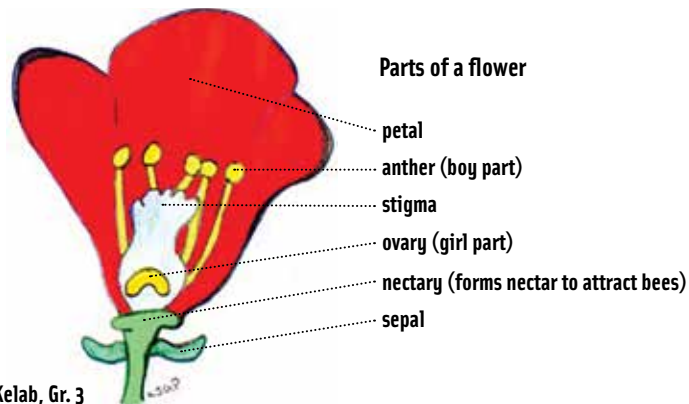


queen female • worker female • drone male



Honey

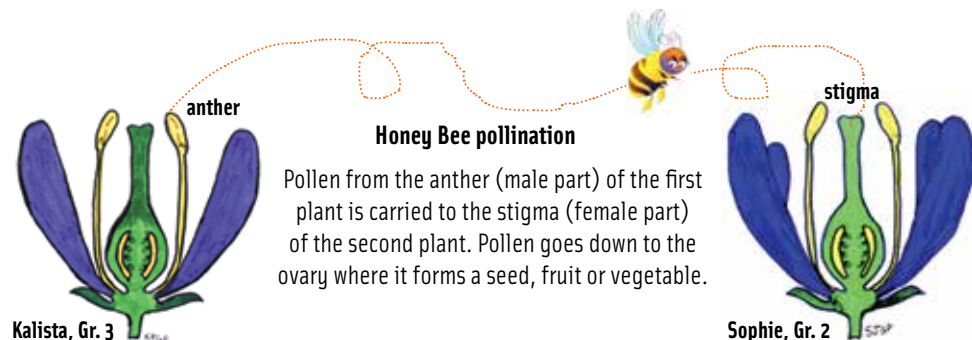
The average worker bee makes about 1/12th of a teaspoon of honey in her lifetime. Bees gather sweet nectar with their long tongue. After they process the nectar in their stomach, they regurgitate it into the honeycomb cells. Then they fan the cells with their wings to remove excess moisture. The final result is honey.



Parts of a flower

petal
anther (boy part)
stigma
ovary (girl part)
nectary (forms nectar to attract bees)
sepal

Kelab, Gr. 3



Honey Bee pollination

Pollen from the anther (male part) of the first plant is carried to the stigma (female part) of the second plant. Pollen goes down to the ovary where it forms a seed, fruit or vegetable.

Kalista, Gr. 3

Sophie, Gr. 2

Unique among all God's creatures, only the honeybee improves the environment and preys not on any other species.

– Royden Brown

If you want to gather honey, don't kick over the beehive. – Abraham Lincoln

AUTHOR – FRANK GLEW

Frank was born in Clinton, Ontario, Canada. He is the author of 11 primary nature picture books. They include the best selling book, *That Chickadee Feeling*. Each book has a common environmental theme using animals as a vehicle to create a compelling message and a voice for children and nature. He has taught all grades from one to university. He is the recipient of 14 awards for his work, including the *Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal*, 2002, and the *Richard's Educational Award*, 2006. *"My soul came out to play today and I will never be the same."* – Frank Glew

AUTHOR'S NOTES

The reason for writing this important book is the alarming fact that bees and wild pollinators are mysteriously dying off all over the world and no one clearly knows why. A third of all our food depends on Honey Bee pollination. Seventy five percent of all plants depend upon animal pollination. A world without pollinators would be devastating to our food production.

Listen to the
bees and let them
guide you. – Brother Adam

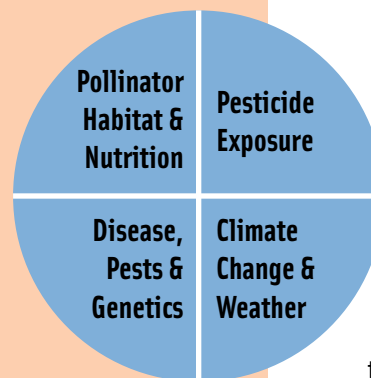


Family is everything.

No one seemed to listen when scientist told us 30 percent of frogs were threatened with extinction worldwide. They were not important enough economically. The frogs were giving us a warning! Nearly a third of the United States' 800 bird species are endangered, threatened or in significant decline. The birds are giving us a warning! Now the bees are also giving us a huge warning that something is drastically wrong. What happens to the bees will happen to us. We need to think seriously of the legacy we are leaving our children and grandchildren.

In our every deliberation we must consider the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations. – Great Law of the Iroquois Confederacy

As Melissa states in her story, the four main stressors have one common cause, the quest for profit! (money) We are at a tipping point where we need to sincerely examine our ways of making money when it is at the expense of human health and a sustainable planet. This includes fossil fuel, agricultural practices, pesticides, food, drugs and scientific research. We cannot point our finger at any one sector. We all need to change to a more sustainable way of life.



Four main stressors of Honey Bees



ILLUSTRATOR – SHEILA KING

Artist/illustrator Sheila King grew up in Vancouver, British Columbia. After graduating from the University of British Columbia she attended the Ontario College of Art and Design, and currently resides and works near Toronto, Ontario. Sheila can be contacted through her web site at studiosking.com.

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

Melissa's Magnificent Message (A book for all ages)

Melissa is a hard working wise little worker bee who discovers the real reason why bees are disappearing. Everyone needs to know the importance of these little pollinators and the consequences of living without insects. Through her insight she solves this complex problem. The name Melissa comes from the Greek word μέλισσα (melissa), "honey bee" and from μέλι (meli), "honey". The message in this book is based on the North American native saying, ***"When the last tree is cut down, the last fish eaten, and the last stream poisoned, you will realize that you cannot eat money."***

The voice in the book is the voice of the bees, beekeepers, Gaia and our children who will be dependent upon our present choices for their future sustainability.

Make education fun! A free 10 page teachers' guide can be found on the author's web site below. It includes a fun, engaging indoor and outdoor lesson on pollination plus suggestions on how to help bees. Other books by the author may also be viewed.

<http://www.kw.igs.net/~fsglew> or **That Chickadee Feeling**

Aerodynamically the bumble bee should not be able to fly, but the bumble bee doesn't know it, so it goes on flying.

– Mary Kay Ash



Books are the bees which carry the quickening pollen from one mind to the other. – James Russell Lowell

