

Mentor Text

The Mentor Text below was written by Isaac Reynolds and was awarded Finalist in the 2023 826 Digital Writers' Showcase. It is a fable. A *fable* is a shorter, imaginary story that conveys a moral or a life lesson. Usually the characters in a fable are animals.

Honey Bee

by Isaac Reynolds, Grade 6

Far away in the country, there was a honey bee named Buzz. One day when Buzz was collecting nectar, he sensed a beautiful flower nearby. Buzz flew closer and noticed that the flower was in a pot on an open windowsill. Flying towards the flower, he finally landed on top of it.

As Buzz was pollinating the flower, a tall human with blonde hair and blue eyes shut the window. Buzz was so absorbed in his pollinating process he didn't even realize that the window was shut.

THUD! When Buzz was leaving he flew straight into the window! He realized that the window was not open and he was trapped in the house. As Buzz flew around the house looking for exits, he was shocked at how large the house was.

He searched his memory from when he was pollinating the flower and vaguely remembered the human shutting the window. Buzz was scared. He wondered if the human had trapped him in the house on purpose. Buzz saw a room in close proximity with crumpled up covers on a bed and dirty socks littering the floor. On the door there was a sign that read, "Rodrick's room KEEP OUT!" However, Buzz had no choice but to go in there because he had to find an exit.

Buzz flew through the room and found no exits.

Disappointed, Buzz flew to the doorway. Before Buzz could leave the room, another human wearing black clothes and a grumpy look on his face stomped over to Buzz. "I FOUND A BEE!" he bellowed in a deep voice. A few seconds later, another human stomped out of different room.

Mentor Text, Continued

This human was different than the one Buzz remembered shutting the window. In a high pitched and shaky voice, this human asked “Rodrick, are you sure it’s a bee and not a wasp?” Rodrick squinted at Buzz and snarled “of course it’s a bee, Sidney.” Sidney eyed Buzz warily but took a step closer. “Humans think that honey bees are wasps?” Buzz pondered. He felt offended to be thought of as a wasp.

Buzz was angry. He flew past Sidney and Rodrick and came into a large open room. Sidney screamed and Rodrick stumbled after Buzz. Then he saw the blonde haired human that had trapped him in the house. Filled with rage, Buzz got his stinger ready. Rodrick was next to Buzz, his hands open, ready to squash him.

Simultaneously, Buzz charged at the human with blonde hair and Rodrick started to close his hands to squash Buzz.

The human with the blonde hair yelled, “STOP!” Everyone stopped what they were doing. Rodrick stopped trying to squash Buzz and Buzz stopped charging. “Rodrick, you know better that to hurt an innocent creature,” she said calmly. “Yes, mom,” he said sheepishly. Mom opened a door that lead outside.

“Poor honey bee, you were probably scared. I know I would’ve been,” said Mom empathetically. Buzz rushed home.

As Buzz flew home, he felt sympathy for Mom, and he felt bad he ever thought about stinging her. She had cared for Buzz without even knowing him. It was almost as if she was seeing his view through his eyes and interpreting what he felt. He understood why Sidney was feeling scared while he was flying around enraged. He comprehended that Rodrick was going to squash him because he too was frightened. Buzz was smiling even though he was almost squashed and had been trapped in a house. He had learned the importance of considering others perspectives.

Brainstorming

Answer the questions below to start forming ideas for your summary. Continue in your writing journal if you need more space.

1. What do you think the moral, or lesson, of the Mentor Text is?

2. Which of the 3 main characters helped convey this message the most?

3. How did they convey the lesson: through their words, their actions, etc.?

Your Summary

Write your summary of the Mentor Text below, following the prompts in the boxes below. Include the lesson that the Mentor Text conveys, as well as the key details you brainstormed on page 3.

The lesson of "Honey Bee is..."

I know that's the lesson because...
