

Ruby Is a Beekeeper

GOALS

Comprehension

Discuss the possible reasons for the author writing this text, e.g. passion for bees; to share information; to stimulate interest.

Vocabulary

Focus High-frequency Words: call, eat, get, her, made, new, take, want

Focus Content Words: beekeeper, bees, hives, honey, hood, smoke, sting, suit, swarm, wood

Phonics

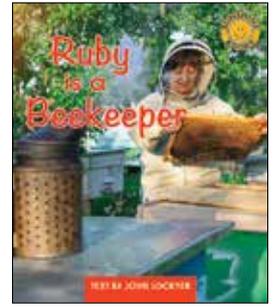
Letters and Sounds: Recognise and produce words that have the same sound:

x /ks/

Words to Blend and Segment: box, fox, index, wax, x-ray

Fluency

Model reading a section of the text using expression and emphasis to convey information for students to repeat.



Ruby loves her bees and the honey they make. See what a beekeeper does.

Before Reading

- Ask students what they know about bees. Discuss what they see in the pictures on the cover. Ask: What would a person who looks after bees be called? Look at the title. Read the title together. Who wrote the text? Have you read other stories by John Lockyer? (*Beaks, The Family That Shared*) What do you think this book will be about?
- Talk/walk through the pictures. Notice the various activities Ruby does. Discuss what students see on each page. Bring words like *beekeeper, bees, hives, honey, hood, smoke, sting, suit, swarm, wood* into the conversation. How do you know that this book is non-fiction?

Reading the Text

- Read the cover and the title page together.
- On pages 2–3, ask: What do you see in the photo? What is Ruby doing? Look for tricky words like *beekeeper, hives, wood, many, honey*. Break the words into chunks or syllables, e.g. *bee-keep-er*. Then read the text together, pointing to the words as they are read and making sure they make sense, sound right and look right.
- On pages 4–5, ask: What do you see? Notice her special suit. Why would she wear this? Look in the text for clues. (Elicit – to avoid bee stings) Share students' experiences of bee stings. Why do you think Ruby sends smoke into the hives? (Smoke makes them sleepy and stops them stinging.) Find the tricky words, *special, suit, hood, doesn't, sting, blows, smoke, sleepy*. Read the words together.
- Follow this pattern for each page, discussing the pictures, what Ruby or the bees are doing and any tricky words before reading each page.
- Students look at the index and find the page where there is more information about nectar? They ask a partner questions about the index, e.g. what page is *swarm* on?

After Reading

Check the accuracy of students' predictions. Invite them to discuss the text. Prompt if needed.

- What is a beekeeper's *hood*? (page 4) What is a *swarm*? (page 6)
- Discuss the ending and what being a beekeeper means. What have you learnt from this book?
- Discuss the possible reasons for the author writing this text, e.g. an interest in bees; to share information; to stimulate interest.
- Students re-tell the text using the pictures on each page as a guide. They discuss the things Ruby has to do as a beekeeper.
- Model how to identify the main idea of the text. Find the main idea of each chapter first, then see where there is a common theme. This will give the overall main idea of the text.
- What shape are the designs on the page numbers? What effect has the designer had on the book by adding these? Why did they choose this shape? (honeycomb/hexagon shape)
- Read and discuss the fact on the back cover together. What does this mean for all plants? Who will be affected? What needs to happen to save the plants in the food chain?

Phonics

- Write the words *box, fox, index, wax, x-ray* on the board to blend and segment and say them as a group, e.g. *b-ox, box*. Brainstorm more words that have x, e.g. mix, mixed, mixing, mixes, fix. Notice an e is added before s when the word ends in x, e.g. fixes.
- Find words in the text with the long ee sound to repeat. Students make a web of these and illustrate where possible, e.g. *bee, beekeeper, sleepy, cheese, eat*.
- Have students think of words that use bee as a base, e.g. eg beekeeper, bee hive, bee sting, swarm of bees, honeybee, bumble bee.

Word Study

- Talk about the words *call, eat, get, her, made, new, take, want*. Read the flash cards from the inside front cover together. Ask students to find and read these words in the book. Discuss their meaning in context.
- On a piece of paper, students draw a picture of one of the features in the book. They write the matching sentence from the text.
- Have students look for compound words in the text, e.g. *beekeeper, honeycomb*. List the two words and then the compound word on the board along with the meaning. Add any other compound words students know to the board.

Fluency

- Model reading a section of the text using expression and emphasis to convey information for students to repeat.

Writing

- Students write about their favourite way of eating honey. They could create a recipe that uses honey in it. This could be a class project.
- Students make a model using a repeated hexagon shape. They plan it on paper first.
- Have students work collaboratively to design a poster showing the importance of bees. They investigate what bees do to ensure plants grow. They label and illustrate and share with the class.