

Name: _____

Honeydew and the Honeybees

By Neal Levin



Honeydew was a bear who loved honey. He was stuck on honey, and honey was stuck on him. The only things that came between honey and Honeydew were honeybees.

One morning, Honeydew's tummy rumbled.

"Honey," he mumbled. He tiptoed to a honeybee nest and reached deep inside.

Oops, what a blunder!

The honeybees chased Honeydew across the field.

Buzz, buzz, zoom!

Honeydew bungled and stumbled and tumbled. He landed in a prickly bramble bush.

Ouch!

He sat up and grumbled, "I should scare them instead."

So he put on his scariest bear face.

He scowled. He growled. He stood up and prowled.

Back at the nest, the honeybees buzzed.

Honeydew bared his fangs. He opened wide.

Oops, what a blunder!

The honeybees stung the tip of his tongue.

Ouch!

Honeydew hurried and scurried away.

"It's not fair!" Honeydew blared. "I'm the maddest, baddest bear anywhere."

He put on his meanest and angriest glare and lumbered back to the nest.

"I deserve honey!" he yelled. "I'm a bear, after all."

He bashed the nest. He smashed the nest.

Wham, bam, slam!

It crumbled and tumbled.

Honeydew stretched out his paws and his claws. "Come get me, you honeybees. Come over here."

But the honeybees didn't swarm. They were huddled together.

"You ruined our home," they wept.

Oops, what a blunder!

"Gee." Honeydew sniffed. "I didn't mean to ruin your home."

"Now there will be no more honey for any of us."

Honeydew wiped a tear from his eye. "Let me help," he said. "I know a few tricks."

Honeydew gathered a bundle of things: ribbons and strings, pine cones and sticks, and some stones and some bricks. He glued them together with leftover honey.

"How do you like your new home?" he asked.

"Bee-utiful," the honeybees cheered. "We'll put our new nest inside. You're the best."

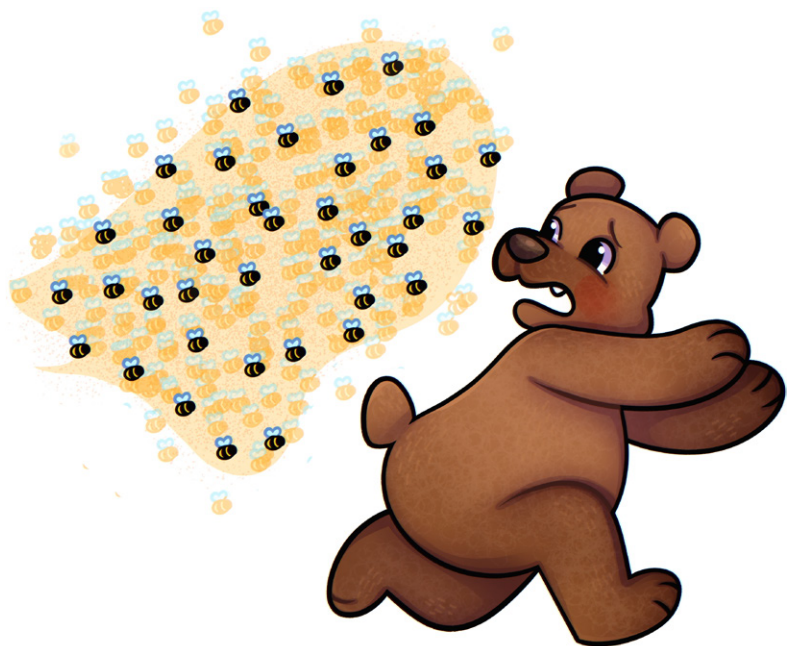
Honeydew blushed. "It's the least I could do."

Soon Honeydew was building homes for bees everywhere.

They had charm. They had style. They made honeybees smile.

And smiling honeybees loved to give away honey.

Life wasn't sticky anymore. It was just sweet.



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1. What line is repeated 3 times in the story?

2. What is the author's purpose for writing this story?

- a. to share a story about some angry bees
- b. to tell readers how tasty honey is
- c. to share a story about two types of animals that have differences but learn to work together
- d. to tell readers how important honeybees are for the environment

3. Reread the line below from the story.

He scowled. He growled. He stood up and prowled.

What three words from this line rhyme?

4. Based on the story, what item below did Honeydew **not** use to build the honeybees' new home?

- a. ribbons
- b. pine cones
- c. bricks
- d. leaves

5. What is one lesson you learned from this story?

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Fill in the missing letters to create words from the story. Then write the full word on the line. Be sure to spell each word correctly.

1. r ___ m b ___ e d

clue: made a low rolling sound

1. _____

2. b ___ u n d ___ r

clue: a mistake

2. _____

3. m ___ ___ b l ___ d

clue: muttered

3. _____

4. ___ c o w ___ e d

clue: frowned

4. _____

5. s c ___ ___ r i e d

clue: moved quickly

5. _____

6. b u ___ d ___ e

clue: a number of things gathered together

6. _____

7. p r ___ w l ___ d

clue: moved sneakily

7. _____

8. b ___ n g ___ e d

clue: acted clumsily

8. _____

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In the story, *Honeydew and the Honeybees*, Honeydew does something bad (smashes the honeybees' nest) and then does something helpful (builds a new home for the bees).

On the lines below, write about a time you did something bad and then did something helpful to try to make up for it. Did you and the others involved feel better at the end? What did you learn from what happened?

ANSWER KEY

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Answers will vary.

