

Bees in the City

Andrea Chen

Illustrated by Sarah McMenemy

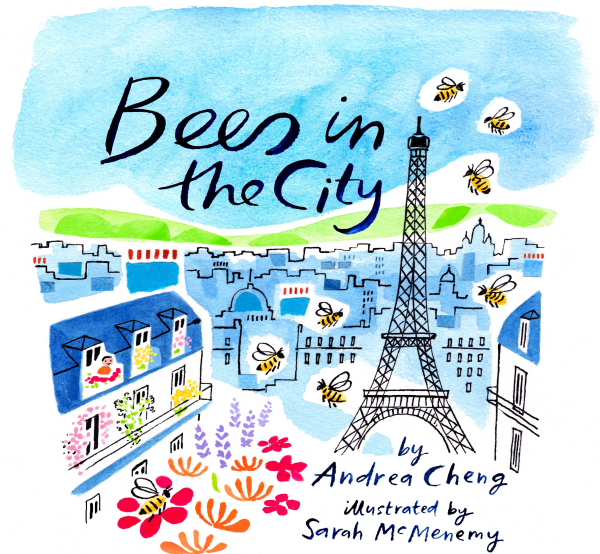
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9 x 10, 36 pages, full color illustrations

Grades 2-6

Fountas & Pinnell Level P



Summary

Lionel lives in a Paris apartment building but loves keeping bees with his Aunt Celine at her farm outside the city. But when her bees start dying, how can he help? The solution, he realizes, is in the rooftop gardens and window boxes of his apartment neighbors, representing a varied and continuously blooming array of flowers that the bees will love. Aunt Celine must bring her bees to Paris! But first he and his friends Alice and Samir must convince their skeptical neighbors and landlord, Mr. Dubi, that this is a good idea.

This book will lead to discussions about

- pollination
- monoculture
- urban gardening
- urban beekeeping

Before You Read

Access Prior Knowledge

- Do you have bees in your yard?
- Have you wondered how or why bees make honey?

After You Read

Discussion Questions

- Why were Aunt Celine's bees dying? What was Lionel's big idea?
- Why do you think that Lionel and Aunt Celine put the bees on the roof rather than on the balconies?
- Why do beekeepers "smoke" their hives?
- How did the kids persuade Mr. LaRosa to sign the petition?
- What would you have named the honey?

Vocabulary:

- hive
- pollen
- pollination
- urban
- rural
- monoculture
- pesticides
- pheromones
- nectar
- drones
- worker bees
- queen bee

Activities

- Create a bumper sticker convincing people to protect the bees.
- Visit a beekeeper or invite one to come to your school or library.
- Make a list of native plants that are bee friendly, and plant some near your home or school.
- Research the uses for honey. Which one surprised you?
- Research different styles of bee hives. Choose one that you would like to build.

For Further Discussion

- Make a list of all foods that need bees to pollinate them
- What would happen if all bees disappeared?
- What can we do to protect bees?
- What should you do if you find a bee hive where it is not wanted?
- If someone you know is allergic to bee stings, what should you do if they are stung?

For Further Reading

When the Bees Fly Home by Andrea Cheng, illustrated by Jolene McFadden
A Tilbury House Nature Book

Internet Resources

You may find the following Internet resources helpful.

Bee hives at the White House:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ZnwPLC2qTo&feature=results_video&playnext=1&list=PLA5I400DC9D75EE84

General information and history of beekeeping

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beekeeping>