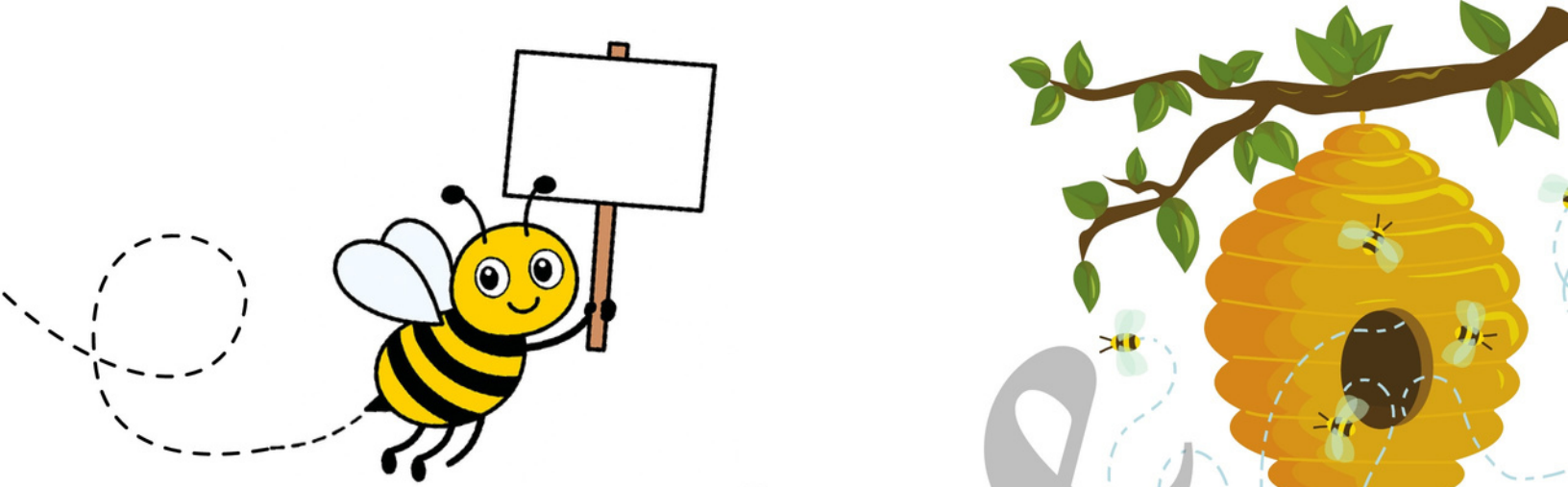




Reader's Theater:

Bees On Strike!



Characters:

- Narrator
- Beatrix (Queen Bee, wise and proud)
- Buzzy (funny worker bee who loves pollen jokes)
- Moxie (determined and dramatic worker bee)
- Farmer Fran (kind-hearted but clueless about pollination)
- Mayor Maple (nervous town leader)
- Petal (a young bee who asks lots of questions)
- Ricky (a kid who starts the Clean-Up Crew)

Optional Props:

- Antennae headbands for bees
- Yellow and black sashes or vests
- Clipboard or megaphone for Moxie
- Straw hat and apron for Farmer Fran
- A small jar of "honey" (can be a labeled prop)
- Signs that say "Pollination = Power!" and "Buzz Off, Litter!"
- Toy shovels or seed packets for garden scenes
- Face paint or stickers for Bee Day

Narrator:

Just a few years ago, Bloomville was buzzing with life. Every yard had patches of dandelions, wildflowers bloomed along every sidewalk, and bees happily floated from blossom to blossom. The town was full of color, laughter, and buzzing wings. It was a paradise for pollinators.

But over time, things started to change. People wanted perfect, green lawns with no "weeds." Dandelions were sprayed, clover was pulled, and pesticides became more common. The flowers began to disappear, and with them, the bees.

Now, on this sunny spring morning, something was wrong. The gardens were quiet. The fruit trees were bare—no apples, no cherries, not even a single plum. And while the air once hummed with bees, today... there was only silence.

Mayor Maple:

(Sniffing a daisy sadly) What's going on? Where are the bees? No buzz, no bloom, no blueberries!

Narrator:

Meanwhile, deep inside the hive, the bees were having a serious meeting.

Beatrix:

(Sternly) Bees of Bloominville! We're officially on strike! We refuse to pollinate until the humans clean up their act!

Buzzy:

(Laughing) You heard the queen! No pollen parties until there's less trash and more wildflowers!

Beatrix:

(Holding up a sign) We're tired of dodging lawnmowers, pesticides, and road runoff. It's time for action!

Petal:

(Concerned) But what if the humans don't listen?

Beatrix:

Then they'll learn what life is like without bees. No apples, no cucumbers, no flowers...

Narrator:

The bees buzzed in agreement, stomping their tiny feet and waving their protest signs. Back at the farm, Farmer Fran was scratching her head.

Farmer Fran:

(Squinting at her apple tree) Why aren't my blossoms turning into apples? Did I plant duds?

Narrator:

That's when Mayor Maple arrived, holding a very wilted bouquet.

Mayor Maple:

Oh no! The bees are gone, and the town is in trouble. What do we do?

Farmer Fran:

(Thinking) Maybe the bees are upset. Let's go see them. Bring a muffin. Bees like muffins, right?

Narrator:

And so, Farmer Fran and Mayor Maple tipped to the hive with a peace offering.

Beatrix:

(Confidently) Welcome, humans! We've been expecting you.

Buzzy:

(With a wink) We're on a buzz break. Want honey? Fix the planet.

Moxie:

(Handing over a tiny clipboard) Here's our list: less spraying, more planting, no plastic near flowers, and bee hotels. We're serious.

Mayor Maple:

(Awkwardly) What's a bee hotel? Does it have tiny windows?

Beatrix:

(Sighing) It's a safe spot for wild bees to nest. Your gardens are full of flowers, but nowhere to stay.

Petal:

Excuse me, but if we stop pollinating forever, won't we miss the flowers too?

Beatrix:

That's why we hope they change, but we'll hold strong until they do.

Farmer Fran:

Gosh. I didn't know it was that bad. I just wanted my apples.

Narrator:

The bees pointed to trash near their clover patch, wilted flowers, and a sign that read “Lawn chemicals in use.”

Moxie:

See this? Bees can’t thrive with poison in the pollen.

Mayor Maple:

(Reading the list) This is totally doable. We can help!

Narrator:

And so, the town of Bloomsville got to work. Kids planted wildflowers. Adults pulled weeds and picked up trash. Ricky, a local student, started the Bloomsville Clean-Up Crew!

Ricky:

(Excited) We planted bee-friendly herbs and painted signs that say “Bee Kind!”

Narrator:

Even the grocery store put out a “Bee Safe” pledge for customers. Everyone wanted the bees back.

Buzzy:

(Sniffing a tulip) This pollen smells pesticide-free!

Petal:

(Squealing) We did it! We made a difference!

Beatrix:

Very well. Bees, prepare for pollination!

Moxie:

Let the pollination parade begin!

Narrator:

And that Friday, Bloomville hosted its first-ever Bee Day, complete with flower cupcakes, face paint, and a new song:

All Bees (together):

(Singing) Buzz, buzz, we're back again, With gardens blooming thanks to friends. You heard our plea, you saved the day, Now bees and blooms are here to stay!

Narrator:

From that day forward, Bloomville and its bees worked together, keeping the planet—and each other—buzzing along.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Why did the bees decide to go on strike?

What problems did Bloomville face when the bees stopped working?

How did the humans respond once they understood the bees' message?

Beatrix



Moxie



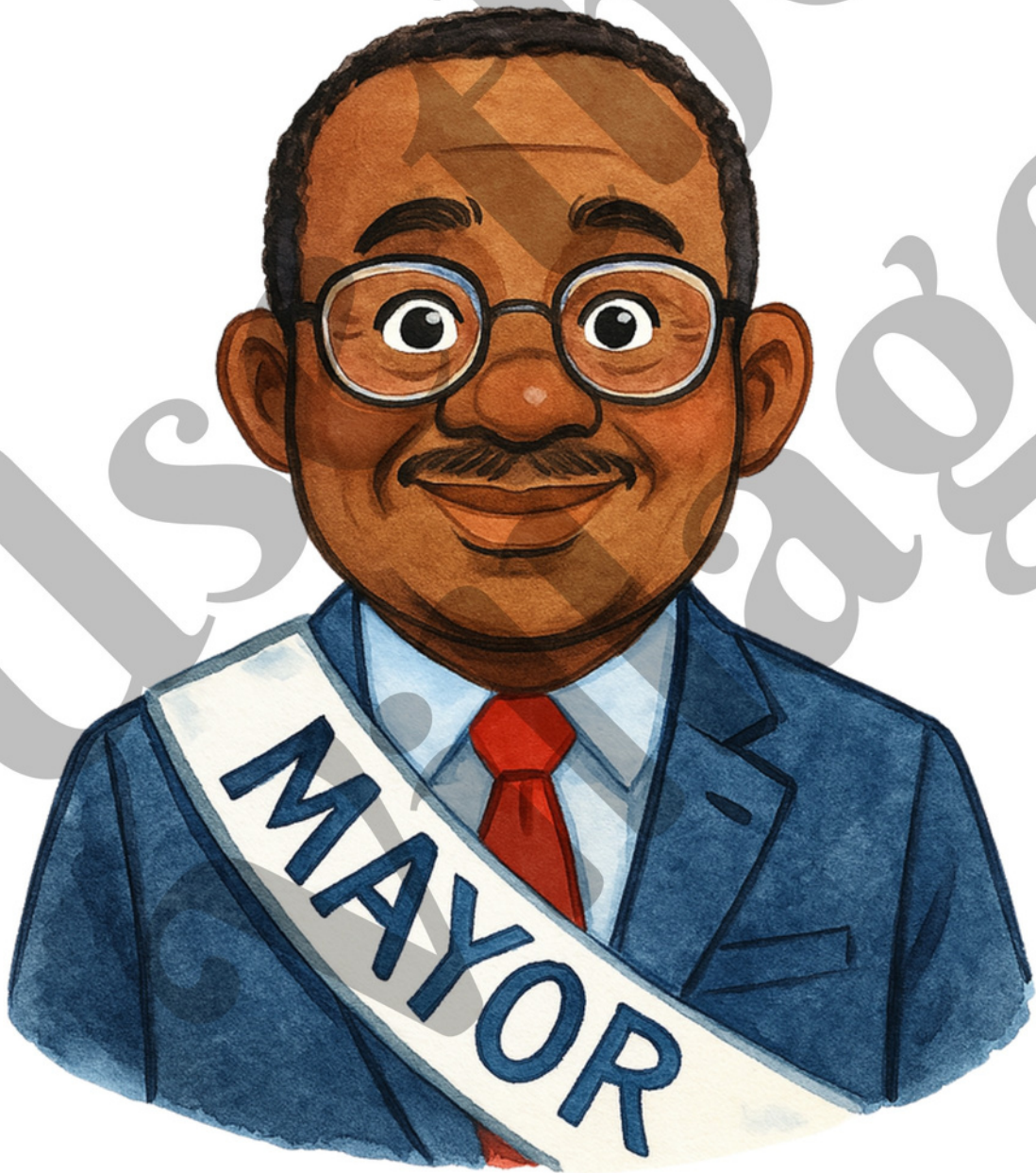
Buzzy



Farmer Fran



Mayor Maple



Petal



Ricky



Narrator



Beatrix



Moxie



Buzzy



Farmer Fran



Mayor Maple



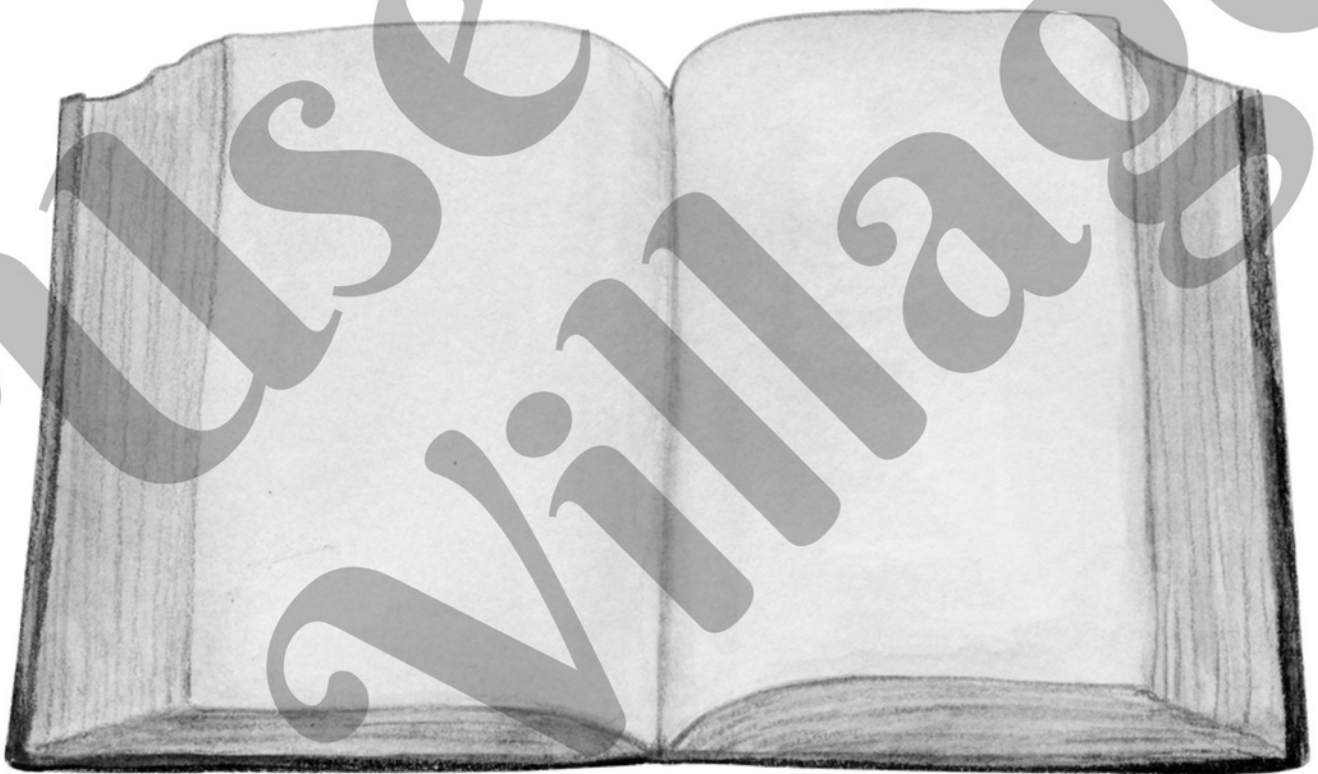
Petal



Ricky



Narrator



Teacher Suggestions:

Assigning Roles: Consider your students' reading levels and confidence when assigning roles. Encourage students to practice their parts at home or during independent reading time.

Practicing Fluency: Have students practice their parts multiple times to build fluency and expression.

Props & Costumes: Use the optional props list to create simple, engaging props.

Character Labels: Students can also use the provided character names to either cut out to hang around their neck to help identify characters to the audience or alternatively draw and illustrate what they imagine their character to look like.

Performance: Arrange a space in the classroom where students can perform. Invite other students to watch the final performance to boost students' confidence and make it more special.

Reader Response Questions: Use the provided questions to facilitate a post-performance discussion. This will help assess comprehension and encourage students to think critically about the play.

Extension Activities:

- Create a Bee Pledge: Students can write one sentence each about how they will help bees and display it on a classroom hive board.
- Design a Protest Sign: Students can create mini protest signs for the bees with environmental slogans.
- Pollination Relay: Act out how pollination works using pom-poms as pollen and flowers made from cups.
- Interview a Bee: In pairs, one student plays a bee, and the other reports back about the strike.
- Wildflower Seed Art: Use coffee and wildflower seeds to create bee-friendly art students can display and plant.
- Bee Parade Assembly: Let students dress up as bees and report about their favorite bee for all their class or parents.
- Map a Bee-Friendly Garden: Students can draw and design an ideal garden with labels for flowers, bee homes and signs.