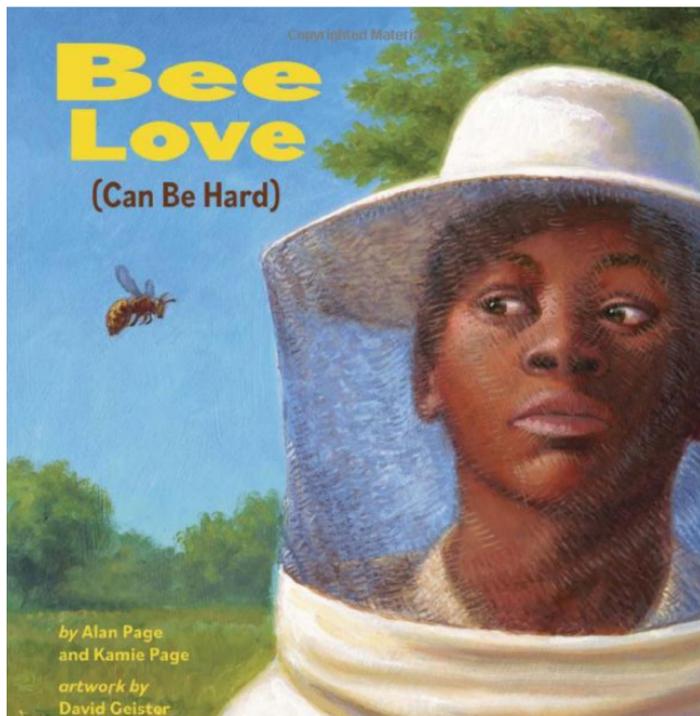


A Curriculum Guide

by World Savvy and AMAZEworks



Book Title: Bee Love (Can Be Hard) by Alan Page and Kamie Page, artwork by David Geister

Book Summary to Share With Children:

Otis was very afraid of bees. When Grandpa was younger, he was afraid of bees too, but he was able to overcome his fear by learning more about them. Listen to learn about how Otis leaned into his fear of bees and the important things he learned about them.

Reader's Note:

This book can serve as a model for one strategy children can take when afraid of something - that sometimes, learning about what you're afraid of is the best way to face it. In the story, Grandpa shows him how learning about bees helped him overcome his own fear of bees. Otis takes this a step further by using what he learns about bees to take action to protect them. The discussion questions and activities in this curriculum can help guide the children in your life through the same process Otis and Grandpa used.

Listen carefully when taking children through the activity of identifying a fear to lean into, and provide support and scaffolding as needed. If reading this book with multiple children, a child may name a fear that is best discussed with a trusted adult in private. Reinforce that what is shared here stays here, and references to other people's stories and identities should be avoided. It is helpful to remind students to replace names of others with "I had a friend who.." or "I know someone who.." or "If I was in this situation, I would feel..." It is important that students learn to talk about things in a public space in a way that keeps confidentiality and also supports vulnerable sharing.

If a child identifies a fear based on an aspect of their social identity (such as race, gender, religion, ability, etc.) or a fear of harassment or mistreatment, be mindful about the messages they may receive about facing those fears. It is important for students with marginalized identities to know that their fears around the various "-isms" created through systems of oppression are valid. While we want all children to demonstrate resilience, we need to remain mindful to not place the burden of oppression on those most vulnerable. Be sure they receive appropriate support.



KNOW



MORE

CARE



MORE

DO



MORE

This curriculum is designed to develop the following skills and dispositions.

Anti-Bias Education

- Empathy & Understanding
- Respect Across Differences
- Responsiveness and Action

Social-Emotional Learning

- Self-Awareness
- Self Management
- Social Awareness
- Responsible Decision-Making

Global Competencies

- Forms opinions based on exploration and evidence
- Commits to the process of continuous learning and reflection
- Translates ideas, concerns, and findings into appropriate and responsible individual or collaborative actions to improve conditions
- Openness to new opportunities, ideas and ways of thinking
- Investigates the world by framing questions, analyzing and synthesizing relevant evidence, and drawing reasonable conclusions that lead to further enquiry
- Demonstrates resilience in new situations

Literacy Skills

- Realistic fiction
- Identify details in a text
- Identify theme or main message
- Describe setting
- Compare and contrast settings
- Describe characters/character development
- Character point of view
- Using illustrations/pictures to gain information
- Making predictions
- Make text connections (to self, to text, & to the world)
- Describe major plot events
- Sequence events
- Vocabulary in context



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Discussion Questions

- What are some things Otis did to help him manage his fear of bees?
 - He talked to his grandpa.
 - He took slow, deep breaths.
 - Has anyone ever told you to take deep breaths? What does that do for you?
 - He had a mantra - "The bees do not want to sting me."
 - How did the mantra help Otis?
 - He learned a lot about bees.
- How did Otis feel after getting more information about bees?
- What did Otis learn about the bees?
- How is the bee farm different from what Otis expected? Has that ever happened to you? How did you react?
- What did Otis do with his new knowledge of bees?



“Sometimes, learning about what you’re afraid of is the best way to face it.”



What did Otis do to learn about bees?

- He talked to his grandpa - told him he was scared.
- He went to a bee farm.
- He put on protective gear and stood in a meadow with all the bees to observe them.
- He examined a bee hive and held the frame.
- He asked an expert A LOT of questions.



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Discussion Questions



- Have you ever gotten over a fear? How did you do that? What changed for you?
- Does being brave mean you are not afraid?
- What are some things that grownups might be afraid of? What could they learn to help them overcome their fears?
- We can see that bee love can be hard. What other kinds of love can be hard?
- What could you do to help someone if they are afraid of something?

Reflection Questions

- What is a fear that you've been able to overcome in your life? How did you overcome your fear?
- How might you be teaching the children in your life about how to deal with fear without realizing it? What might you want to think about doing differently as you consider yourself as a role-model?
- Name a fear that you have now as an adult. How might this fear be connected to bias? How can you lean into this fear and learn as much as you can?





Make a Plan: What can I do when I feel afraid?

Step 1

Name Your Fear.

- What is something you are afraid of?
- Write or draw about how this fear feels in your body. What do you notice about how you feel?

Step 2

Share your fear with someone you trust.

- Identify at least one person you trust with whom you can talk about your fear.

Step 3

Lean into your fear and learn as much as you can.

- Who in the community could you talk to?
- What do you want to know? What do you need to know?
- What is a mantra you can tell yourself to help you lean into your fear?

Step 4

Take action.

- How might you share what you have learned with others who might share your fear?
- Is there something you can do in your community?



Extension Activities

- What can you do to protect bees?
 - Who in the community should we talk to?
 - Are there local experts on bees?
 - How can we find them?
 - What questions should we ask the experts?
 - What did we learn?
 - How can we put our learning into action?
 - How can we teach others about protecting the bees?
 - Who else might benefit from our learning?



Resources About Bees

- See the back of the book, *Bee Love (Can Be Hard)*, for some great information to begin learning and asking questions.
- The Ramsey County Master Gardeners (U of M Extension) webpage has links to many resources for learning about pollinators including:
 - The Pollinator Landscape Audit (can be adapted for use with children)
 - The Helping Kids Overcome Their Fear of Bugs handout
- The University of Minnesota Bee lab (<https://beelab.umn.edu/>) has the mission to “promote the conservation, health, and diversity of bee pollinators through research, education, and hands-on mentorship.” They have many resources, including a Pollinator Education Toolkit.
- Pollinate Minnesota (<https://www.pollinatemn.org/>) works on pollinator advocacy and education and partners with educators in a variety of ways.

About the Creators of this Curriculum



World Savvy is a national nonprofit working with educators and community leaders to reimagine learning for the 21st century and create future-ready schools where young people are prepared to thrive in their ever-changing communities, locally and globally. Through professional development, engaging resources, and 1:1 coaching, World Savvy helps cultivate inclusive, equitable, and student-centered learning environments that foster the skills, behaviors and dispositions necessary for responsible global citizenship.



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Using Anti-Bias Education theory as a framework for identity development, appreciating differences, and understanding bias, prejudice, and stereotypes, AMAZEworks creates the conditions for belonging and equity and enables people of all ages to engage fully in their relationships with each other and the work that they do in classrooms and workplaces.

AMAZEworks offers anti-bias education curriculum, programs, and training for schools, and organizational and individual cultural assessments, consultation, and equity training for communities, nonprofits, municipalities, and for-profit businesses.