

..... 8. A Honey Bee Speaks



A Monologue

Hmmmm... Hmm... What ! Me, a lazy bee ? You think I simply have fun all day among the flowers ? Oh, no ! When I am flitting from flower to flower, I am actually very hard at work. And that's why I am called, not a lazy bee but a busy bee.

Come, I'll show you my house and tell you what a lot of work we bees do all our life. Hmm.....

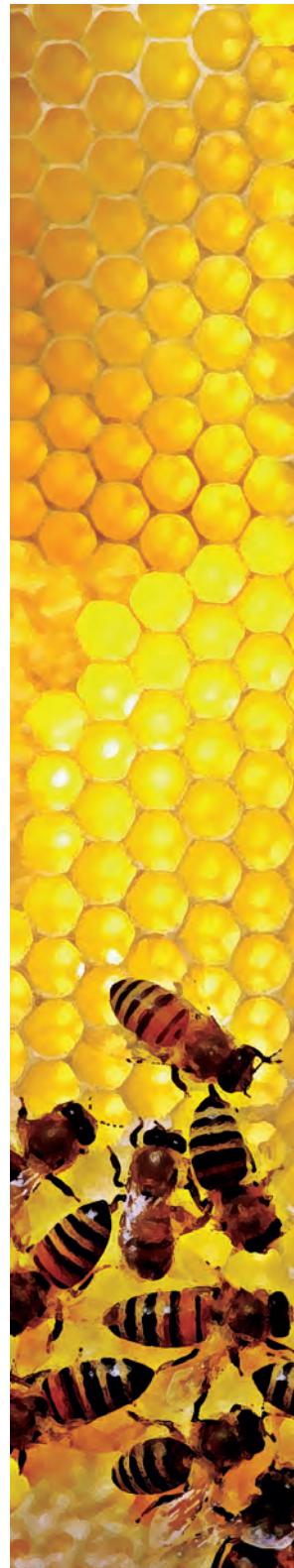
My house is called a honeycomb. It's a big house with thousands of rooms or cells. Each room has six equal sides. We take a lot of care to build it. We even produce the material for building the comb. It's called beeswax.

Do you know, when I was very young, I used to stay at home. But even then I had to do a lot of work. Hmm..... I had to look after the larvae – the babies that would grow into bees. I had to feed them and protect them. If anyone came near our comb to disturb it, I was ready with my weapon – a sting ! I'm not only a worker, I'm also a soldier. Beware, don't trouble me !



Hmm..... Well, to go back to the comb, I had to keep the comb cool by fanning it with my wings.

Then I had to keep the house in order – put away all the honey and food that other bees brought from the flowers. But luckily, I had hundreds of other bees working with me. We all worked together without ever fighting ! That's one reason why we can build such perfect and beautiful houses.





Yes, I helped with the house building, too. We keep making our house bigger and bigger to make room for the babies and for the food and honey we gather.

When I became older, I began to fly out of the comb to gather nectar. I take the nectar and pollen from the flowers and carry them back to the comb. Nectar is the sweet juice in flowers and pollen is the yellow powdery stuff you see on flowers. I visit hundreds of flowers and make several trips every day without wasting even a single moment !

The nectar from the flowers is too thin. We bees turn it into the sweet thick honey that you like.

It's only because you called me a lazy bee that I stopped and explained it all to you. Otherwise, I have not a moment to lose.

Bye – Hmmm..... Hmmm..... .

Things to do :

1. Answer the following questions :
 - (a) Why is the bee called a busy bee ?
 - (b) What work do young bees do ?
 - (c) What do the older bees do ?
 - (d) What weapon does the bee have ?
 - (e) When does the bee use its weapon ?
2. Find the meaning of the following from the lesson :
* honeycomb * beeswax * nectar * pollen.
Then put these words in alphabetical order.
3. Present a part of the monologue in the classroom. (5-10 lines)
4. We use the words 'busy as a bee' to describe a person who keeps working happily all the time. What qualities do you think of when you think of the following animals :
* lion * elephant * ant * fox * tortoise
* monkey * butterfly * cow * horse
5. Find out what a beehive is.
6. Draw a picture of honeycomb cells.

