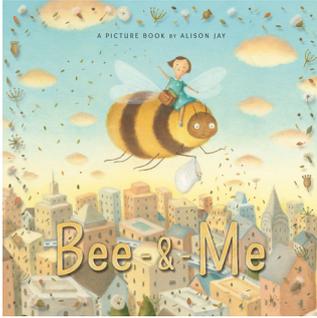




# Walker Books Classroom Ideas



## Bee & Me

By Alison Jay  
ISBN: 9781910646052  
ARRP: \$24.95  
NZRRP: \$27.99  
July 2016

\*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

Walker Books Australia  
Locked Bag 22  
Newtown, N.S.W., 2042

Ph +61 2 9517 9577  
Fax +61 2 9517 9997

These notes were created by Steve Spargo.  
For enquiries please contact:  
educationwba@walkerbooks.com.au

Notes © 2016 Walker Books Australia Pty. Ltd.  
All Rights Reserved

## Outline:

We hear much about the plight of the bumble bee population and its implications for our planet's future. This beautiful picture book makes the story personal and brings a message of hope. A little girl befriends a bee, which takes her on a journey of discovery and to an action each child can take to aid in conservation. *Bee & Me* is both a story of friendship and an introduction to the ecology of the natural world. Alison Jay's original artwork brings the story gently to life, pointing up the sadness of a world without bees.

## Author/Illustrator Information:

Alison Jay is an acclaimed picture book illustrator. She graduated from the London College of Printing, and has been a full-time illustrator ever since. She has illustrated a large number of books for children.

## How to Use These Notes:

This story works on many levels. The suggested activities are therefore for a wide age and ability range. Please select accordingly.

<p><b>These notes are for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary years F-2</li> <li>• Ages 3+</li> </ul>	<p><b>Key Learning Areas:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English</li> <li>• Art</li> </ul>	<p><b>Example of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wordless Picture Book</li> </ul>	<p><b>Themes/Ideas:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainability</li> <li>• Friendship</li> <li>• Looking after animals</li> <li>• Insects</li> </ul>				
<p align="center"><b>National Curriculum Focus:*</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td data-bbox="443 1615 531 1823"> <p><b>English</b> Foundation ACELA1430 ACELT1575 ACELT1577 ACELT1783 ACELT1578 ACELT1785 ACELT1580 ACELY1646 ACELY1647</p> </td> <td data-bbox="611 1630 703 1787"> <p>Year 1 ACELA1443 ACELT1581 ACELT1582 ACELT1583 ACELT1584 ACELT1586 ACELY1656</p> </td> <td data-bbox="778 1630 871 1767"> <p>Year 2 ACELA1460 ACELT1587 ACELT1589 ACELT1590 ACELT1591 ACELY1667</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1050 1624 1203 1800"> <p>*Key content descriptions have been identified from the Australian National Curriculum. However, this is not an exhaustive list of National Curriculum content able to be addressed through studying this text.</p> </td> </tr> </table>				<p><b>English</b> Foundation ACELA1430 ACELT1575 ACELT1577 ACELT1783 ACELT1578 ACELT1785 ACELT1580 ACELY1646 ACELY1647</p>	<p>Year 1 ACELA1443 ACELT1581 ACELT1582 ACELT1583 ACELT1584 ACELT1586 ACELY1656</p>	<p>Year 2 ACELA1460 ACELT1587 ACELT1589 ACELT1590 ACELT1591 ACELY1667</p>	<p>*Key content descriptions have been identified from the Australian National Curriculum. However, this is not an exhaustive list of National Curriculum content able to be addressed through studying this text.</p>
<p><b>English</b> Foundation ACELA1430 ACELT1575 ACELT1577 ACELT1783 ACELT1578 ACELT1785 ACELT1580 ACELY1646 ACELY1647</p>	<p>Year 1 ACELA1443 ACELT1581 ACELT1582 ACELT1583 ACELT1584 ACELT1586 ACELY1656</p>	<p>Year 2 ACELA1460 ACELT1587 ACELT1589 ACELT1590 ACELT1591 ACELY1667</p>	<p>*Key content descriptions have been identified from the Australian National Curriculum. However, this is not an exhaustive list of National Curriculum content able to be addressed through studying this text.</p>				



# Walker Books Classroom Ideas

## Discussion Questions and Activities:

### Reading as a Class

Go through the book as a class and without trying to “read” the story, discuss what is happening on each page. Discuss the setting, the people, the actions characters are taking, the use of colour and composition.

Read through as a class with the teacher or librarian creating the story. Afterwards, ask students if they agreed or disagreed with the reader’s interpretation.

Go through the book and write words that could appear on each page on post-it notes. These words could be dialogue between characters, actions/verbs, thoughts or feelings of characters, descriptive words/adjectives and descriptions of events taking place. Use these words as a starting point to write your own text to accompany the illustrations.

### Reading in Small Groups

In small groups, have one student “read” the story to the group. The reader should interpret what is happening in the illustrations and tell the story creatively when reading to the group, rather than merely explaining what is happening on the page. Allow several members of the group to do the same. Follow this with a class discussion on how there is no right or wrong interpretation of the illustrations.

### Exploring the Story

Compare illustrations of the city at the beginning of the book with illustrations at the end of the book. What has changed? What message do you think Alison Jay is trying to give readers?

Bees are very important part of nature. They are a key part of the pollination process which allows flowers and other plants to reproduce. They also produce honey and beeswax. Using the information page at the end of *Bee & Me* and other books in your library (such as *Nature Storybooks: Flight of the Honey Bee* by Raymond Huber and Brian Lovelock), gather information about bees and create a poster that displays interesting facts about bees. Think about what bees are found where you live, their life cycle, how to create a bee-friendly garden, etc.

What does the phrase “the birds and the bees” refer to? Discuss this in reference to the relationship between the girl (who is friends with a bee) and the boy (who is usually shown surrounded by birds). How does this imagery help the reader understand the relationship between the girl and the boy?

How does Alison Jay show the passing of time in *Bee & Me*?

The subtitle for *Bee & Me* is “A Story About Friendship”. Describe the friendship between the girl and the bee. Have a class discussion on what friendship means and that it can mean different things to different people. As a class create a word cloud using words that describe a good friend.

### Further Activities

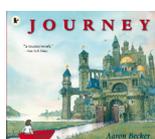
Visit your school library and find other wordless picture books (e.g. *Journey*, *Quest* and *Return* by Aaron Becker, *Mirror* by Jeannie Baker or *Footpath Flowers* by JonArno Lawson and Sydney Smith). Compare these books to *Bee & Me* and discuss how the stories are similar and different. Which style do you prefer? Why?

Write a story about the bee and the girl that could be a sequel to *Bee & Me* or fit into the middle where bee and the girl are doing activities together while bee is growing. Check your draft for spelling and grammar. Illustrate your story.

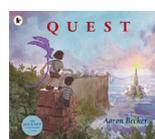
## Other Wordless Picture Books From Walker Books:



**Mirror**  
Jeannie Baker  
9781406309140 HB  
Classroom ideas  
available



**Journey**  
Aaron Becker  
9780763660536 HB  
9781406355345 PB  
Classroom ideas  
available



**Quest**  
Aaron Becker  
9780763665951 HB  
9781406360813 PB



**Footpath Flowers**  
JonArno Lawson  
Sydney Smith  
9781406362084 HB  
Classroom ideas  
available